



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR15 – Pollack

(Pollachius pollachius)

in ICES Subareas 6 & 7

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
	Geographical area:	Celtic Seas and the English Channel
	Country of origin of the product:	UK 7 Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 6 & 7
Date	April 2024	
Report Code	GBR15	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Grimsby (Pelagia), Aberdeen (Pelagia)			
Country: UK			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	April 2024 – April 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
Stock	ICES Subareas 6 & 7
Fishery Location	Celtic Seas and the English Channel
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK, Ireland / EU
Gear Type(s)	Otter trawls, static nets, others
Outcome of Assessment	
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. Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU Multi-Annual Management Plan has been established for this stock, and ICES considers it to be precautionary. There is no shared management plan between the EU and UK.</p> <p>A stock assessment is conducted annually by ICES, most recently in 2023 incorporating all catch and discard data, meeting C1.1. The stock assessment concluded that stock biomass is currently considerably lower than the limit reference point, meaning C1.2 is not met. For this reason the stock was subsequently assessed under Category D.</p> <p>Pollack was awarded a Productivity score of 1.71 and a Susceptibility score of 2.75, leading to a Pass rating on Table D3.</p> <p>Therefore, pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 should remain APPROVED 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 assessed pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel) under Category C first, the stock being subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Clause C1.1 was met because fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. However, clause C1.2 was not met, as the stock biomass is below the limit reference point.</p> <p>As per the MarinTrust byproduct assessment guidance, the stock was subsequently further assessed under Category D. It passed the PSA risk-rating with a productivity score of 1.71 and susceptibility score of 2.75.</p> <p>In conclusion, pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel) passes category D 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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Pollack	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	ICES Subareas 6 & 7	Yes	() D	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18125103/45098355>

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		Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</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.	FAIL
			Clause outcome: FAIL

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.

Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 and 7 is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023 using a surplus production model in Continuous Time, and incorporated commercial landings and four survey indices. Discards and bycatch are considered negligible.

The 2023 catch advice states that “ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024” (ICES 2023).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

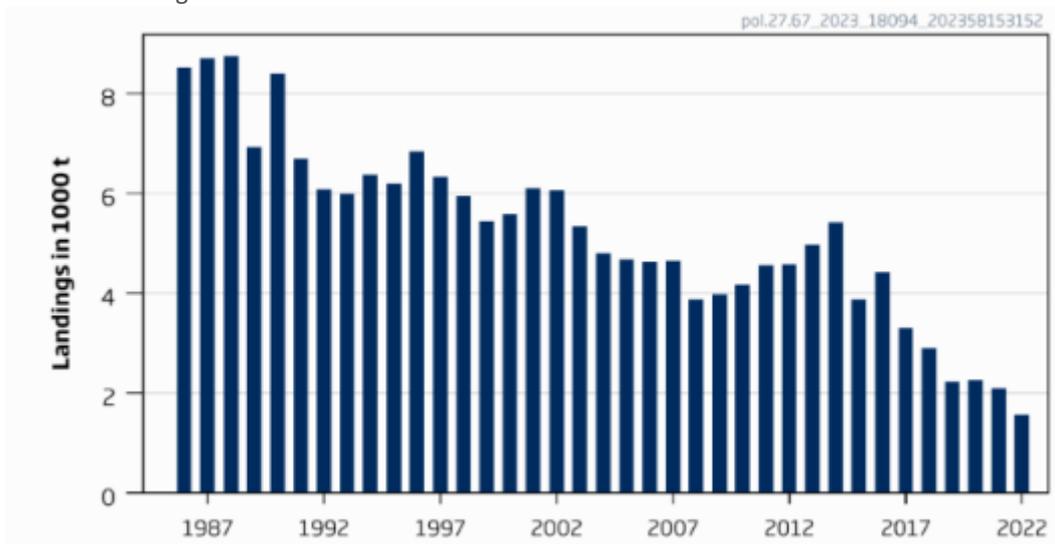


Figure 1. Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 & 7, landings (ICES 2023)

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.

The catch advice provides an indication of the current stock status relative to the established reference points. The target reference point $MSY B_{trigger}$ is set at $0.5 \times B_{MSY}$. The limit reference point B_{lim} is set at $0.3 \times B_{MSY}$. The 2023 stock assessment produced a short-term forecast for biomass in 2024 of $0.115 \times B_{MSY}$.

The 2023 catch advice states that “Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and F_{lim} ; stock size is below $MSY B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim} ” (ICES 2023). Biomass relative to current reference points is shown in the figure below.

