



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### Whole fish Fishery Assessment

### Boarfish ICES area 6-8

### Ireland

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com)

T: +44 2039 780 819

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

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Country:</b> Ireland and UK		<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Tel. No.</b>		<b>Fax. No.</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>		<b>Applicant Code</b>	
<b>Key Contact:</b>		<b>Title:</b>	
Certification Body Details			
<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		Global Trust Certification	
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>CB Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval</b>
Virginia Polonio	Vito Romito	3	Surveillance 2
<b>Assessment Period</b>	To September 2021		
Scope Details			
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>		Republic of Ireland, UK and European Commission	
<b>Main Species</b>		Boarfish ( <i>Capros aper</i> ) Stock = boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	
<b>Fishery Location</b>		FAO Area 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)	
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>		Pelagic trawl, pelagic pair trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
<b>Overall Outcome</b>		Pass	
<b>Clauses Failed</b>		None	
<b>CB Peer Review Evaluation</b>		Pass	
<b>Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group Evaluation</b>		Approve see <a href="#">MarinTrust Fishery Assessment Peer Review Template</a>	
<b>Recommendation</b>		<b>APPROVED</b>	

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Boarfish <i>Capros aper</i> do not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, Boarfish <i>Capros aper</i>, is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust raw material.</p> <p>A management strategy proposed by the Pelagic Advisory Committee (AC) was evaluated and found to be precautionary (ICES, 2015). ICES provide advice for this stock following the standard procedures, which in this case corresponds to the management strategy from the Pelagic AC. Although the fishery does not have a specific species management plan with reference points or proxies defined this stock has been assessed under category B.</p> <p>As the species is evaluated by ICES there is a well-defined management plan with measures implemented that provide evidence to comply with clauses M.</p> <p>Impact on non-target species and ecosystems are also known. The impacts on ETP species are studies by ICES Working group on bycatch of protected species (WGBYC) and it meets the F clauses related to ETPs species. As the fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which do not impact physical habitats; therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats, and it meets the clauses related to habitats.</p> <p>For ecosystems ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) report provide information to assess the fishery against F clauses related to this matter and it meets the criteria for Marin trust fisheries.</p> <p>The boarfish stock achieves a pass in the table Bb as <math>B &gt; B_{av}</math> and <math>F &lt; F_{av}</math>. For mackerel removals are reported and biomass is above blim. Therefore, both species achieve a pass under Marin trust standard.</p> <p>To conclude, since the last surveillance report (2020) there has not been any new advice on category B or C species and the fishery still operates in the same way therefore there are no substantial changes on habitats and ecosystems neither. The fishery meets the requirements of all the clauses. Therefore, Boarfish <i>Capros aper</i>, is approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the Marin Trust v 2.0 whole fish products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees with the findings of this assessment and that <i>Capros aper</i> should be approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for notes

## Table 3 General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	Pass
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	Pass
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	Pass
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	Pass
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	Pass

## Table 4 Species- Specific Results

List all Category A and B species. List approximate total percentage (%) of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category B	Boarfish ( <i>Capros aper</i> ) in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	>95%	PASS
Category C	Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> ) in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	<5%	PASS

## Table 5 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	IUCN Redlist Category <sup>1</sup>	% of landings	Management	Category
Boarfish	<i>Capros aper</i>	Boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	Least Concern	>95%	No Species-specific management regime in place	B
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	Least Concern	<5%	Species-specific management regime in place	C

### Species categorisation rationale

Information on the bycatch of other species in the boarfish fishery is sparse. According to Oskarsson et al., 2019<sup>2</sup>, the boarfish fishery targets dense shoals of boarfish from September to March and, while catches are generally free from bycatch from September to February, anecdotal evidence suggests that mackerel and boarfish are caught in mixed aggregations from March onwards. In any case, the fishery generally ceases at this time.

In order to mitigate potential bycatch of other TAC species in the boarfish fishery, a closed season is in place from 15 March to 31 August, to prevent bycatches of mackerel while ICES Division 7.g. is also closed from 1 September to 31 October, in order to prevent catches of Celtic Sea herring, which is known to form feeding aggregations in this region at these times. Finally, if catches of a species covered by a TAC, other than boarfish, amount to more than 5% of the total catch by day by ICES statistical rectangle, then fishing must cease in that rectangle for 5 days.

Given the characteristics of the fishery (i.e. targeting generally homogenous shoals of boarfish) above a priori approach to avoiding bycatch, it is likely that only small quantities of mackerel are bycaught in the fishery in sufficient quantities ( $\geq 0.1\%$  of total landing) to warrant further consideration here.

Having said that, the species considered in this report are boarfish as target species categorised as B because there are no reference points defined for the stock. In the previous assessment the stock was assessed under category A using a relative biomass index as a proxy of the biomass. However following the updated guidelines of MT from April 2021 the stock does no longer meet the criteria for category A stocks as reference points related to biomass are not defined in the species-specific management plan as ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because the reference points are undefined.

Mackerel is still categorised as C as in previous assessments, catches are less than 5% but there are reference points defined.

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

<sup>2</sup> Oskarsson, GJ (ed.), Aldrin, M, Bal, G, Berge, B, Beukhof, E D, Björnsson, H, Brunel, T, Burns, F, Campbell, A, Carrera, P, Costas, G, Dubroca, L, Egan, A, Eliassen, S, Gonçalves, P, Højnes, Å, Homrum, EÍ, Jacobsen, JA, Jansen, T, Jensen, GH, Krysov, A, Lambert, G, Nash, R, Nøttestad, L, O’Hea, B, Olafsdottir, AH, Orío, A, Óskarsson, GJ, Pastoors, M, Pronyuk, A, Readdy, L, Salthaug, A, Sanchez, S, Slotte, A, Sparrevohn, CR, Stenevik, EK, Timoshenko, N, Ulleweit, J, Vasilye, D, Vatnehol, S & Vinther, M (2019), *Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE)*. ICES Scientific Report, no. 36, vol. 1, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5574>

## MANAGEMENT

The two clauses in this section (M1, M2) relate to the general management regime applied to the fishery under assessment. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. A fishery must meet all the minimum requirements in every clause before it can be recommended for approval.

