



MarinTrust Standard V2

Whole fish Fishery Assessment *Faroe Islands Capelin, ICES subareas 5 & 14, and Division 2a west of 5°W*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name(s): 144 Pf Havsbrun			
Country: Faroe Islands			
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor Name	CB Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Conor Donnelly	1.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	May 2022		
Scope Details			
Management Authority (Country/State)		Faroe Islands, Iceland, EU	
Main Species		Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)	
Fishery Location		ICES Subareas 5 and 14, and Division 2a west of 5°W	
Gear Type(s)		Purse seine / pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
Overall Outcome		PASS	
Clauses Failed		None	
CB Peer Review Evaluation		Agree with assessor conclusion	
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group Evaluation		Approval	
Recommendation		Maintain approval	

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>As at the time of the initial and surveillance assessments of this stock, capelin is categorised by the IUCN Red List as a species of Least Concern, and is therefore eligible for use as a raw material for MarinTrust certified products.</p> <p>No evidence was encountered to contradict the previous catch categorisation data, and therefore the only species covered by this assessment is capelin. Capelin in ICES Subareas 5 and 14, and Division 2a west of 5°W is managed via a TAC set in accordance with an internationally-agreed Harvest Control Rule, and is therefore assessed as a Category A species.</p> <p>This surveillance assessment encountered no evidence to suggest significant changes in sections M or F since the time of the previous surveillance assessment. The fishery continues to be subject to a robust management, control and enforcement regime, and does not appear to have significant negative impacts on ETP species, habitats or marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The capelin stock is estimated by ICES and the IMFR to be in good shape, with a high probability that SSB is well above the limit reference point. Catches continue to be in line with the scientific advice, due in part to the international Framework Agreement which ensures that TACs follow ICES and IMFR recommendations.</p> <p>Overall this fishery is considered to continue to meet the MarinTrust raw material requirements, and it is recommended that its approval be maintained.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees with the findings of the assessment. The stock is eligible for use as a raw material in light of its IUCN Red List status. No evidence was found to contradict the previous catch categorisation data so only capelin was assessed. No new information was found during this surveillance to indicate significant changes to the Management or Further Impacts sections, so their scoring remains unchanged. It continues to be appropriate to score this capelin stock as a category A, and the latest information shows it meets the requirements of Clauses A1-A4. As such, the fishery continues to meet the MarinTrust raw material requirements, and it's approval should be maintained.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>None.</p>

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 A	Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)	99.8%	A1	PASS
			A2	PASS
			A3	PASS
			A4	PASS
Category B	No category B species			
Category C	No category C species			
Category D	No category D species			

Table 5 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	IUCN Redlist Category ¹	% of landings	Management	Category
Capelin	<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	ICES Subareas 5 and 14, and Division 2a west of 5°W	Least Concern ²	99.8%	Yes	A
Species categorisation rationale						
No new information was encountered to suggest that the catch composition has changed since the time of the initial and first surveillance assessments. The only species present in sufficient quantities in the catch to require assessment is capelin. Reference points have been established for the species and an annual quota is set. Therefore, there is a species-specific management regime in place and the stock has been assigned to Category A, as in previous MarinTrust assessments.						

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18155925/56707167>

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	
	M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.
	M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.
	M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.
	M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.
	M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.
	M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.
Clause outcome:		PASS
<p>The surveillance assessment information review did not uncover any significant changes in the specifics of the fishery relating to the requirements in section M1. The conclusions of the initial assessment are summarised here for convenience; please refer to the initial assessment report (Global Trust 2021) for more detail.</p> <p>M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.</p> <p>The capelin stock in ICES Subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2a west of 5°W is primarily managed by the Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Fishing activity carried out by Faroese vessels is managed by the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries. Also relevant are the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).</p> <p>There are organisations responsible for managing the fishery, therefore clause M1.1 is met.</p> <p>M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.</p> <p>There are several organisations which collect and analyse data, and provide scientific advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial scientific advice is provided annually by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), an intergovernmental marine science organisation which provides frequent analytical and advisory services for the management of fisheries. The Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) publishes updated catch advice at two further points in the season, which is used to update and initial TAC set based on the ICES advice. The Faroe Marine Research Institute also conducts biomass surveys and collaborates closely with the MFRI and ICES. <p>There are organisations responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery, therefore clause M1.2 is met.</p> <p>M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.</p> <p>The stated objective of Faroese fisheries management is to “conserve and utilise marine fish stocks to ensure biological and economic sustainability and secure optimal socio-economic benefits from fisheries”. Each of the individual nations which fish the stock have similar fisheries management objectives in place. The international management of the stock is based on a framework agreement for the “conservation and management” of capelin.</p> <p>Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability, and clause M1.3 is met.</p> <p>M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.</p> <p>In Faroese fisheries, the key legal instrument is the Act on Marine Resources, 2020, which sets out the legal framework for fishery and resource management. The other coastal states similarly have fisheries legislation in place. Vessels fishing in Icelandic waters are subject to Icelandic fisheries legislation, primarily the Fishery Management Act 1990, as amended in 2002. The main international legal basis for the management of the stock is a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) agreed between the coastal states in 2015, and a Framework Agreement most recently agreed in 2018. The terms of the agreement are reviewed annually.</p>		

Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions, therefore clause M1.4 is met.

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

ICES, the MFRI, and other scientific bodies implemented a web-based Consultation Portal in 2018, which includes a consultation on the draft Regulation on the Fisheries Consultation Committee published by the Faroese Ministry. There is a consultation process through which stakeholders are engaged in decision-making, therefore clause M1.5 is met.

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

ICES stock assessments, including procedures and outcomes, are made publicly available on the ICES website. The results of discussions relating to the Framework Agreement, including TACs and other management measures, are also made available online. All the information required to complete this surveillance assessment originated from publicly available sources. The decision-making process is transparent, and therefore clause M1.6 is met.

References

Faroese Seafood (2022). Fisheries Management in the Faroe Islands and the new Act on Marine Resources.

<https://www.faroese seafood.com/fishery-aquaculture/fishery-legislation-and-management/>

Global Trust (2021). Faroe Islands capelin re-approval: MarinTrust assessment report. <https://www.marin-trust.com/programme/main-standard/approved-whole-fish>

Icelandic Government (2022). Fisheries in Iceland. <https://www.government.is/topics/business-and-industry/fisheries-in-iceland/>

ICES (2022). Who we are. <https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/who-we-are/Pages/Who-we-are.aspx>

Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (2022). The Institute. <https://www.hafogvatn.is/en/about/mfri>

Norwegian Government (2022). Fishing and Aquaculture. <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/food-fisheries-and-agriculture/fishing-and-aquaculture/id1277/>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	7.2, 7.3.1, 7.4.4, 12.3
GSSI	D.1.01, D.4.01, D2.01, D1.07, D1.04,

M2

Surveillance, Control and Enforcement - Minimum Requirements

M2.1	There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	PASS
M2.2	There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	PASS
M2.3	There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	PASS
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.	PASS

Clause outcome: PASS

The surveillance assessment information review did not uncover any significant changes in the specifics of the fishery relating to the requirements in section M2. The conclusions of the initial assessment are summarised here for convenience; please refer to the initial assessment report (Global Trust 2021) for more detail.

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

Monitoring, control and enforcement of Faroese vessels is the responsibility of the Faroese Fisheries Inspectorate, which monitors and inspects catches and landings of individual vessels, and the weighing-in of landings. This includes on-board inspections, monitoring of transshipments, and inspections in ports.

Vessels operating in Icelandic waters – where a significant proportion of the capelin catch is taken – are subject to Icelandic enforcement mechanisms. Fisheries enforcement in Icelandic waters is the responsibility of the Directorate of Fisheries, which works closely with the Icelandic Coast Guard, the Food and Veterinary Authority, and municipal harbour officials.

There are organisations responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations, therefore clause M2.1 is met.

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

The Icelandic and Faroese regulations (and those of the other coastal states with vessels catching capelin) include provisions for sanctions when laws and regulations are found to be broken. These sanctions include fines, suspension or revocation of fishing permits, confiscation of catch or equipment, and imprisonment. Therefore clause M2.2 is met.

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

At the time of the previously surveillance assessment, no widespread non-compliance was reported. Overall compliance in Icelandic waters was considered to be very good, with sufficient control and enforcement activities to minimise the risk of non-compliance. In carrying out the present surveillance, no additional evidence of non-compliance was detected and the fishery continues to meet the requirements of 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.

All vessels are required to maintain a daily log of their catches and other fishing activities, and must operate VMS in both Icelandic and international waters. Vessels are subjected to inspections at sea and landings are inspected in ports by both Icelandic and Faroese authorities. There is also an observer programme in place. Clause M2.4 is met.

