



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Cod in ICES subareas 1 & 2, Northeast Arctic*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
	Geographical area:	ICES subareas 1 & 2 (Northeast Arctic)
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Northeast Arctic
Date	August 2022	
Report Code	GBR17	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country:			
Email address: geraldine.fox@pelagia.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.25	Initial
Assessment Period	August 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	Northeast Arctic
Fishery Location	ICES subareas 1 & 2 (Northeast Arctic)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls, gillnets, longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
Recommendation	Approved

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Cod has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Cod in the Northeast Arctic is subject to an annual TAC and target and limit reference points have been established, therefore the stock was assessed under Category C. All fishery removals are included in the annual stock assessment conducted by ICES, and the stock biomass is currently estimated to be roughly three times larger than the limit reference point. Cod in the Northeast Arctic meets the MarinTrust byproduct requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified Northeast Arctic Cod as category C species as the stock is managed and reference points are defined. A stock assessment is conducted annually by the ICES Arctic Fisheries Working Group (AFWG) for the species. Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment indicated that although SSB has decreased in recent years, it is well above the target and limit reference points. Therefore, the Northeast Arctic Cod may be approved under the Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products standard.
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
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Northeast Arctic	Yes	C	Least concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

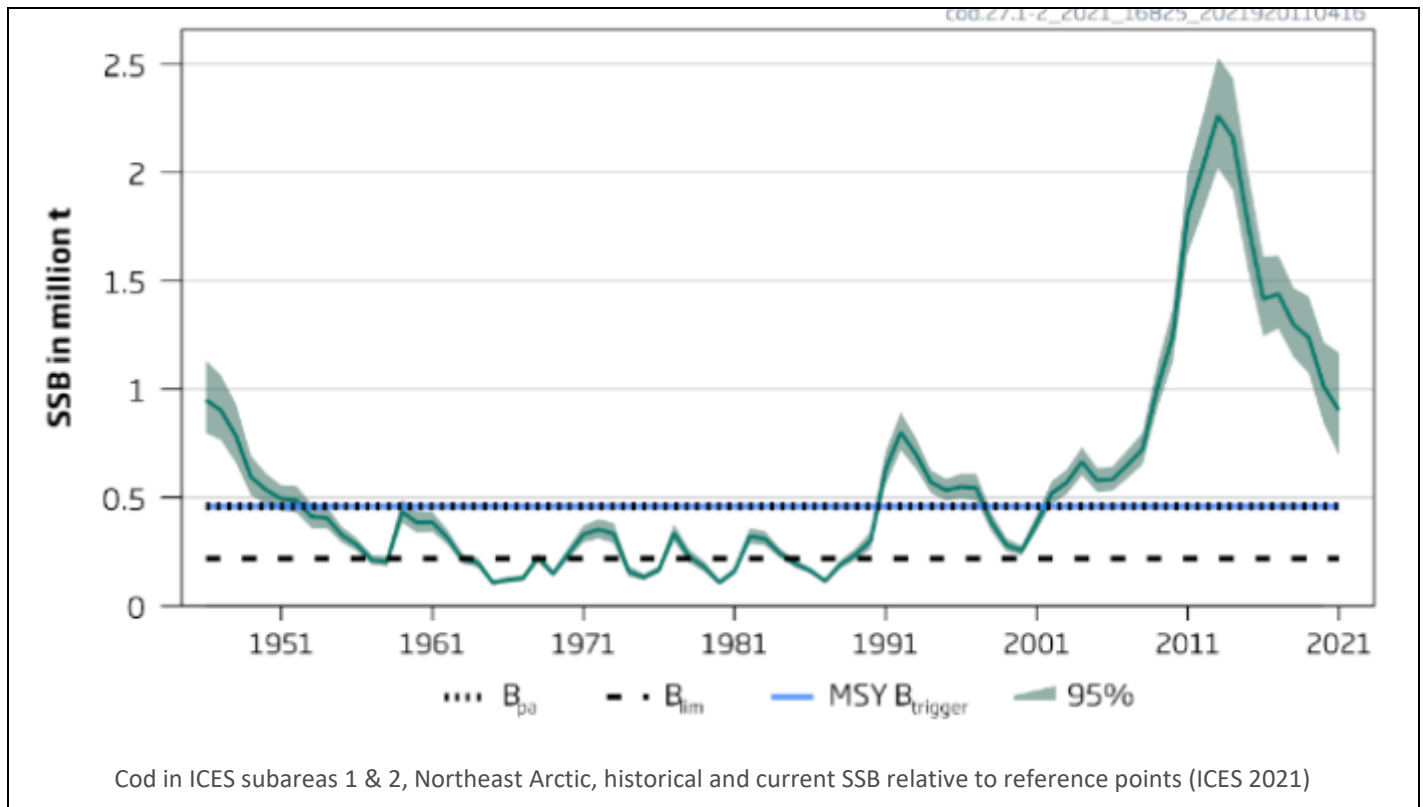
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/8784/45097319>

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		Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</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.			
A stock assessment is conducted annually by the ICES Arctic Fisheries Working Group (AFWG). The input data for the assessment includes “Commercial catches (international landings, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling)” (ICES 2021). Discarding is considered negligible and bycatch is included in the stock assessment. The annual ICES advice includes a section on “issues relevant for the advice” where any concerns over the robustness of data are raised; in the most recent advice this section does not include any concerns regarding the catch data. All fishery removals are included in the assessment and 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.			
Target and limit reference points are established for the stock. The target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} and SSB_{mgt} are set at 460,000t. The limit reference point B_{lim} is set at 220,000t. At the time of the most recent ICES advice SSB was estimated to be 696,371t, roughly three times the limit reference point. The advice states “Fishing pressure on the stock is at F_{MSY} between F_{pa} and F_{lim} , and spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} ” (ICES 2021). Biomass is above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.			



References

ICES (2021). Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, cod.27.1-2, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7741>

Links

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