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements		
	<b>M1.1</b>	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	Yes
	<b>M1.2</b>	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	Yes
	<b>M1.3</b>	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	Yes
	<b>M1.4</b>	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	Yes
	<b>M1.5</b>	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	Yes
	<b>M1.6</b>	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			<b>PASS</b>
<b>M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.</b>			
Following the stock definition, the management of the fishery is shared between different countries that are detailed below.			
<u>Republic of Ireland</u>			
The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland is responsible for developing and regulating the agri-food sector, protecting public health and optimising social, economic and environmental benefits. Marine policies are regulated by this department and they are aimed at the economic and environmental well-being of Ireland's coastline communities.			
<u>Marine Scotland<sup>3</sup></u>			
Marine Scotland is a ministry under the jurisdiction of the Scottish Government. Marine Scotland leads on monitoring and enforcement for Scottish vessels and Scottish waters including overseeing quota allocations for Scottish vessels/POs, licencing and management of Scottish fishing vessels, monitoring and enforcement of marine laws in Scottish waters, undertaking scientific research and providing advice to the Scottish government.			
<u>DAERA (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)<sup>4</sup></u>			
DAERA is the Northern Irish governmental department principally responsible for Northern Ireland's waters, including quotas, monitoring and enforcement. Amongst other things, DAERA oversees quota allocation for Northern Irish vessels /POs, licences Northern Irish fishing vessels, monitors and enforces legislation in Northern Irish waters and manages Northern Irish inshore fisheries through its Inshore and Environment Branch.			
<u>Welsh Government<sup>5</sup></u>			
The Welsh Government takes a centralised approach to fisheries management including overseeing the allocation of quotas to Welsh vessels/POs, licencing Welsh fishing vessels, monitoring and enforcing legislation in Welsh waters and managing Welsh inshore fisheries, supported by the Welsh Marine Fisheries Advisory Group.			
As there are organisations responsible for managing fisheries in the various jurisdictions under consideration here, <b>the fishery passes Clause M1.1.</b>			
<b>M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.</b>			
As with fisheries management organisations, various organisations at both National and International levels, are responsible for collecting data and assessing the boarfish fishery.			
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>			

<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

In Ireland, the primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level is the Marine Institute with the annual assessment of boarfish spawning aggregations, the Western European Shelf Pelagic Acoustic Survey (WESPAS), being undertaken by the Institute's Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) section.

#### United Kingdom

In the UK, organisations responsible for collecting data include the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Marine Scotland.

#### ICES

The stock is assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)<sup>6</sup>, an intergovernmental marine science organisation based in Copenhagen, Denmark comprising 20 member countries including the UK and Ireland. ICES provides impartial evidence on the state and sustainable use of marine resources in the ICES area of competence which includes *inter alia* the North Atlantic and the North Sea.

Overall, as there are organisations responsible for collecting data and assessing the boarfish fishery, **the fishery passes Clause M1.2.**

#### M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.

##### Republic of Ireland

The strategic goal of DAFM in respect of the Irish seafood industry is to deliver a **sustainable**, growth driven sector focused on competitiveness and innovation driven by a skilled workforce delivering value added products in line with market demands<sup>7</sup>.

##### United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability including the MMO whose stated purpose is to protect and enhance the UK's marine environment, and support UK economic growth by enabling **sustainable** marine activities and development<sup>8</sup>, Marine Scotland whose responsibilities include *inter alia* promoting **sustainable**, profitable and well-managed fisheries<sup>9</sup> and Northern Ireland's Government Departments and District Councils who have a statutory duty to promote the achievement of sustainable development in the exercise of their functions<sup>10</sup>.

Based on the above, fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability such that **the fishery passes Clause M1.3.**

#### M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.

In the UK, the UK Fisheries Act 2020 provides the legal framework for responsible fisheries management in the UK including providing the Devolved Administrations (Scotland and Northern Ireland) with fisheries management powers allowing them to tailor their approaches based on the specific needs of their industries and waters.

The equivalent piece of legislation in Ireland is the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

As fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions, **the fishery passes Clause M1.4.**

#### M1.5 There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.

In each jurisdiction, fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making via public consultation processes including:

- Ireland: [https://www.gov.ie/en/consultations/?q=marine&sort\\_by=published\\_date](https://www.gov.ie/en/consultations/?q=marine&sort_by=published_date).
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-development-fisheries-management-measures-marine-protected-areas-mpas-and-establishment>.
- Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/?topics=Marine+and+fisheries&publicationTypes=consultation-analysis%3Bconsultation-paper>.

<sup>6</sup> Latest boarfish assessment and advice available here: <http://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy/04164-marine/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/901328/mmo\\_the\\_next\\_10\\_years\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901328/mmo_the_next_10_years_web.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/about/how-government-is-run/directorates/marine-scotland/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/sustainable-development>



- MMO: <https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?organisations%5B%5D=marine-management-organisation&parent=marine-management-organisation>

As there are a consultation processes in the various jurisdictions under consideration through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making, **the fishery passes Clause M1.5.**

**M1.6 The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.**

Decision-making processes are entirely transparent, with the processes and all results publicly available including assessments of stock status and advice arising from said assessments. Examples of the types of documents publicly available are available in the evidence relating to the analysis of Category A and C species below. Overall decision-making processes are transparent, with processes and results publicly available such that **the fishery passes Clause M1.5.**

**References**

gov.ie - Seafood and Marine (www.gov.ie)  
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine>  
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>  
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine>  
 Latest boarfish assessment and advice available here: <http://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx>  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy/04164-marine/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/about/how-government-is-run/directorates/marine-scotland/>  
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/sustainable-development>

**Links**

<b>MARINTRUST Standard clause</b>	1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.2, 7.3.1, 7.4.4, 12.3
<b>GSSI</b>	D.1.01, D.4.01, D2.01, D1.07, D1.04,

<b>M2 Surveillance, Control and Enforcement - Minimum Requirements</b>		
<b>M2.1</b>	There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	Yes
<b>M2.2</b>	There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	Yes
<b>M2.3</b>	There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	Yes
<b>M2.4</b>	Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>		<b>PASS</b>

As with the overall management framework, surveillance, control and enforcement is within the remit of various parties within the EU, the Republic of Ireland as an EU Member State, and the United Kingdom including its devolved administrations

**M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.**

As with the overall management framework, surveillance, control and enforcement is within the remit of various parties within the EU, the Republic of Ireland as an EU Member State, and the United Kingdom including its devolved administrations.

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is a European Union agency whose mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP. EFCA’s primary role is to organise coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities so that the rules of the CFP are respected and applied effectively.

In practice, organisational responsibility for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations is carried out by the Member States’ control authorities. In the Republic of Ireland this control authority is the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority



(SFPA)<sup>11</sup>. The SFPA derives additional support from the Irish Naval Service and the Air Corps in providing at sea surveillance and on-board inspections via a service level agreement between the Irish Department of Defence and the SFPA.

#### **The United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations**

With the UK having left the EU, the CFP no longer applies in UK waters. Here bodies responsible for control and enforcement in the individual states are the MMO in England and Wales, Marine Scotland in Scotland and the Fisheries and Environment Division in Northern Ireland.

Based on the above, there are organisations in each jurisdiction responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.1**.