References

Faroese Seafood (2022). Monitoring, Control and Enforcement. <https://www.faroese seafood.com/fishery-aquaculture/monitoring-control-and-enforcement/>

Global Trust (2021). Faroe Islands capelin re-approval: MarinTrust assessment report. <https://www.marin-trust.com/programme/main-standard/approved-whole-fish>

Icelandic Government (2022). Fisheries Management. <https://www.government.is/topics/business-and-industry/fisheries-in-iceland/fisheries-management/>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.3
FAO CCRF	7.7.2
GSSI	D1.09

CATEGORY A SPECIES

The four clauses in this section apply to Category A species. Clauses A1 - A4 should be completed for **each** Category A species. If there are no Category A species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category A species must meet the minimum requirements of all four clauses before it can be recommended for approval. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. The species must achieve a pass rating against all requirements to be awarded a pass overall. **If the species fails any of these clauses it should be re-assessed as a Category B species.**

Species Name		Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)	
A1	Data Collection - Minimum Requirements		
	A1.1	Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.	PASS
	A1.2	Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
A1.1 Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.			
<p>All vessels operating in the capelin fishery are required to record fishing activity in logbooks and report all landings. Landings data are available to ICES and MFRI and are incorporated into the stock assessments those organisations conduct. The vast majority of catch is landed in Icelandic ports (ICES 2015), and data from these landings is captured by the Directorate of Fisheries. Logbooks include information covering catch timing, location, fishing gear, duration of fishing operation, catch size, and species composition in the catch for each fishing operation. Discarding is considered negligible and there are no reported cases of slippage, as any excess catch beyond the capacity of a vessel tends to be transferred to nearby vessels.</p> <p>Fishery-wide removals of the species are well understood and therefore clause A1.1 is met.</p>			
A1.2 Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.			
<p>Stock assessments are supported by a range of additional information sources. The most recent Northwestern Working Group (NWWG) report, published in June 2021 (ICES 2021a), summarises the surveys which contributed to the 2021 ICES stock assessment and catch recommendations. These include acoustic surveys conducted in September and October 2020, on the shelf edge off East Greenland, the Denmark Strait and the slope off west, north and east Iceland. The total number of capelin estimated from these surveys was 162 billion individuals. Additionally, four winter surveys were conducted by the MRFI in December 2020 and January 2021, to assess the maturing part of the capelin stock. These surveys are in addition to the extensive fishery-dependent data collected in logbooks, as described above, and by the fishery observer programme.</p> <p>ICES reports that the uncertainty in the stock assessment arises primarily from the data collected in acoustic surveys, particularly levels of coverage, conditions for acoustic measurements, and aggregation levels of capelin. The ICES catch recommendation summarises that “the spatial coverage of the autumn survey in 2021 is considered adequate to provide a reliable estimate of the immature capelin of ages 1 and 2” (ICES 2021b). Adequate additional information is collected and clause A1.2 is met.</p>			
References			
<p>ICES (2015). Capelin in the Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area: stock annex. https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2015/cap-icel_SA.pdf</p> <p>ICES (2021a). Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:52. 556 pp. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8186</p> <p>ICES (2021b) Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>) in subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2.a west of 5°W (Iceland and Faroes grounds, East Greenland, Jan Mayen area). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, cap.27.2a514, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7737</p>			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.1.1, 1.3.2.1.2, 1.3.2.1.4, 1.3.1.2	
FAO CCRF		7.3.1, 12.3	