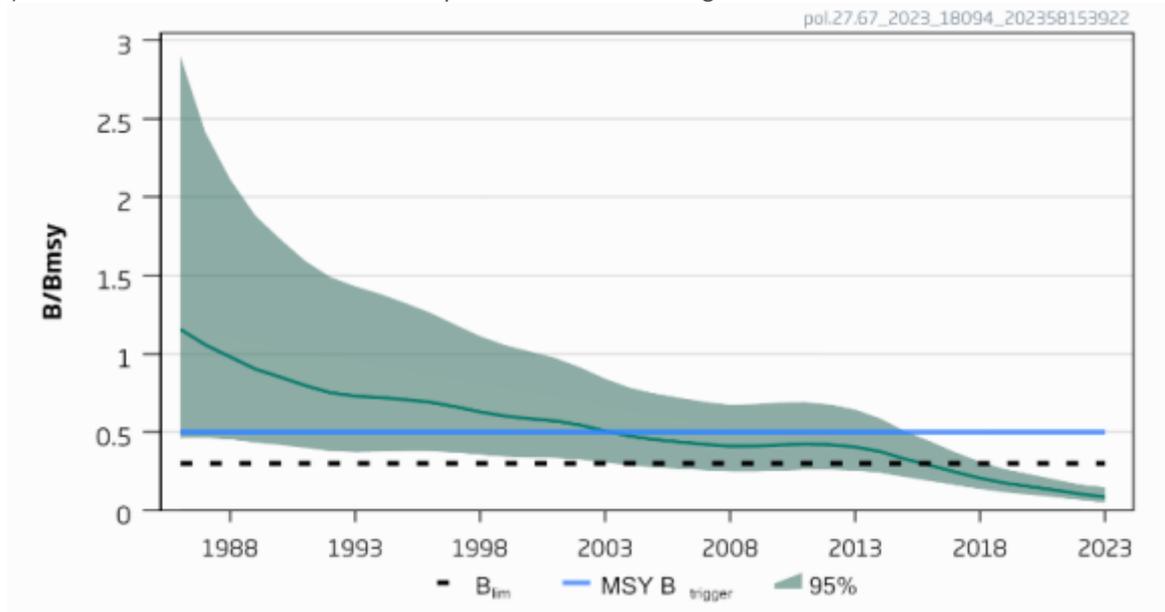


Figure 2. Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 & 7, B/Bmsy relative to current reference points (ICES 2023).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass below the limit reference point (or proxy) and it FAILS clause C1.2. As per MT guidance, the stock will be assessed under Category D hereinafter.

References

ICES (2023). Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in subareas 6–7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21841011.v1>

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.

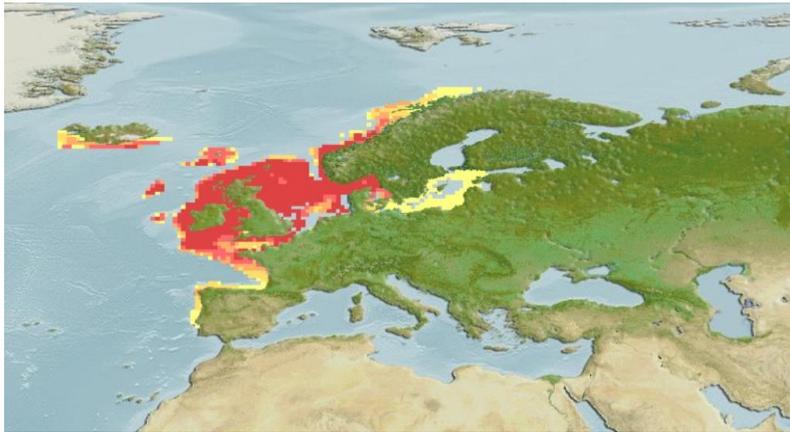
D1	Species Name	Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	3.5 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	16 years	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>3 million	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	130cm	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	45.4cm	2
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
	Average Productivity Score		1.71
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Availability (area overlap)	10-30% overlap	2
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Targeted	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Targeted	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		2.75
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	Compliance rating		PASS
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)		
	For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision		
			
Pollack, native range. From Fishbase, https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Pollachius-pollachius			
References			
Fishbase, pollack: https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Pollachius-pollachius			
Fecundity estimate taken from the Biological Traits Information Catalogue, BIOTIC. http://www.marlin.ac.uk/biotic/browse.php?sp=6193			
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	