#### **M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.**

To ensure that fishing rules are applied equitably in member countries, and to harmonise the way similar infringements are sanctioned, the EU has established a list of serious infringements of the rules of the common fisheries policy. EU Member States must include in their legislation effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions, and ensure that the rules are respected.

Infringements of CFP rules are dealt with by the Member State concerned. In the Republic of Ireland, the current framework of sanctions is provided for in the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006).<sup>12</sup>.

#### **The United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations**

In England and Wales, the MMO is the competent authority with responsibility of enforcement of sanctions and penalties with respect to the prosecution of fishery rules. In Scotland Marine Scotland; in Northern Ireland the Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group are the competent authorities for fisheries and seafood control.

Based on the above, there is a framework of sanctions in each jurisdiction which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.1**.

#### **M2.3 There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.**

Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 established a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Through EU Fishery Policy and Regulations, Member States must apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against natural or legal persons engaged in IUU activities. A maximum sanction of at least five times the value of the fishery products obtained is provided for with regard to the committing of the said infringement. In the event of a repeated infringement within a five-year period, the Member States shall impose a maximum sanction of at least eight times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement. There is no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.

In April 2021, after finding that authorities had not taken appropriate measures to address non-compliance including evidence of the manipulation of weighing systems and under-declaration of catches, the European Commission revoked their approval of the Irish control plan for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009. The decision document<sup>13</sup> also stated that the failure to ensure appropriate weighing puts at risk the accuracy of the data reported that are essential for control purposes and monitoring of the uptake of fishing quotas. Following this decision, Irish fisheries which had previously been permitted to weigh their catch in factories, they likely now will have to be weighed at the quayside.

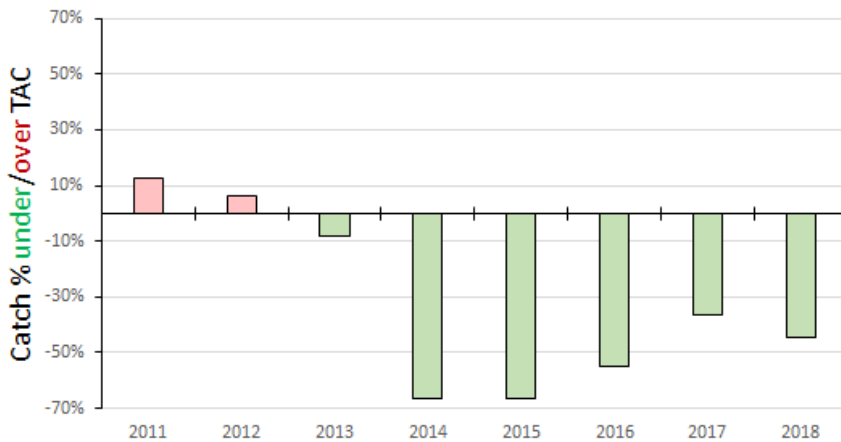
The above might constitute evidence of widespread non-compliance in Irish fisheries but is likely unrelated to the boarfish fishery since the fishery is largely not TAC-constrained with catches being substantially below TACs in recent years (Figure

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/About-Us/Our-Work>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC066426>

<sup>13</sup> European Commission Implementing Decision revoking the approval of the Irish control plan submitted for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009: [https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20619598-commission-implementing-decision\\_revoke-61-weighing-after-transport](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20619598-commission-implementing-decision_revoke-61-weighing-after-transport)

1). Essentially, there is no incentive to underreport boarfish landings because the fishery is substantially less than permitted levels.



**Figure 1.** Boarfish total catches as a % of TACs (2011 – 2018) (Source: Data from ICES, 2019<sup>14</sup>).

Overall, there is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing. Such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.3**

**M2.4 Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.**

Compliance with laws and regulations in Irish waters is actively monitored, by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)<sup>15</sup> with additional support from the Irish Naval Service and the Air Corps in providing at sea surveillance and on board inspections via a service level agreement between the Irish Department of Defence and the SFPA.

In UK waters compliance with laws and regulations is monitored by the MMO in England and Wales, Marine Scotland in Scotland and the Fisheries and Environment Division in Northern Ireland.

Based on the above, compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through regimes which include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes and VMS such that **the fishery passes Clause M2.4.**

**References**

- <https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/About-Us/Our-Work>
- <http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC066426>
- European Commission Implementing Decision revoking the approval of the Irish control plan submitted for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009: [https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20619598-commission-implementing-decision\\_revoke-61-weighing-after-transport](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20619598-commission-implementing-decision_revoke-61-weighing-after-transport)

**Links**

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.1.3
FAO CCRF	7.7.2
GSSI	D1.09

<sup>14</sup> ICES 2019. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Greater North Sea, and Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregions. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay): <https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/boc.27.6-8.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/About-Us/Our-Work>

## CATEGORY B SPECIES

Category B species are those which make up greater than 5% of landings in the applicant raw material, but which are not subject to a species-specific research and management regime sufficient to pass all Category A clauses. If there are no Category B species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Category B species are assessed using a risk-based approach. The following process should be completed once for each Category B species.

### If there are estimates of biomass (B), fishing mortality (F), and reference points

It is possible for a Category B species to have some biomass and fishing mortality data available. When sufficient information is present, the assessment team should use the following risk matrix to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

TABLE B(A) - F, B AND REFERENCE POINTS ARE AVAILABLE

<b>Biomass is above MSY / target reference point</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
<b>Biomass is below MSY / target reference point, but above limit reference point</b>	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>Biomass is below limit reference point (stock is overfished)</b>	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>Biomass is significantly below limit reference point (Recruitment impaired)</b>	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
	<b>Fishery removals are prohibited</b>	<b>Fishing mortality is below MSY or target reference point</b>	<b>Fishing mortality is around MSY or target reference point, or below the long-term average</b>	<b>Fishing mortality is above the MSY or target reference point, or around the long-term average</b>	<b>Fishing mortality is above the limit reference point or above the long-term average (Stock is subject to overfishing)</b>

## If the biomass / fishing pressure risk assessment is not possible

Initially, the resilience of each Category B species to fishing pressure should be estimated using the American Fisheries Society procedure described in Musick, J.A. (1999). This approach is used as the resilience values for many species and stocks have been estimated by FishBase and are already available online. For details of the approach, please refer to Appendix A. Determining the resilience provides a basis for estimating the risk that fishing may pose to the long-term sustainability of the stock. Table B(b) should be used to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

**TABLE B(B) - NO REFERENCE POINTS AVAILABLE. B = CURRENT BIOMASS; B<sub>AV</sub> = LONG-TERM AVERAGE BIOMASS; F = CURRENT FISHING MORTALITY; F<sub>AV</sub> = LONG-TERM AVERAGE FISHING MORTALITY.**