GSSI	D.4.01, D.5.01, D.6.02, D.3.14
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A2	Stock Assessment - Minimum Requirements		
	A2.1	A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.	PASS
	A2.2	The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A2.3	The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.	PASS
	A2.4	The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.	PASS
	A2.5	The assessment is made publicly available.	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
A2.1 A stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years (or every 5 years if there is substantial supporting information that this is sufficient for the long-term sustainable management of the stock), and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.			
<p>Stock assessments are conducted annually by both ICES and the MFRI in collaboration. The most recent ICES catch advice was published in November 2021 (ICES 2021a). The most recent MFRI advice was published in February 2022 (MFRI 2022). Details of the stock assessment process and model are published in the ICES capelin stock annex, most recently updated in 2015 (ICES 2015). The model creates stochastic projections of the stock based primarily on the acoustic survey measurements, with the aim of producing a catch recommendation which will produce a lower than 5% chance of biomass falling below B_{lim}. The stock assessment also incorporates all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species, as evidenced by the relevant sections of the stock annex and also the NWWG report (ICES 2021b). Stock assessments are carried out with sufficient frequency and content to ensure that clause A2.1 is met.</p>			
A2.2 The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.			
<p>The capelin stock assessments provide an indication of the status of the stock relative to the established biomass reference point, B_{lim}. There are no fishing mortality reference points established for the stock. B_{lim}, established in 2015, is set at 150,000t. The 2021 NWWG report concludes that, accounting for fishery removals and predation, an estimated 344,000t of capelin remained for spawning in spring 2020 (ICES 2021b). The 2022 MFRI advice notes that the outputs of the acoustic surveys in 2021/22 put the estimated capelin SSB at 1.8 million tonnes in autumn and 939,000t in winter (MFRI 2022). Regular estimates of the status of the stock relative to a reference point are produced, and therefore clause A2.2 is met.</p>			

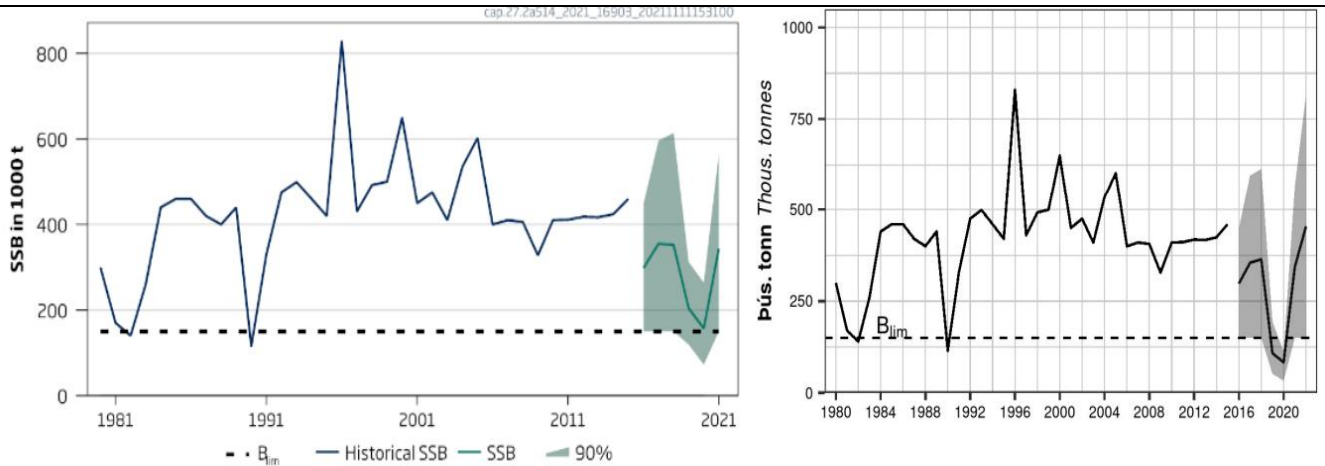


Figure 1: Estimates of capelin spawning stock biomass (SSB) relative to the limit reference point (B_{lim}), from the November 2021 ICES advice (left) and the February 2022 MFRI advice (right). Shaded areas indicate 90% confidence interval. Note that SSB estimates for 2016 onwards are not directly comparable to historical values due to a change in assumptions about natural mortality. From ICES 2021a and MFRI 2022.

A2.3 The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.

Advice on appropriate levels of catch is provided by ICES and the MFRI based on the implementation of the harvest control rule (HCR), which aims to ensure with at least 95% certainty that SSB in the following year will remain above the limit reference point of 150,000t. ICES provides initial catch advice prior to the start of the capelin season, based on the acoustic survey conducted the autumn one year prior to the start of the season. The MFRI provides two rounds of catch advice, the first following the autumn survey conducted during the fishing season, and the second following the winter survey conducted during the fishing season (ICES 2021a). As required by the MT fishery assessment guidance, there is a clear HCR in place which results in the reduction of the TAC as the PRI is approached.

For the 2021/22 season, the initial ICES advice was for the total catch to be no more than 400,000t. The intermediate MFRI advice recommended 904,200t, and the final MFRI advice reduced this slightly to 869,600t.

The stock assessments provide an indication of the appropriate level of fishery removals at multiple points during the fishing season. Clause A2.3 is met.

A2.4 The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.

