



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment GBR10 – Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in ICES Division 7a

### MarinTrust Programme

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )
	Geographical area:	Irish Sea
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Herring in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N
Date	April 2024	
Report Code	GBR10	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

<b>Application details and summary of the assessment outcome</b>			
Company Name(s): Aberdeen (Pelagia), Killybegs (Pelagia)			
Country: UK & Ireland			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
<b>Certification Body Details</b>			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd. / NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	April 2024 – April 2025		

<b>Scope Details</b>	
Main Species	Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )
Stock	Herring in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N
Fishery Location	Irish Sea
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK, Ireland / EU
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl
<b>Outcome of Assessment</b>	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Clupea harengus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>There is no formal management plan in place for the stock; however ICES provides annual catch advice relative to established reference points and a TAC is set based on this advice.</p> <p>The stock is subjected to an annual stock assessment carried out by the ICES Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N. The most recent assessment was carried out in 2023 and included all catch data, with discarding considered negligible. C1.1 is met. The assessment concluded that SSB is considerably larger than the target and limit reference point levels, and C1.2 is met.</p> <p>Therefore, herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in ICES Division 7a should remain <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in FAO 27, ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea) under Category C, the stock being subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above limit reference point (proxy). Therefore, the stock is considered to satisfy C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion, herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in FAO 27, ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.</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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/155123/4717767>

## 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		Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	
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.	PASS
	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.	PASS
			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.**

Herring in ICES Division 7a is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2023 using an age-based analytical assessment which used catches in the model and forecast. The model also incorporated two survey indices, commercial catch-at-age data, and annual maturity data. Discarding is considered to be negligible.

The 2023 catch advice states that “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 7279 tonnes” (ICES 2023)

Catches are presented in the figure below:

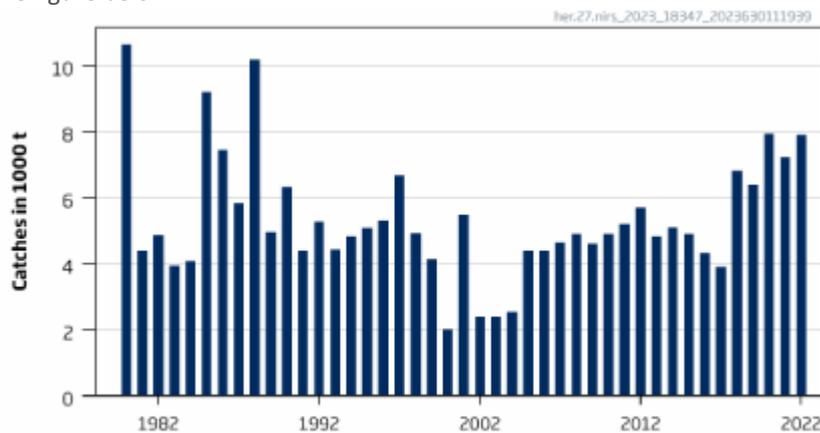


Figure 1. Herring in ICES Division 7a, catches (ICES 2023)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.

**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.**

An indication of stock status relative to the established reference points is provided in the ICES catch advice. The target reference points  $MSY B_{trigger}$  and  $B_{pa}$  are set at 11,831t. The limit reference point  $B_{lim}$  is set at 8,500t. The 2023 stock assessment produced a short-term projection for SSB of 25,569t (ICES 2023).

The 2023 catch advice states that “Fishing pressure on the stock is below  $F_{MSY}$ , and spawning-stock size is above  $MSY B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ ” (ICES 2023). Estimated SSB is shown in the figure below.

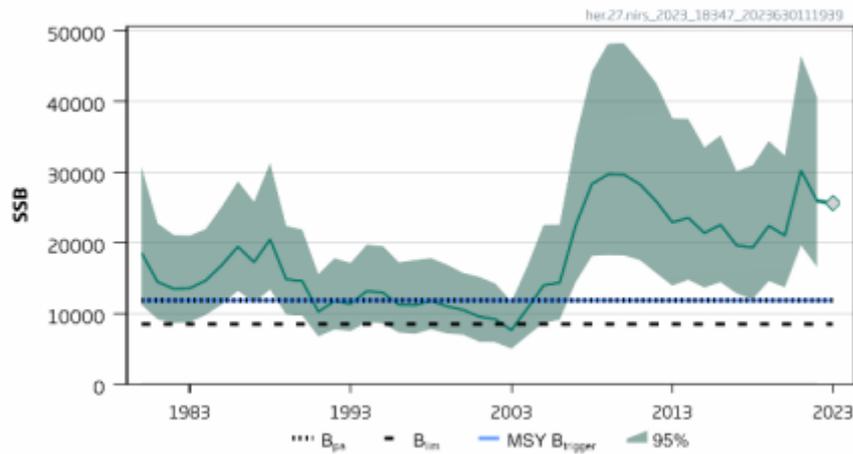


Figure 2. Herring in Division 7a, estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2023).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

**References**

ICES (2023). Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Division 7.a North of 52°30’N (Irish Sea). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, her.27.nirs. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.23608098>

**Links**

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