



MarinTrust Whole fish fishery assessment report

Document TEM-002 (prev. FISH2) - Version 3.0

Issued June 2024 – Effective June 2024

Denmark - Boarfish (Capros aper) - FAO 27, ICES 6-8, Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay

*Surveillance 1
WF38*

Table 1: Whole fish fishery assessment scope

Fishery name	Denmark - Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) - FAO 27, ICES 6-8, Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay
MarinTrust report code	WF38
Type 1 species (common name, Latin name)	Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)
Fishery location	FAO 27, ICES 6-8, Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay
Gear type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Management authority (country/state)	European Union (Denmark)

Table 2: Applicant and Certification Body details

Application details			
Applicant(s)		FF Skagen A/S, Thyborøn (TripleNine)	
Applicant country		Denmark	
Certification Body details			
Name of Certification Body		LRQA	
Contact Information for CB (e.g. email address/address/telephone number)		E: LRQA Fisheries: fisheries-ca@lrqa.com LRQA, 4-5 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park, EH12 9DT T: +44 800 092 0452	
Fishery Assessor name		Sam Dignan	
CB Peer Reviewer name		Sam Peacock	
Number of assessment days	1.5	Assessment period (mm/yyyy to mm/yyyy)	06/2025 to 06/2026

Table 3: Assessment outcome

Assessment outcome (See Table 4 for a summary of assessment determination)		Approve
Approval validity	Valid from (mm/yyyy): 06/2026	Valid until (mm/yyyy): 06/2027
CB peer reviewer evaluation		Agree with assessment determination
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group external peer reviewer evaluation		Agree with assessment determination

Table 4: Assessment determination

Assessment determination Summary of assessment and outcome	
The Northeast Atlantic boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) fishery (FAO 27, ICES 6–8) is a pelagic, midwater trawl fishery prosecuted mainly by Irish, Danish and UK fleets, with catches largely reduced to fishmeal and oil. It developed rapidly in the late 2000s but is now managed under EU/UK TACs aligned with ICES advice. Scientific understanding has improved markedly, with the stock upgraded in 2024 to a Category 1 assessment with full MSY reference points. ICES now advises catches on an MSY basis, most recently recommending a reduction to 29,720 t for 2026, down from about 38,000 t in 2025, reflecting precautionary management rather than stock collapse. The stock is currently in good condition, with relatively high biomass and low fishing mortality at or below FMSY. However, it is characterised by highly variable (“spasmodic”) recruitment, meaning stock size depends on a few strong year classes, creating uncertainty and year-to-year variability in advice. Environmentally, the fishery is considered low impact, with limited bycatch and minimal seabed interaction due to pelagic gears. Bycatch occurs in very small quantities and is comprised primarily of mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) at around 0.01% of landings with mackerel also being evaluated herein. The species (stocks) covered in this assessment are therefore boarfish as Category A and mackerel as Category C. Both species are listed as Least Concern by the IUCN and are not listed in any CITES appendix, making them eligible for approval as MarinTrust whole fish material and meeting the MarinTrust management requirements (Category M). Overall, the boarfish fishery is now a well-managed, MSY-aligned stock in healthy condition, but one that requires precautionary management due to its variable recruitment dynamics and sensitivity in short-term biomass trends. Given that this is a surveillance assessment where little has changed in the intervening period, the assessment represents a summarise re-presentation in many areas where further data was no longer accessed after 26 May 2026.	
Summary of CB peer review	This surveillance assessment for the Danish boarfish fishery in ICES Subareas 6-8 accurately reflects the fact that there have been no substantial changes in the management of the fishery, the status of the resource, or the likely non-target impacts of the fishery since the time of the previous MT assessment. The peer reviewer agrees that this fishery should remain approved for use as a raw material in MT-certified products.
Summary of external peer review (see Appendix 1 for the full peer review report)	The whole fish fishery assessment report for re-assessment is very well written and evidenced throughout. The assessment of the Danish pelagic midwater trawl for Boarfish in FAO 27, ICES fishing areas 6-8, confirms that the Boarfish stock is sustainably managed and meets all MarinTrust requirements, with Boarfish meeting

	Category A requirements and Atlantic mackerel passing under Category C. Ecosystem impacts and interactions with habitats, were found to be low. ETP species haven't been explicitly identified, yet there is an adequate reporting system in place. Management measures, stock assessments, and monitoring frameworks have been considered and shown to be sufficient. Based on the evidence presented, the peer reviewer agrees with the assessment's conclusions and supports the approval of this fishery. A few minor clarification points are made below for the CABs consideration.
Notes for on-site auditor	None required.