The Guide to ICES Advisory Framework and Principles (ICES 2020) sets out the process by which ICES carries out scientific activities and provides fishery management advice. The process is designed to be transparent, independent and produce peer-reviewed recommendations. Advice is provided based on ten key Principles, of which Principle 7 states that “To ensure that the best available, credible science has been used and to confirm that the analysis provides a sound basis for advice, all analyses and methods are peer reviewed by at least two independent reviewers. For recurrent advice, the review is conducted through a benchmark process; for special requests through one-off reviews”.

The ICES advice, and the stock assessment methodology underpinning it, are subject to independent peer review, and therefore the fishery meets the requirements of A2.4

A2.5 The assessment is made publicly available.

Both ICES and the MFRI publish the results of stock assessments, along with catch recommendations, online. This includes a detailed description of the stock assessment process, provided by ICES in the stock annex (ICES 2015) and the working group report (ICES 2021b). The assessment and accompanying documentation are publicly available and clause A2.5 is met.

References

ICES (2015). Capelin in the Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area: stock annex.
https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2015/cap-icel_SA.pdf

ICES (2020). Guide to ICES advisory framework and principles. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, Guide to ICES Advice. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7648>

ICES (2021a) Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) in subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2.a west of 5°W (Iceland and Faroes grounds, East Greenland, Jan Mayen area). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, cap.27.2a514, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7737>

ICES (2021b). Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:52. 556 pp.
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8186>

MFRI (2022). Capelin advice, final, 2021/2022.
https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/lodnavetur2022_final1303547.pdf

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.1.2, 1.3.2.1.4, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	12.3
GSSI	D.5.01, D.6.02, D.3.14

A3	Harvest Strategy - Minimum Requirements		
	A3.1	There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.	PASS
	A3.2	Total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment. Where a specific quantity of removals is recommended, the actual removals may exceed this by up to 10% ONLY if the stock status is above the limit reference point or proxy.	PASS
	A3.3	Commercial fishery removals are prohibited when the stock has been estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy (small quotas for research or non-target catch of the species in other fisheries are permissible).	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
<p>A3.1 There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.</p> <p>Total fishing mortality is restricted through the use of a Total Annual Catch (TAC) quota. The quota is distributed between coastal states based on the contents of the Framework Agreement, which assigns 80% to Iceland, 15% to Greenland and 5% to Norway (Capelin agreement 2018). The Faroe Islands participates through an annual bilateral agreement with Iceland and the EU participates through an annual bilateral agreement with Greenland (ICES 2015). The framework also mandates that the TAC must be set in line with the advice in three stages: an initial TAC, based on the initial ICES advice; an intermediate TAC, based on the intermediate MFRI advice; and a final TAC, based on the final MFRI advice.</p> <p>There is a mechanism in place to restrict total fishing mortality of capelin, and therefore clause A3.1 is met.</p>			
<p>A3.2 Total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment. Where a specific quantity of removals is recommended, the actual removals may exceed this by up to 10% ONLY if the stock status is above the limit reference point or proxy.</p> <p>Fishery removals are consistently within the level recommended by ICES and the MFRI. In the 2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons the fishery was closed as a result of the ICES and MFRI advice, and no catch was recorded. In the 2020/21 season, as per the framework agreement, the final TAC was set in line with the MFRI advice, at 127,300t. The total estimated catch in 2020/21 was 128,647t. This is around 1% more than the advice. As the stock is currently estimated to be above the limit reference point with a high degree of certainty, this level of excess removals does not breach the MarinTrust requirements.</p> <p>Table 1, below, shows historical ICES and MFRI advice, and the resultant TACs and total landings since 2014. Total fishery removals do not regularly exceed the advice and clause A3.2 is met.</p>			

Table 1: Capelin in Subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2a west of 5°W. ICES advice and catch, 2014 – 2023. All weights are in tonnes (ICES 2021a).

Season	ICES advice	ICES initial TAC advice [^]	Intermediate TAC recommendation from MFRI – Iceland ^{^^}	Final TAC recommendation from MFRI - Iceland ^{^^^}	Agreed final TAC	ICES catch [#]
2014/2015	Set the initial quota at 50% of the predicted quota in the harvest control rule	225000	260000	580000	580000	517400
2015/2016	Precautionary approach ^{**}	53600	44000	173000	173000	173600
2016/2017	Precautionary approach ^{**}	0	0	299000	299000	299800
2017/2018	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	0	208000	285000	285000	286500
2018/2019	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	0	0	0	0	0
2019/2020	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	0	0	0	0	0
2020/2021	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	169520	0	127300	127300	128647
2021/2022	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	400000	904200			
2022/2023	Harvest control rule agreed by Coastal States ^{**}	400000				

[^] Advised by ICES for the early part of the season based on the autumn survey conducted the year before the fishing season.