<b>B &gt; B<sub>av</sub> and F &lt; F<sub>av</sub></b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
<b>B &gt; B<sub>av</sub> and F or F<sub>av</sub> unknown</b>	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
<b>B = B<sub>av</sub> and F &lt; F<sub>av</sub></b>	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
<b>B = B<sub>av</sub> and F or F<sub>av</sub> unknown</b>	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>B &gt; B<sub>av</sub> and F &gt; F<sub>av</sub></b>	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>B &lt; B<sub>av</sub></b>	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>B unknown</b>	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
<b>Resilience</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Very Low</b>

## Assessment Results

<b>Species Name</b>		Board fish, <i>Capros aper</i>
<b>B1</b>	Species Name	Board fish, <i>Capros aper</i>
	Table used (Ba, Bb)	Bb
	Outcome	<b>PASS</b>

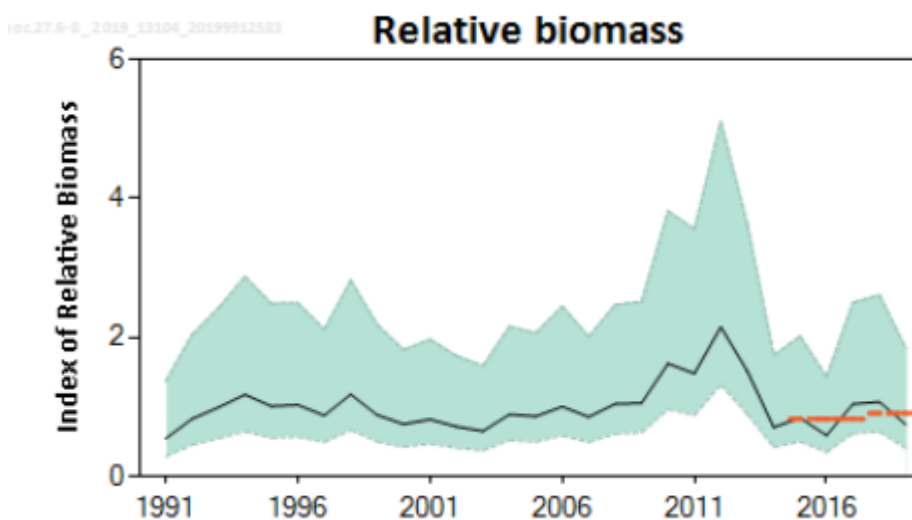
Resilience/productivity is considered as Vulnerable to extinction if decline in biomass or numbers exceeds threshold over the longer of 10 years or 3 generations and it is estimated as low; decline threshold 0.85 (Source: fishbase).

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The Schaefer surplus production model provides an index of the total stock biomass (TSB), which is used as the index of stock development. The advice is based on the ratio of the mean of the last two index values (Index A; 2018–2019) and the mean of the three preceding values (Index B; 2015–2017), multiplied by the recent advised catch.

**Table 1.** Boarfish in subareas 6–8. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, only one catch scenario is provided. \* Catches are in tonnes (Source: ICES 2019)

Index A (2018, 2019)		0.91
Index B (2015, 2016, 2017)		0.83
Index ratio (A/B)		1.10
Uncertainty cap	Not applied	
Advised catch for 2019		21830
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Catch advice **		19152
% advice change		-12.3%

The stock biomass was relatively stable until 2009, then increased in 2010–2012 before declining rapidly in 2013 and 2014. Since 2014, the stock biomass has been relatively stable (figure 2).



**Figure 2.** The SSB index is scaled to the median of the time-series. Confidence intervals (2.5% and 97.5% quantiles) are included in the biomass plot and the red lines indicate the average values for 2015–2017 and 2018–2019. Source: ICES 2019

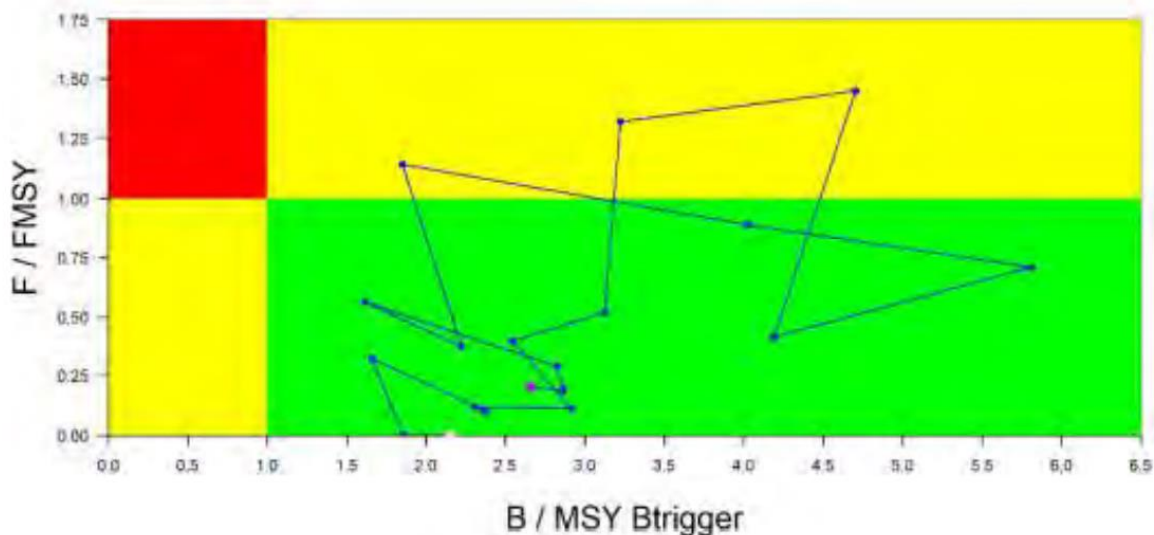
Therefore, following the information provided in the table 1, the biomass could be considered as  $B > B_{av}$ .

The mechanism by which total fishing mortality on the boarfish stock is restricted includes a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the directed boarfish fishery in EU and international waters of ICES subareas 6, 7, and 8 as well as a maximum permitted bycatch of 5% boarfish which is then subtracted from EU quotas for western and North Sea horse mackerel. TAC has not been exceeded in the last 5 years, therefore it could be considered that the  $F < F_{av}$ .

**Table 2.** Advised catch, ICES catch and catch over/under advice for Boarfish in ICES subareas 6–8 (2012 – 2018). All weights are in metric tonnes (Source: ICES 2019).

