



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, FRA26-
*Saithe (Pollachius virens) in subareas 4
and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea,
Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak
and Kattegat)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	<i>Pollachius virens</i> - Saithe
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES 3.a, 4, 6
	Country of origin of the product:	France (Flag country: France, Denmark, UK)
	Stock:	ICES 3.a, 4, 6
Date	22/08/2024	
Report Code	FRA26	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France (Flag country: France, Denmark, UK)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Concarneau, Copalis Industrie			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LQRA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Sam Peacock	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	<i>Pollachius virens</i> - Saithe
Stock	ICES 3.a, 4, 6
Fishery Location	FAO 27, ICES 3.a, 4, 6
Management Authority (Country/ State)	France
Gear Type(s)	Bottom otter trawl, gillnet, others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material.</p> <p>Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) was assessed as a category C species considering that a European Union - EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this setting reference points and annual quotas with management purposes.</p> <p>The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) uses catches data as input for the stock assessment process.</p> <p>The last assessment for saithe in ICES 3.a, 4, 6. (Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland) was published on June 28th, 2024. Results indicates that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim.</p> <p>Therefore, saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in FAO 27 - ICES Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees that this stock is eligible for MarinTrust approval, and that it should be assessed under Category C. The assessor has demonstrated, with references, that the stock is subject to a regular stock assessment which incorporates fishery removals, and that stock biomass is currently above the limit reference point level. For these reasons, the peer reviewer agrees that this byproduct should be re-approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe in Subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	European Union Common Fisheries Policy and FranceAgriMer	C	LC	No

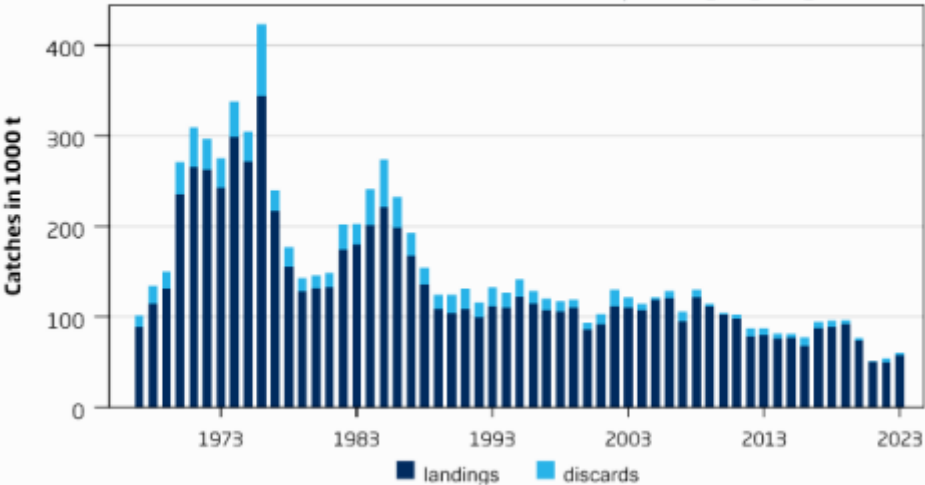
¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Yes
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Yes
Clause outcome:			PASS
C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.			
Fisheries removals are included in the stock assessment of this stock which is done with Age-based analytical assessment* (SAM; that uses catches and surveys in the model and in the forecast. Commercial catches are included. This includes international landings, below minimum size (BMS) landings, discards, and age frequencies from catch sampling.			
<div><h3>Catches</h3><p>Figure 1 is a stacked bar chart titled 'Catches' showing landings and discards in 1000 tonnes from 1973 to 2023. The y-axis is labeled 'Catches in 1000 t' and ranges from 0 to 400. The x-axis shows years from 1973 to 2023. The legend indicates that dark blue bars represent 'landings' and light blue bars represent 'discards'. The chart shows a significant peak in catches around 1975, reaching over 400,000 tonnes. Following this peak, catches generally declined, with a notable period of lower catches in the late 1980s and early 1990s. From the mid-1990s onwards, catches showed more stability, fluctuating between approximately 100,000 and 150,000 tonnes. The chart also includes a small text box in the top right corner with the code 'pok.27.3a45_2024_18689_2024423154226'.</p></div>			
Figure 1. Landings and discards are for ages 3–10+ only, as used in the assessment. Discards include below minimum size (BMS) landings. Source: ICES 2024			
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 79,071 tonnes. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock. Therefore, C1.1 is met.			
C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.			
Fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. This stock was benchmarked in 2024; the inclusion of improved survey indices and biological data reduced the uncertainty of the assessment.			

Reference points were also updated, therefore, results from the latest assessment cannot be directly compared to previous assessments (Figure 2).

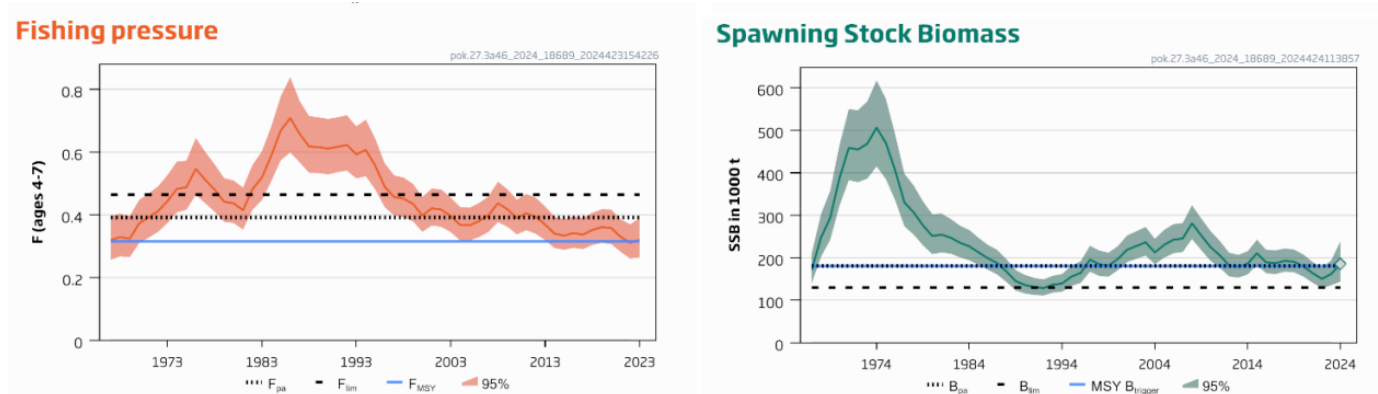


Figure 2. Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Summary of the stock assessment. The assumed recruitment value for 2024 is shaded in a lighter colour. The SSB estimate in 2024 relies on the stochastic recruitment for age 3 (6% of SSB) in the short-term forecast; ages 4-10+ are 2023 survivors. Source: ICES 2024

Therefore, C1.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2024. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2024. ICES Advice 2024, pok.27.3a46, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019465>.

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name			
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score	
	Average age at maturity (years)			
	Average maximum age (years)			
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)			
	Average maximum size (cm)			
	Average size at maturity (cm)			
	Reproductive strategy			
	Mean trophic level			
	Average Productivity Score			
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score	
	Availability (area overlap)			
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)			
	Selectivity of gear type			
	Post-capture mortality			
	Average Susceptibility Score			
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)			
	Compliance rating			
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>			
	References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2				

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	10-30% overlap	>30% overlap
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	
			Outcome:
Evidence D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts. D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
References			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	