^{^^} Intermediate TAC (missing for seasons prior to 1999/2000) recommended by Icelandic national scientists following the autumn survey conducted during the fishing season (July–March). From 2021 the fishing season starts 15 October.

^{^^^} Final TAC (missing for seasons prior to 1999/2000) recommended by Iceland national scientists following the winter survey conducted during the fishing season (July–March). From 2021 the fishing season starts 15 October.

[#] July–March of the following year. From 2021, the fishing season starts 15 October.

^{*} Scientific fishing was allowed in the latter half of February 2009.

^{**} Initial TAC advice, based on low probability of the advised catch being higher than the final TAC.

A3.3 Commercial fishery removals are prohibited when the stock has been estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy (small quotas for research or non-target catch of the species in other fisheries are permissible).

Commercial fishery removals are prohibited prior to the stock falling below B_{lim} due to the nature of the HCR. The HCR aims to avoid the stock falling below the limit reference point with a high degree of certainty. Due to the short-lived nature of the species plus the high rates of natural predation and the uncertainty in the assessment methodology, this can mean the closure of the fishery even if SSB is currently estimated to be above B_{lim} . This is evidenced by the closure of the fishery in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (ICES 2021a). Fishery removals are prohibited when the stock is estimated to have fallen below the limit reference point, and even prior to this. Clause A3.3 is met.

References

ICES (2015). Capelin in the Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area: stock annex.

https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2015/cap-icel_SA.pdf

ICES (2021a) Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) in subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2.a west of 5°W (Iceland and Faroes grounds, East Greenland, Jan Mayen area). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, cap.27.2a514,

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7737>

ICES (2021b). Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:52. 556 pp.

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8186>

Capelin agreement (2018). Framework arrangement between Greenland/Denmark, Iceland and Norway on the conservation and management of capelin. <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/9d2fd327c6fc4567b6476c2a71ae24a4/2018-capelin-framework-arrangement-london-21-june.pdf>

Standard clause 1.3.2.1.3

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.1.3, 1.3.2.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.2.1, 7.22 (e), 7.5.3
GSSI	D3.04, D6.01

A4 Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
A4.1	The stock is at or above the target reference point, OR IF NOT:	PASS
	The stock is above the limit reference point or proxy and there is evidence that a fall below the limit reference point would result in fishery closure OR IF NOT:	
	The stock is estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy, but fishery removals are prohibited.	
Clause outcome:		PASS
<p>A4.1 The stock is at or above the target reference point, OR IF NOT:</p> <p>The stock is above the limit reference point or proxy and there is evidence that a fall below the limit reference point would result in fishery closure OR IF NOT:</p> <p>The stock is estimated to be below the limit reference point or proxy, but fishery removals are prohibited.</p> <p>There is no formal target reference point established for this stock, therefore it is not certain whether the fishery meets the first requirement of this clause. However, the stock is estimated to be above the limit reference point and there is clear evidence that a fall below the reference point would result in fishery closure, as evidenced by the occasions this has happened in recent years (ICES 2021). The fishery meets the second requirement of this clause and therefore Passes A4.1.</p>		
<p>References</p> <p>ICES (2021) Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>) in subareas 5 and 14 and Division 2.a west of 5°W (Iceland and Faroes grounds, East Greenland, Jan Mayen area). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, cap.27.2a514, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7737</p>		
Links		
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.1.4	
FAO CCRF	7.2.1, 7.2.2 (e)	
GSSI	D6 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.	PASS
	F1.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.	PASS
	F1.3	If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
<p>The surveillance assessment information review did not uncover any significant changes in the specifics of the fishery relating to the requirements in section F1. The conclusions of the initial assessment are summarised here for convenience; please refer to the initial assessment report (Global Trust 2021) for more detail.</p> <p>F1.1 Interactions with ETP species are recorded.</p> <p>Legislation requires that all fishing vessels must complete a daily logbook, including interactions with birds and mammals., and any other endangered species. Logbook data is double checked through survey expeditions which also monitor ETP interaction rates. ETP species identified as potentially interacting with the fishery include belugas (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>), blue whale (<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>), northern right whale (<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>), white-beaked dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>), Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>), kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), Brunnich guillemot (<i>Uria lomvia</i>) and the common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>). The available evidence suggests that interactions are minimal.</p> <p>Interactions with ETP species are recorded and clause F1.1 is met.</p> <p>F1.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.</p> <p>There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on ETP species. Available evidence suggests that interactions between the fishery and ETP species are minimal. Information sources for this conclusion include vessel log books, eNGOs, and the various scientific bodies relevant to the fishery including ICES and the MFRI. In conducting this surveillance assessment, no new information was uncovered to change this conclusion and therefore clause F1.2 is met.</p> <p>F1.3 If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.</p> <p>The fishery is thought not to interact with ETP species; however, measures are in place to protect them. These include closed areas and seasons, mandatory reporting of all landings, a discard ban, an observer programme, and control and enforcement mechanisms. Clause F1.3 is met.</p>			
<p>References</p> <p>ICES (2015). Capelin in the Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area: stock annex. https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2015/cap-icel_SA.pdf</p> <p>ICES (2021). Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:52. 556 pp. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8186</p> <p>Global Trust (2021). Faroe Islands capelin re-approval: MarinTrust assessment report. https://www.marin-trust.com/programme/main-standard/approved-whole-fish</p>			
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.	PASS
	F2.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.	PASS