Table 5: General results

Section	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	Pass
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	Pass
E1 - Impacts on ETP Species	Pass
E2 - Impacts on Habitats	Pass
E3 - Ecosystem Impacts	Pass

Table 6: Species-specific results

See Table 7 for further details of species categorisation.

Category	Species name (common & Latin name)	Outcome (Pass/Fail/n/a)	
Category A	Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)	A1	Pass
		A2	Pass
		A3	Pass
		A4	Pass
Category B	N/A	Not applicable	
Category C	Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	Pass	
Category D	N/A	Not applicable	

Table 7: Species categorisation table

List of all the species assessed. Type 1 species are assessed against Category A or Category B. Type 1 species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 species are assessed against Category C or Category D. Type 2 species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch. Species that comprise less than 0.1% of the catch are not required to be assessed or listed here.

Species name (common & Latin name)	Stock	CITES listed yes/no	IUCN Red list Category	% catch composition	Management (Y/N)	Category (A, B, C or D)
Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)	Subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	No	LC	~99.9%	Yes	A
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	Subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	No	LC	~0.01%	Yes	C

Rationale

No new catch composition data was provided for this assessment so previously submitted applicant data from 2022 through February 2024 has been used instead. Given that nothing has changed in the operation of the fishery, these data are most likely still representative. Catch composition therefore remains approx. 99.9% boarfish (*Capros aper*) and 0.1% mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*).

Boarfish was again assessed as a Category A species, since it is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, not listed in any CITES appendix, managed by the Danish Fisheries Agency, and comprises more than 95% of the fishery's total catch.

Mackerel was again assessed as a Category C species, since it is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, not listed in any CITES appendix, managed by the Danish Fisheries Agency, and comprises less than 5% of the fishery's total catch.

References

Capros aper (Boarfish) | IUCN Red List API. (2025). iucnredlist.org.
<https://apistaging.iucnredlist.org/species/198557/9029155https://apistaging.iucnredlist.org/species/170354/6764736>

Scomber scombrus (Atlantic Mackerel) | IUCN Red List API. (2025). iucnredlist.org.
<https://apistaging.iucnredlist.org/species/170354/6764736>

ICES. (2024). Benchmark workshop on horse mackerel and boarfish (WKBHMB). Figshare.
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.25002482.v2>

Management requirements

This section, or module, assesses the general management regime applied to the fishery under assessment. It comprises two parts, M1, which evaluates the management framework, and M2, which evaluates surveillance, control and enforcement within the fishery.

- 1.1. All management criteria must be met (pass) for a fishery to pass the Management requirements.
 - 1.1.1. The sub-criteria offer a structured evidence base to demonstrate that the fishery sufficiently meets the management criteria. It is not expected that sub-criteria are assessed independently of the main criterion.

M1 Management framework

M1.1	M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery. <i>In reaching a determination for M1.1, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M1.1.1 The management and administration organisations within the fishery are clearly identified.
	M1.1.2 The functions and responsibilities of the management organisations include the overall regulation, administration, science and data collection and enforcement roles, and are documented and publicly available.
	M1.1.3 Fishers have access to information and/or training materials through nationally recognised organisations.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale M1.1.1 – Management organisations clearly identified The Danish boarfish fishery continues to operate within a highly structured and transparent governance system, including: ▪ Primary authority: European Union under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which sets overall conservation rules, TACs, and management frameworks. ▪ National authority: Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (via the Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency), responsible for implementation and control. ▪ Scientific bodies: ○ ICES provides stock assessments and advice on fishing opportunities. [ices.dk] ○ DTU Aqua coordinates national monitoring and scientific data collection. [aqua.dtu.dk] ▪ Data institutions: Statistics Denmark, University of Copenhagen, and others contribute to fisheries datasets. ▪ Advisory bodies: Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) provides stakeholder input into TAC decisions. M1.1.2 – Functions and responsibilities documented and publicly available While complexity across EU and national layers may reduce accessibility for non-specialists, all key management functions are well established and documented, with strong public transparency: 1. Regulation and administration • The CFP provides a comprehensive legal framework governing quotas, fleet capacity, and conservation measures. • Danish authorities implement EU rules nationally and publish regulatory information and	