Year	Advised catch	ICES catch	Catch over/under advice
2012	82,000 mt	87,355 mt	+5,355 mt
2013	82,000 mt	75,409 mt	-6,591 mt
2014	133,957 mt	45,231 mt	-88,726 mt
2015	53,296 mt	17,766 mt	-35,530 mt
2016	42,637 mt	19,315 mt	-23,322 mt
2017	27,288 mt	17,388 mt	-9,900 mt
2018	21,830 mt	11,286 mt	-10,544 mt

Following the 2019 advice and although reference points are not defined, ICES WG WIDE2020 showed that MSY reference points could be estimated from the assessment parameter values. In 2019, FMSY and MSY Btrigger are estimated as respectively equal to 0.168 (parameter  $r / 2$ ) and 137 kt (parameter  $K / 4$ ). Throughout the history of the fishery, estimates of stock biomass have remained above MSY Btrigger. Fishing mortality (F) was greater than FMSY in 2009, 2010 and 2014, but has decreased since. In 2019, the stock is in the green area of the Kobe plot, therefore, the stock has passed the category B assessment as  $B > B_{av}$  and  $F < F_{av}$ .



**Figure 3.** Boarfish in ICES Subareas 6, 7, 8. Ratios ' $B / MSY B_{trigger}$ ' and ' $F / FMSY$ ' through time and corresponding Kobe plot. Confidence intervals (50 and 95%) are given for the first two panels, the third displays median estimates only with the pink point representing the first point of the time series and the purple point the last. Source: ICES WG WIDE2020

**References**

ICES. 2019. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, boc.27.6-8, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4880>  
<https://www.fishbase.in/summary/54>

ICES. 2018. Advice basis. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2018. ICES Advice 2018, Book 1, Section 1.2. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4503>.

ICES. 2019. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:36. 948 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.557>

ICES. 2020. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:82. 1019 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7475>

**Links**

<b>MARINTRUST Standard clause</b>	<b>1.3.2.2, 4.1.4</b>
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	<b>7.5.1</b>
<b>GSSI</b>	<b>D.5.01</b>

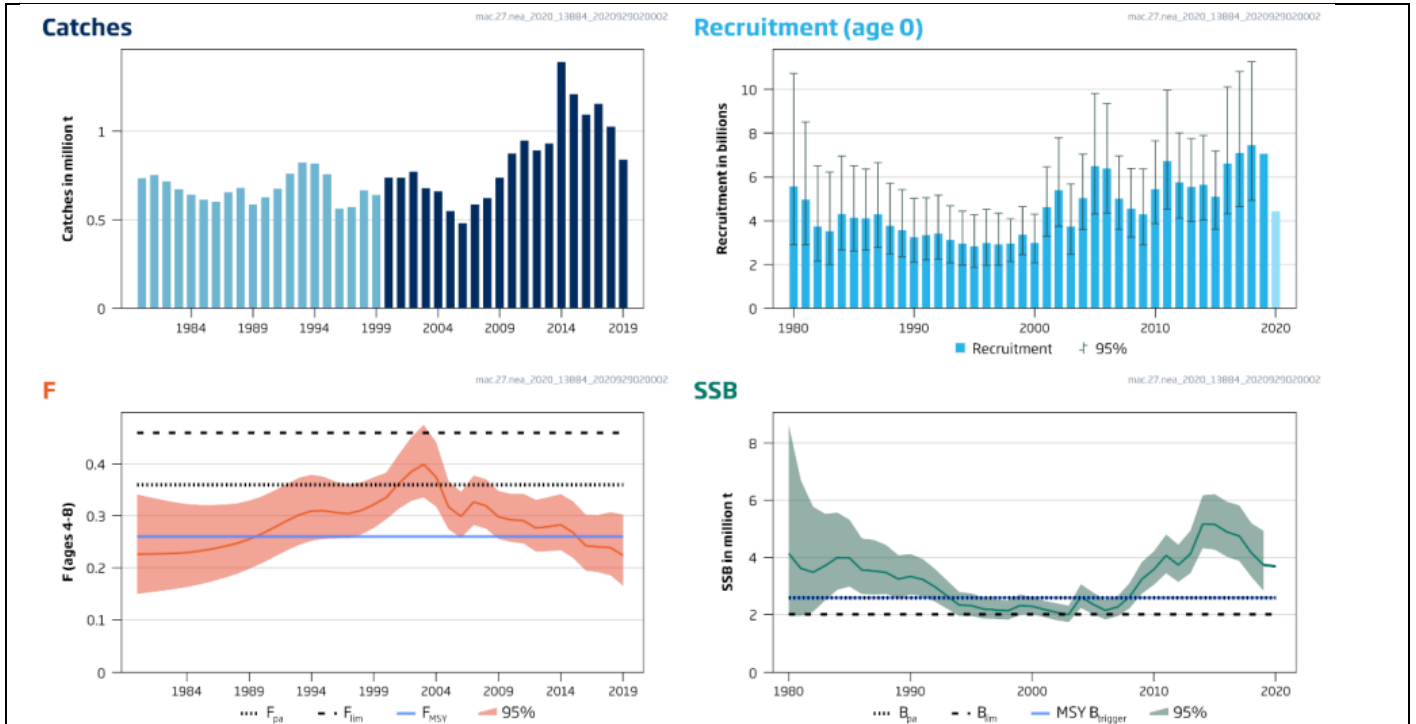


## CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

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 may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

<b>Species Name</b>		<b>Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in ICES subareas 1 – 8 and 14, and in ICES Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
			<b>Clause outcome: PASS</b>
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Input data for the mackerel stock assessment includes catch data, steel tagging data (1980 – 2006) and RFID tagging data (2014 – 2019), and three survey indices: SSB index from the triennial egg survey (1992–2019), abundance indices from the IBTS survey (combined Q1 and Q4; age 0, 1998–2019), and from the IESSNS survey (ages 3–11, 2010, 2012–2020) and a value for Natural Mortality of 0.15 for all ages and years based on tagging studies from the early-1980s. The assessment additionally includes partial discard estimates.</p> <p>While mackerel removals in the boarfish fishery are in all likelihood negligible in the context of total mackerel catches that have not been less than 500,000 mt since the time series began in 1980, where they occur they are included in the stock assessment process; therefore, <b>the fishery passes Clause C1.1.</b></p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is estimated to have increased since 2007, reaching a maximum in 2014, and has been declining since then. It has, however, remained above MSY Btrigger since 2008. The fishing mortality (F) has declined since 2003, and is estimated to have been below FMSY since 2016. There has been a succession of large year classes since 2001, with year classes since 2011 estimated to be above average (Figure 2).</p>			



**Figure 4.** Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Summary of the stock assessment. The paler shaded catches prior to 2000 have been down-weighted in the assessment because of the considerable underreporting suspected to have taken place in this period. The recruitment value for 2019 is estimated using the recruitment survey (IBTS) and a model (RCT3), and the recruitment value for 2020 is the geometric mean of the recruitments from 1990 to 2018. Source: ICES 2020

ICES assessed that fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim and it **PASSES** clause C1.2.