F2.3	If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.	PASS
Clause outcome:		PASS
<p>The surveillance assessment information review did not uncover any significant changes in the specifics of the fishery relating to the requirements in section F2. The conclusions of the initial assessment are summarised here for convenience; please refer to the initial assessment report (Global Trust 2021) for more detail.</p>		
F2.1 Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.		
<p>Pelagic gears are generally considered very unlikely to interact with seabed habitats. In general terms, habitats are considered by ICES as part of the management process. The ICES ecosystem overview reports, such as that produced for the Icelandic ecoregion, include a summary of the understanding of marine habitats and the impacts of human activities upon them. Detailed maps of seabed habitats in the areas where the fishery occurs are publicly available. Five areas with relatively undisturbed soft coral habitats have received full protection. Clause F2.1 is met.</p>		
F2.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.		
<p>Given the gear types used in the fishery, there is a presumption of minimal interactions with marine habitats. This is confirmed through the observer programme and other compliance mechanisms including on-vessel inspections and VMS. There is no evidence of any significant interactions with seabed habitats and therefore clause F2.2 is met.</p>		
F2.3 If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.		
<p>The fishery is known not to interact with physical habitats and therefore no such measures are required. Nevertheless, in general terms there are measures in place in Icelandic fisheries to protect seabed habitats. In particular, real time, temporary and permanent area closures enable managers to protect sensitive and important habitats from the effects of fishing and other human activities. Clause F2.3 is met.</p>		
References		
<p>Global Trust (2021). Faroe Islands capelin re-approval: MarinTrust assessment report. https://www.marin-trust.com/programme/main-standard/approved-whole-fish</p> <p>ICES (2021). Icelandic Waters ecoregion – Ecosystem overview. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, Section 11.1, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.9440</p>		
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.	PASS
F3.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	PASS
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.	PASS
Clause outcome:		PASS

The surveillance assessment information review did not uncover any significant changes in the specifics of the fishery relating to the requirements in section F3. The conclusions of the initial assessment are summarised here for convenience; please refer to the initial assessment report (Global Trust 2021) for more detail.

F3.1 The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.

The design of management measures take into account the biology of the species and its role in the ecosystem. ICES produces periodic reviews of the marine ecosystems within its area of work, including the Icelandic ecoregion. Ecosystem considerations are also covered in the work carried out by the ICES Northwestern Working Group (NWWG), as evidenced by their summarisation in the NWWG report and stock annex. The role of capelin within the ecosystem is factored into the management plan, which incorporates the uncertainty arising from ecosystem and environmental factors and is considered by ICES to be precautionary. Clause F3.1 is met.

F3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.

There is a high degree of compliance in the capelin fishery and the management measures and regulations with which vessels comply are designed with ecosystem considerations incorporated. The importance of capelin in Icelandic waters is well understood and surveys are designed to monitor the role of the species within the broader ecosystem. The previous surveillance concluded that there is no evidence that the fishery has a significant impact on the marine ecosystem. In conducting the present surveillance assessment, no new information was uncovered to change this conclusion and therefore clause F2.2 is met.

