



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Cod in ICES Division 5a (Iceland Grounds)*

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 Division 5a
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Icelandic Cod
Date	August 2022	
Report Code	GBR18	
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	Icelandic Cod
Fishery Location	ICES Division 5a
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Iceland
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 is listed on the IUCN Red List as Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Icelandic cod is managed under an annual quota and there are reference points established for the stock, therefore this byproduct was assessed under Category C. All fishery removals are used in the stock assessment process and the SSB was estimated in the most recent stock assessment to be above the target and limit reference points. Icelandic cod meets the MarinTrust byproduct requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified Cod in ICES Division 5a (Iceland Grounds) as category C species as the stock is managed and reference points are defined. A stock assessment is conducted annually by the ICES Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment projected that SSB₂₀₂₃ would be well above the target and limit reference points. Therefore, Cod in ICES Division 5a (Iceland Grounds) 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>	Icelandic cod	Yes	C	Least concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

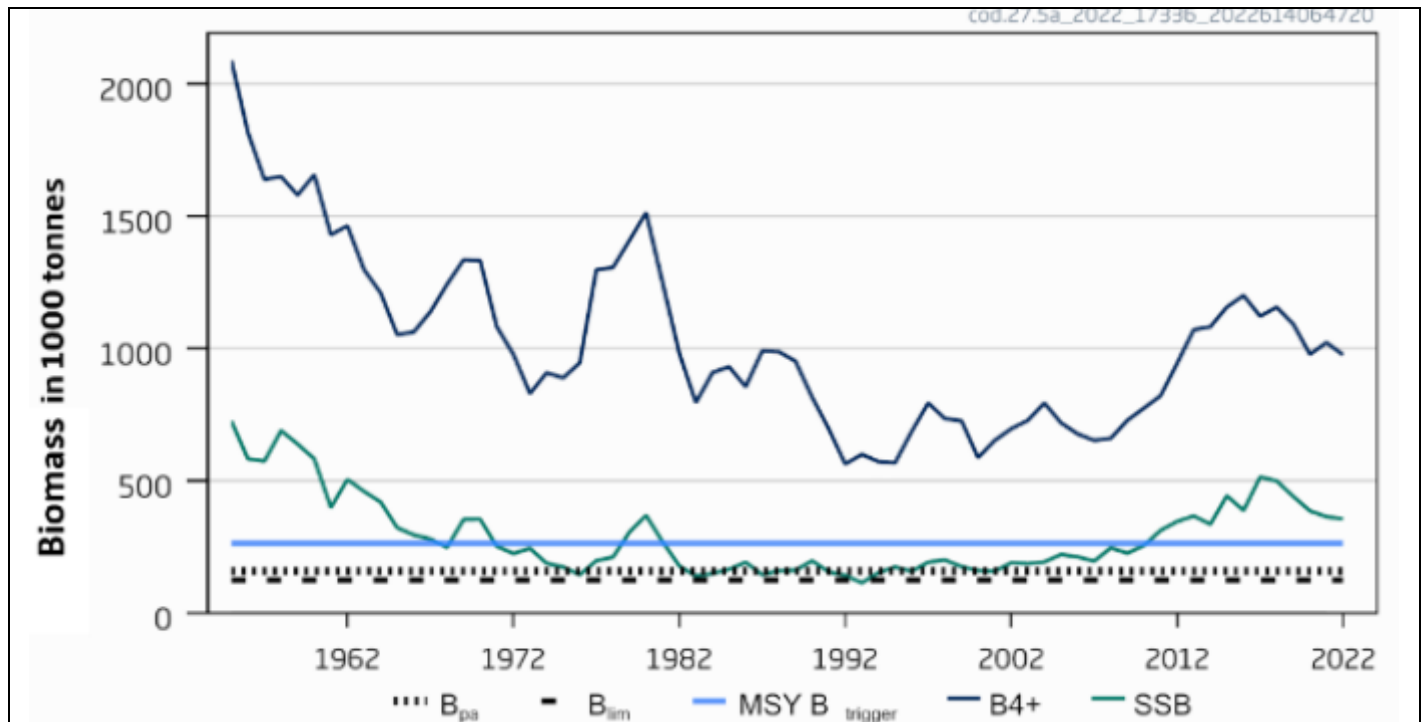
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/8784/45097319>

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.			
An annual stock assessment is conducted by the ICES Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). The most recent advice based on stock assessment outcomes was published in June 2022 (ICES 2022). The stock assessment utilises all catch data. Discards are considered negligible. 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.			
The following biomass reference points are established for this stock: $MSY\ B_{trigger} = 265,000t$; $B_{lim} = 125,000t$; $B_{pa} = 160,000t$; $MGT\ B_{trigger} = 220,000t$. At the time of the most recent stock assessment, SSB in 2023 was projected to be 370,488t, considerably higher than all four reference points. The ICES advice stated “Spawning-stock size is above $MSY\ B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} ” (ICES 2022). Biomass is above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.			



Icelandic cod historical biomass trends relative to reference points. Harvest rates are calculated on biomass age 4+ (top line). Reference points refer to SSB (lower line) (ICES 2022).

References

ICES (2022). Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Division 5.a (Iceland grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, cod.27.5a, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19447886>

Links

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