**References**

ICES. 2020. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, mac.27.nea. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5907>

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

## FURTHER IMPACTS

The three clauses in this section relate to impacts the fishery may have in other areas. A fishery must meet the minimum requirements of all three clauses before it can be recommended for approval.

F1 Impacts on ETP Species - Minimum Requirements		
F1.1	Interactions with ETP species are recorded.	Yes
F1.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.	Yes
F1.3	If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>		<b>PASS</b>
<p><b>F1.1 Interactions with ETP species are recorded.</b></p> <p>The ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) is an ICES expert group that meets annually and reports to the attention of the Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference for the working group include to review and summarise annual national reports submitted to the European Commission under Regulation 812/2004 and other published documents to collate bycatch rates and estimates in EU waters and wider North Atlantic. The 2019 working group report includes extensive background related to reporting requirements for European fisheries<sup>16</sup>. The reporting of the interactions need to comply with the Data Collection Framework (DCF) which is defined in the Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/10042) and it is also fundamental to support scientific advice on the CFP. Therefore, Interactions with ETP species are recorded such that the fishery meets Clause F1.1</p> <p><b>F1.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.</b></p> <p>The latest evidence of ETP species interactions with pelagic fisheries is available in the 2019 report of the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC)<sup>17</sup> which includes data to 2017.</p> <p>For 2017, Ireland reported a total of 33 trips comprising 106 days at sea and 98 hauls as being observed in pelagic trawl fisheries. No cetacean bycatch was observed in pelagic fisheries in 2017. A total of 7 common dolphins have been observed from a total of 1,635 days at sea observed in pelagic trawls since monitoring under EC 812/2004 commenced in 2005. Results to date suggest that the risk of bycatch of cetaceans and other protected species in Irish pelagic trawl fisheries is low.</p> <p>For the United Kingdom, in 2017, 114 dedicated protected species bycatch monitoring days were conducted during 41 trips on pelagic trawlers. Under other English, Welsh and Northern Irish fishery monitoring programmes 14 days monitoring were also achieved in midwater trawl and line fisheries. No marine mammals were recorded as bycaught in pelagic trawls.</p> <p>Overall, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species such that <b>the fishery meets Clause F1.2</b></p> <p><b>F1.3 If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.</b></p> <p>As outlined above, there is no evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species that would require measures to minimise mortality over and above the manner in which the fishery currently operates; therefore, Overall, measures to minimise mortality are not required (because it already appears minimised) such that <b>the fishery meets Clause F1.3</b></p>		
References		

<sup>16</sup> ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>.

<sup>17</sup> ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>.

ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.1
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D4.04, D.3.08

F2 Impacts on Habitats - Minimum Requirements		
F2.1	Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.	Yes
F2.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.	Yes
F2.3	If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>		<b>PASS</b>

**F2.1 Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.**  
 The fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which operate entirely in the water column and as such do not impact physical habitats; therefore, it is not necessary that potential habitat interactions are considered by management (because there are none). As there are no potential habitat interactions requiring consideration in management decision-making processes, **the fishery passes Clause F2.1**

**F2.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.**  
 The fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which do not impact physical habitats; therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats such that **the fishery passes Clause F2.2.**

**F2.3 If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.**  
 As the fishery is known not to interact with physical habitats, this Clause is not applicable such that the **fishery passes Clause F2.3**

**References**

ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>.  
 ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.2
FAO CCRF	6.8
GSSI	D.2.07, D.6.07, D3.09

F3 Ecosystem Impacts - Minimum Requirements		
F3.1	The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.	Yes
F3.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	Yes

	<b>F3.3</b> If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>		<b>PASS</b>
<p><b>F3.1 The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.</b></p> <p>The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during management decision-making processes as can be seen by Ecosystem considerations section (§3.13) of the most recent ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) report<sup>18</sup>.</p> <p>WGWIDE additionally encourages further work to be carried out on ecosystem considerations linked to widely distributed fish stocks including that close collaboration with the other Integrated Assessment groups within ICES would help in operationalising ecosystem approaches for the widely distributed pelagic stocks assessed by WGWIDE which include boarfish.</p> <p>Overall, the broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during management decision-making processes such that <b>the fishery passes Clause F3.1</b></p> <p><b>F3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.</b></p> <p>The ecological role and significance of boarfish in the Northeast Atlantic is largely unknown. However, they have been shown to occupy an important position in the marine food web as a predatory species in Portuguese waters where they consume copepods, mysid shrimp and euphausiids (Macpherson 1979; Fock et al. 2002; Lopes et al. 2006). There is no evidence that boarfish feed on fish eggs and larvae to the extent that an increase in the abundance of boarfish is likely to affect recruitment of commercial fish species. An increase in the boarfish stock might however increase competition with other widely distributed planktivorous species.</p> <p>According to WGWIDE, while boarfish appear an unlikely target of predation given their array of strong dorsal and anal fin spines and covering of ctenoid scales, there is evidence (albeit few studies in the Northeast Atlantic) to suggest that they may be an important component of some species’ diets. In the Azores, boarfish was found to be one of the most important prey items for tope, thornback ray, conger eel, forkbeard, bigeye tuna, yellowmouth barracuda, swordfish, blackspot seabream, axillary seabream and blacktail comber (Clarke et al. 1995; Morato et al. 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003; Arrizabalaga et al. 2008). Given their frequency in the diets of marine and bird life in the Azores, boarfish appear to be an important component of the marine ecosystem in that region but, given that size and depth distributions of boarfish as well as the availability of other prey species differ between the Azores and the Northeast Atlantic, this does not necessarily follow for the Northeast Atlantic. Overall, there is currently insufficient evidence to suggest that boarfish occupy a similarly important ecosystem role in the Northeast Atlantic</p> <p>Even were boarfish to occupy an important ecosystem role in the Northeast Atlantic, the current level of removals where and average of 12.3% of total stock biomass was removed annually by directed fishing in the years 2011 – 2018 should ensure sufficient fish remain to fulfil the stocks ecosystem role thereby ensuring significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem do not occur.</p> <p>Overall, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem such that <b>the fishery passes Clause F3.2</b></p> <p><b>F3.3 If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.</b></p>		

<sup>18</sup> ICES. 2020. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:82. 1019 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7475>

Of the species identified during species categorisation, Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) likely plays a key role in the marine ecosystem. The ecosystem role of the mackerel stock accounted for in recommendations relating to total permissible fishery removals from that stock of which removals in the fishery under assessment here are a negligible proportion<sup>19</sup>.

For species/stocks identified during species categorisation that play a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals of those species/stocks such that **the fishery passes Clause F3.3**

#### References

Arrizabalaga, H., Pereira, J.G., Royer, F., Galuardi, B., Goñi, N., Artetxe, I., Arregi, I. & Lutcavage, M. 2008. Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) vertical movements in the Azores islands determined with pop-up satellite archival tags. *Fisheries Oceanography*, 17, 74–83.