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.

Capelin is recognised by ICES as being an important forage fish and its population dynamics are expected to have an impact on the productivity of predator species. A gadget model has been developed to better understand the interactions between capelin, cod and shrimp in Icelandic waters. The key role of capelin as prey for many species of fish is reflected in the harvest control rule, which incorporates stock size estimates and also model estimation of predation by cod, haddock and saithe. These factors then contribute to the setting of the capelin TAC. For these reasons, clause F3.3 is met.

References

- Global Trust (2021). Faroe Islands capelin re-approval: MarinTrust assessment report. <https://www.marin-trust.com/programme/main-standard/approved-whole-fish>
- ICES (2015). Capelin in the Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area: stock annex. https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2015/cap-icel_SA.pdf
- ICES (2021). Icelandic Waters ecoregion – Ecosystem overview. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, Section 11.1, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.9440>
- ICES (2021). Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:52. 556 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8186>

Links

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

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.

Fishery under assessment	Faroe Islands Capelin, ICES subareas 5 & 14, and Division 2a west of 50W
Management authority (Country/State)	Faroe Islands, Iceland, EU
Main species	Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)
Fishery location	ICES Subareas 5 and 14, and Division 2a west of 50W
Gear type(s)	Purse seine / pelagic trawl
Overall recommendation. (Approve/ Fail)	Approve

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

The capelin fishery has a well international reputation in despite of recent closing of a fishing season, SSB was in its minimum values and B below Blim in recent years. The ICES reports points to have been used some assumptions regarding natural mortality, so that some variations in the ecosystem caused a reduction in biomass, not an increase in fishing mortality. Then, some environmental explanation to that reduction is lacking in the report.

Besides that, the reports should contain evidence of further impacts on marine fauna. There are logbooks and observers in the fishery, but the report does not contain data to let the reviewer to check the supposed minimal or negligible impact on ETP species (data exists but it not shown). Few fisheries around the world are performing efforts to overcome the problem of by catch and accidental catch of marine fauna which continues to be an unresolved issue.

General Comments on the Draft Report provided to the peer reviewer

The report is correctly drafted, it contains all necessary aspects to let the reviewer to review the supporting material, though there are two aspects that should deserve more attention in a next version, which are (1) the lack of explanation to the increase of natural mortality in recent years, and (2) the lack of data or graphics to demonstrate the negligible impact of the fishery on marine fauna.

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
A – Fishery Assessment			
1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	X		
2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	X		
3. Are the scores in the following sections accurate (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?			
Section M - Management	X		
Category A Species	X		
Category B Species	n.a.		
Category C Species	n.a.		
Category D Species	n.a.		
Section F – Further Impacts	X		

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.

<p>1. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust standard, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?</p> <p>Scoring agreed The report contains all necessary elements so evaluate the status of the capelin’s stock in the geographical management area.</p>
<p>Certification body response</p> <p>NA</p>

<p>2. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MARINTRUST fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?</p>
--

Scoring agreed The assessment does comply the methodology and guidance provided in the standard
Certification body response
NA

3. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?
Scoring agreed Yes, also the ICES and MFRI support to the monitoring and management does guarantee the assessment.
Certification body response
NA

3M. Are the scores in "Section M – Management" clearly justified?	
M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	Yes
There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	Yes
Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	Yes
Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	Yes
There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	Yes
The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	Yes
Scoring agreed The in place management is effective and well recognized internationally.	
Certification body response	
NA	

3A. Are the "Category A Species" scores clearly justified?
Scoring agreed Yes, and according to the existing evidence the only caught species is capelin
Certification body response
NA

3B. Are the "Category B Species" scores clearly justified?
n,a,
Certification body response
NA

3C. Are the "Category C Species" scores clearly justified?
n.a.
Certification body response
NA

3D. Are the "Category D Species" scores clearly justified?
n.a.
Certification body response
NA

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

Scoring agreed

It is highly possible the fishery has negligible impact on marine fauna (ETP species) though that would need to be demonstrated through an specific assessment, or at least with data/tables where the collected data can provide an idea of the interactions of marine fauna with the fishery. It would be also important to register the number of releases of individuals.

Certification body response

The assessor agrees that for the next full assessment, additional evidence should be provided to support the contention that the fishery does not have a significant negative impact on ETP species.

Optional: General comments on the Peer Review Draft Report

Certification body response

NA