statistics.

2. Science and data collection

- The **EU Data Collection Framework (DCF)** mandates systematic collection of biological, economic, and fleet data across all fisheries.
- In Denmark, responsibilities are clearly split:
 - **DTU Aqua:** biological and survey data
 - **Fisheries Agency:** fisheries-dependent data
 - **Statistics Denmark:** economic data

3. Enforcement

- Enforcement is conducted by Danish authorities (inspection, monitoring, closures, compliance systems).
- EU-wide control systems (logbooks, VMS, landing controls) underpin compliance.

4. Public availability

- Data, advisory outputs (ICES), and governance structures are published and widely accessible online.

M1.1.3 – Fishers’ access to information and training materials

Fishers in Denmark have good access to information and guidance, though formalised “training programmes” are less explicitly documented for this specific fishery:

Evidence of access

- Regulatory updates, compliance requirements, and operational guidance are provided through national authorities (Fisheries Agency).
- Industry and sector organisations (e.g. pelagic producer groups) disseminate management and operational information.
- Scientific advice (ICES) and stock updates are publicly available and inform industry decision-making.

Supporting mechanisms

- EU and Danish systems provide extensive data transparency and reporting, supporting informed participation by fishers.
- Advisory councils (e.g. PelAC) create direct engagement channels for industry stakeholders.

Overall, the Danish boarfish fishery demonstrates a robust, transparent, and science-based governance framework typical of EU CFP fisheries. The institutional structure and responsibilities are well defined and publicly accessible, with strong performance on organisational clarity and documentation. The only moderate gap relates to formalised training evidence, rather than general access to information. Therefore, M1.1 is met.

References

- Common fisheries policy (CFP) - Oceans and fisheries - European Commission: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en.
- English - LFST – Fiskeristyrelsen: lfst.dk
- Latest advice - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea: <https://www.ices.dk/advice/pages/latest-advice.aspx>
- Monitoring of fish stocks: <https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/english/advice/monitoring-of-fish-stocks>
- EU Data Collection Framework Denmark: <https://www.dcf-denmark.dk/>
- Home - Data Collection Framework - DCF - European Commission: dcf.ec.europa.eu

M1.2	M1.2 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.
	<i>In reaching a determination for M1.2, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M1.2.1 There are legal instruments in place to give authority to the management organisation(s) which can include policies, regulations, acts or other legal mechanisms.
	M1.2.2 Vessels wishing to participate in the fishery must be authorised by the management organisation(s).
	M1.2.3 The management system has a mechanism in place for the resolution of legal disputes.
	M1.2.4 There is evidence of the legal rights of people dependent on fishing for food or livelihood.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery operates within a comprehensive and legally robust framework under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and Danish national legislation. Binding legal instruments empower authorities to regulate fishing activity, including setting quotas, issuing licences, and enforcing compliance. Participation in the fishery is restricted to authorised vessels through a formal licensing and quota system, with monitoring and control measures in place. Established national and EU legal systems provide mechanisms for dispute resolution, while the CFP recognises and safeguards the economic role of fisheries and the rights of those dependent on fishing for their livelihoods. Overall, management organisations are clearly and effectively legally empowered to implement and enforce fisheries management measures.	
References - Common fisheries policy (CFP) - Oceans and fisheries - European Commission: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en. - English - LFST – Fiskeristyrelsen: https://lfst.dk/english	