Clarke, M.R., Clarke, D.C., Martins, H.R. & Silva, H.M. 1995. The diet of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in Azorean waters. *ARQUIPÉLAGO. Life and Marine Sciences*, 13, 53–69.

Fock, H.O., Matthiessen, B., Zidowitz, H. & Westernhagen, H. v. 2002. Diel and habitat-dependent resource utilisation by deep-sea fishes at the great meteor seamount: Niche overlap and support for the sound scattering layer interception hypothesis. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 244, 219–233.

Lopes, M., Murta, A.G. & Cabral, H.N. 2006. The ecological significance of the zooplanktivores, snipefish *Macroramphosus* spp. and boarfish *Capros aper*, in the food web of the south-east North Atlantic. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 69, 363–378.

Macpherson, E. 1979. Estudio sobre el régimen alimentario de algunos peces en el mediterráneo occidental. *Miscellània Zoològica*, 5, 93–107.

Morato, T., Santos, R.S. & Andrade, J.P. 2000. Feeding habits, seasonal and ontogenetic diet shift of blacktail comber, *Serranus atricauda* (pisces: Serranidae), from the Azores, north-eastern Atlantic. *Fisheries Research*, 49, 51–59.

Morato, T., Solà, E., Grós, M.P. & Menezes, G. 2001. Feeding habits of two congener species of seabreams, *Pagellus bogaraveo* and *Pagellus acarne*, off the Azores (Northeastern Atlantic) during spring of 1996 and 1997. *Bulletin of Marine Science*, 69, 1073–1087.

Morato, T., Solà, E., Grós, M.P. & Menezes, G. 2003. Diets of thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) and tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) in the bottom longline fishery of the Azores, northeastern Atlantic. *Fishery Bulletin*, 101, 590–602.

Morato, T., Solà, E., Grós, M.P. & Menezes, G.M. 1999. Diets of forkbeard (*Phycis phycis*) and conger eel (*Conger conger*) off the Azores during spring of 1996 and 1997.

See also footnotes.

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.3.3
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D.2.09, D3.10, D.6.09

<sup>19</sup> ICES. 2020. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, mac.27.nea. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5907>.

## SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.



## Appendix A - Determining Resilience Ratings

The assessment of Category B species described in this assessment report template utilises a resilience rating system suggested by the American Fisheries Society. This approach was chosen because it is also used by FishBase, and so the resilience ratings for many thousands of species are freely available online. As described by FishBase, the following is the process used to arrive at the resilience ratings:

*“The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has suggested values for several biological parameters that allow classification of a fish population or species into categories of high, medium, low and very low resilience or productivity (Musick 1999). If no reliable estimate of  $r_m$  (see below) is available, the assignment is to the lowest category for which any of the available parameters fits. For each of these categories, AFS has suggested thresholds for decline over the longer of 10 years or three generations. If an observed decline measured in biomass or numbers of mature individuals exceeds the indicated threshold value, the population or species is considered vulnerable to extinction unless explicitly shown otherwise. If one sex strongly limits the reproductive capacity of the species or population, then only the decline in the limiting sex should be considered. We decided to restrict the automatic assignment of resilience categories in the Key Facts page to values of  $K$ ,  $t_m$  and  $t_{max}$  and those records of fecundity estimates that referred to minimum number of eggs or pups per female per year, assuming that these were equivalent to average fecundity at first maturity (Musick 1999). Note that many small fishes may spawn several times per year (we exclude these for the time being) and large live bearers such as the coelacanth may have gestation periods of more than one year (we corrected fecundity estimates for those cases reported in the literature). Also, we excluded resilience estimates based on  $r_m$  (see below) as we are not yet confident with the reliability of the current method for estimating  $r_m$ . If users have independent  $r_m$  or fecundity estimates, they can refer to Table 1 for using this information.”*

Parameter	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Threshold	0.99	0.95	0.85	0.70
$r_{max}$ (1/year)	> 0.5	0.16 - 0.50	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
$K$ (1/year)	> 0.3	0.16 - 0.30	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
Fecundity (1/year)	> 10,000	100 - 1000	10 - 100	< 10
$t_m$ (years)	< 1	2 - 4	5 - 10	> 10
$t_{max}$ (years)	1 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 30	> 30

[Taken from the FishBase manual, “Estimation of Life-History Key Facts”, <http://www.fishbase.us/manual/English/key%20facts.htm#resilience>]

## Glossary

**Non-target:** Species for which the gear is not specifically set, although they may have immediate commercial value and be a desirable component of the catch. OECD (1996), Synthesis report for the study on the economic aspects of the management of marine living resources. AGR/FI(96)12

**Target:** In the context of fishery certification, the target catch is the catch of stock under consideration by the unit of certification – i.e. the fish that are being assessed for certification and ecolabelling. (GSSI)

## MarinTrust Fishery Assessment Peer Review Template

This section comprises a summary of the fishery being assessed against version 2 of the MarinTrust Standard.

<b>Fishery under assessment</b>	WF 15 Boarfish Ireland ICES 4 North East Atlantic
<b>Management authority (Country/State)</b>	Republic of Ireland, UK and European Commission
<b>Main species</b>	Boarfish ( <i>Capros aper</i> ) Stock = boarfish in ICES subareas 6 – 8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)
<b>Fishery location</b>	FAO Area 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)
<b>Gear type(s)</b>	Pelagic trawl, pelagic pair trawl
<b>Overall recommendation. (Approve/ Fail)</b>	Approve

**Summary:** in this section, provide any additional information about the fishery that the reviewers feel is significant to their decision.

Overall, the fishery assessment has been conducted in line with the established procedure and provides adequate evidence for the determinations made.

The following items were to note:

1. It would be beneficial if the assessor could provide a qualification statement as to the reasons for the decision to move the species categorisation class from Category A (as in

previous assessments) to Category B. A statement has been included in the report but basically the last ICES stock assessment stated that there no reference point s and the fishery cannot be assessed against MSY

2. Is there data on percent of infringements/non-compliance, and any evidence of when the authorities have taken appropriate measures for such infringements/evidence that sanctions are applied? Information is already provided in the report, the CB cannot give a number for boarfish as it is not a target species for the fleet, however, number of inspection and sanctions by each fleet can be found in SFPA annual reports. Also, The act where information is provided is [Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 \(No. 8 of 2006\)](#).
3. Can details of the regulations regarding ETP reporting in logbooks be provided? The information is reported by the DCF and it also is provided in the reference cited ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563>. Further the act in the previous question notes that CFP is the key with the landing obligation, so all catches need to be reported and that is a way to report some ETPs species.

General Comments on the Draft Report provided to the peer reviewer

## Summary of Peer Review Outcomes

Peer reviewers should review the fishery assessment report with the primary objective of answering the key questions listed in the table below. Where the situation is more complicated, reviewers may instead answer “See Notes”.

	YES	NO	See Notes
<b>A – Fishery Assessment</b>			
1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	Yes		
2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	Yes		Please clarify why opted not to assess as a category A species
3. Are the scores in the following sections accurate (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?	Yes		
Section M - Management	Yes		
Category A Species	N/A		
Category B Species	Yes		
Category C Species	Yes		
Category D Species	N/A		
Section F – Further Impacts	Yes		

## Detailed Peer Review Justification

Peer reviewers should provide support for their answers in the boxes provided, by referring to specific scoring issues and any relevant documentation as appropriate.

Detailed justifications are only required where answers given are one of the ‘No’ options. In other (Yes) cases, either confirm ‘scoring agreed’ or identify any places where weak rationales could be strengthened (without any implications for the scores).

Boxes may be extended if more space is required.

1. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust standard, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?
The scoring is consistent with the MT standard and the appropriate evidence is provided within the assessment report, and notwithstanding the remarks in this peer review report (see each section below and summary).
Certification body response

2. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MARINTRUST fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?
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The fishery assessment has been completed following the MARINTRUST methodology though note the remarks in this peer review report (see summary) and that some criteria (as detailed below) could have a little more evidence provided as per guidance notes.

The assessment determination section does not include any statements on fishery management infrastructure, catch composition overview, stock assessment efforts, other research, control and enforcement, or other impacts of the fishery as per the guidance.

Whilst the fishery had been internally reviewed it would have been helpful for any additional thoughts from the peer reviewer on the accuracy of the assessment decision, the ratings throughout the assessment, and the adequacy of the evidence supporting these to have been provided

#### Certification body response

CB response: It has been stated that is a surveillance report and the fishery still operate in the same way that in previous assessment , there has been no changes in relevant aspect of fisheries management measures or any other relevant information that can affect the overall outcome of the fisheries. Although, the assessor has included some amendments.

### 3. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?

The species categorisation section (see Table 4) indicates the majority of the catch composition is Boarfish (*Capros aper*) (95%), with Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) as a non-target species <5%. The species categorisation rationale reflects best current understanding of the fishery. Table 5 states “Species-specific management regime in place” however in the Assessment Determination section it states “the fishery does not have a specific species management plan with reference points or proxies defined” – please add clarification for consistency.

CB response: typo mistake-corrected

We understand from this review that the assessor has moved Boarfish from Category A to Category B species for assessment – presumably as the current fishery species management plan does not have any reference points or proxies defined and hence doesn’t meet clause A2.1. In previous assessments it has been categorised as Category A and it would be useful if the assessor could provide a qualification statement as to the reasons for the decision to move the species categorisation class.

#### Certification body response

CB response: The reasons have been included above. There are no reference points related to biomass defined in the last stock assessment for this stock.

### 3M. Are the scores in “Section M – Management” clearly justified?

The scores in this section are clearly justified by the assessor with detailed responses and supported by links to references.

Comment: Under section M2.2 it would be beneficial if the assessor could provide evidence that sanctions for non-compliance are applied. The guidance asks for “The assessment team will list all the key laws and sanctions deemed to be a violation, and where possible provide examples of cases where the punishment on offending vessels has been executed.” Some examples would substantiate this clause is being applied.

Is there evidence of the scale of observer coverage or inspections and data on per cent of infringements/non-compliance? Given as the assessor reports “authorities had not taken appropriate measures to address non-compliance including evidence of the manipulation of weighing systems”- is there evidence of when the authorities have taken appropriate measures in relation to non-compliance especially relating to the boarfish fishery?

**Certification body response**

CB response: Information is already provided in the report, the CB cannot give a number for boarfish as it is not a target species for the fleet, however, number of inspection and sanctions by each fleet can be found in SFGA annual reports. Also, The act where information is provided is [Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 \(No. 8 of 2006\)](#). There no infringements reported in this fleet in 2020 report that can affect this fishery.

**3A. Are the “Category A Species” scores clearly justified?**

No Category A species were identified.

**Certification body response**

**3B. Are the “Category B Species” scores clearly justified?**

The scores in this section are clearly justified by the assessor. The resilience of the fishery is low, however, the assessor details  $B > B_{av}$  and  $F < F_{av}$  so according to Table 8 (b) in guidance notes the fishery is a Pass.

ICES report details that “The acoustic survey has undergone several developments to improve its suitability” and “the bottom trawl survey data are considered to be a good index of abundance, given that boarfish aggregate near the bottom at the time of the survey” and as the model combines both surveys it has been deemed suitable for providing quota advice. The fishery has caught substantially less than the TAC in recent years.

**Certification body response**

CB response: Noted

**3C. Are the “Category C Species” scores clearly justified?**

The scores in this section are clearly justified by the assessor with detailed responses and supported by stock assessment summary figure and reference. The fishery has a biomass above the limit reference point i.e. “ICES assessed that fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim”

Comment: Can the assessor provide any evidence such as management measures being

implemented for stock rebuilding (e.g. reduction in landings and effort, gear modification or spatial or temporal closures) or that the management measures are not contradicting scientific advice?

**Certification body response**

CB response: ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 22,791 tonnes in each of the years 2022 and 2023, the reduction on the TAC over the years is already a measures to minimise the impact on the stock, further there are additional seasonal and area closures to avoid bycatch and/or other impacts on the stock as juveniles catches.

**3D. Are the “Category D Species” scores clearly justified?**

No Category D species were identified.

**Certification body response**

**3F. Are the scores in “Section F – Further Impacts” clearly justified?**

The scores in this section are clearly justified by the assessor.

Comments: In section F1.1 can the assessor provide evidence that ETP species are recorded in logbooks? The assessor provides details of observer coverage – can these be expressed as a percent of the total number of trips in the fishery to make it clearer the level of observer coverage.

**Certification body response**

CB: The information provided come from the ICES. 2019. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:51. 163 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5563> For the United Kingdom, in 2017, 217 dedicated protected species bycatch monitoring days were conducted during 157 trips on board static net vessels and 114 dedicated bycatch monitoring days during 41 trips on pelagic trawlers. For selected seabirds, bycatch rates are provided to stipulate if observer coverage is appropriated.

**Optional: General comments on the Peer Review Draft Report**

Other than the comments already made there is confidence in the report evidence and outcome. While there are no limit reference points for the boarfish fishery,  $B > B_{av}$  and  $F < F_{av}$ , and fishing pressure is well below precautionary TAC in recent years.

**Certification body response**

CB response: Noted