M1.3	M1.3 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and (scientifically) assessing the fishery.
	<i>In reaching a determination for M1.3, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M1.3.1 The organisation(s) responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery is/are clearly identified.
	M1.3.2 The management system receives scientific advice regarding stock, non-target species and ecosystem status.
	M1.3.3 Scientific advice is independent from the management organisation(s) and transparent in its formulation through a clearly defined process.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery benefits from a well-defined and robust scientific framework for data collection and stock assessment. Responsibilities are clearly assigned, with DTU Aqua leading national data collection and scientific monitoring, and ICES providing independent, internationally recognised stock assessments and ecosystem advice. Data collection is conducted under the EU Data Collection Framework, ensuring comprehensive biological, economic, and fisheries data are systematically gathered and made available. The management system receives regular scientific advice covering stock status, fishing opportunities, and broader ecosystem considerations. Importantly, scientific advice is developed independently of management authorities through transparent, peer-reviewed processes coordinated by ICES. Overall, there is strong evidence of clear institutional responsibility, independent science, and transparent advisory processes supporting management decisions.	
References ▪ Latest advice - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea: https://www.ices.dk/advice/pages/latest-advice.aspx ▪ Monitoring of fish stocks: https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/english/advice/monitoring-of-fish-stocks ▪ EU Data Collection Framework Denmark: https://www.dcf-denmark.dk/ ▪ Home - Data Collection Framework - DCF - European Commission: dcf.ec.europa.eu	

M1.4	M1.4 The fishery management system is based on the principles of sustainable fishing and a precautionary approach. <i>In reaching a determination for M1.4, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i> M1.4.1 A policy or long-term management objective for sustainable harvesting based on the best scientific evidence and a precautionary approach is publicly available and implemented for the fishery.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery is managed in line with the principles of sustainable fishing and the precautionary approach through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The CFP provides a clear, legally binding long-term objective to maintain fish stocks at levels capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), while explicitly requiring application of the precautionary approach in cases of uncertainty. Management measures, including Total Allowable Catches (TACs), are set annually based on independent scientific advice from ICES, which integrates MSY targets with precautionary reference points to ensure stock sustainability and ecosystem protection. For boarfish specifically, TAC recommendations are aligned with MSY-based advice following improved stock assessments and reference points, demonstrating implementation of these policy objectives in practice. Overall, the fishery operates under a well-established, publicly available policy framework that embeds sustainability and precaution at its core.	
References - Questions and answers on the 2026 fishing opportunities for EU-managed stocks in the Atlantic and Skagerrak-Kattegat waters: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/de/qanda_25_2556/QANDA_25_2556_EN.pdf - Precautionary approach – FishSec: https://www.fishsec.org/management-strategies/precautionary-approach/ - Latest advice - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea: https://www.ices.dk/advice/pages/latest-advice.aspx	

M1.5	M1.5 There is a clearly defined decision-making process which is transparent, with processes and results made publicly available.
	<i>In reaching a determination for M1.5, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M1.5.1 There is participatory engagement through which fishery stakeholders and other stakeholders can access, provide information, consult with, and respond to, the management systems' decision-making process.
	M1.5.2 The decision-making process is transparent, with results made publicly available.
	M1.5.3 The fishery management system is subject to periodic internal or external review to validate the decision-making process, outcomes and scientific data.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery operates under a well-defined and transparent decision-making process established through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Stakeholder participation is facilitated through formal mechanisms such as the Pelagic Advisory Council, where industry representatives and other stakeholders can provide input into management decisions, including TAC setting. Decision-making is informed by independent scientific advice from ICES and is conducted through structured EU and national processes, with outcomes (e.g. TAC regulations, scientific advice, and management measures) publicly available. The system is subject to regular review through EU policy evaluations, scientific benchmarking processes, and ongoing data collection and assessment frameworks, ensuring that both the decision-making process and its outcomes are periodically scrutinised and updated. Overall, the process demonstrates strong transparency, stakeholder engagement, and continuous review.	
References Common fisheries policy (CFP) - Oceans and fisheries - European Commission: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en.	

M2 Surveillance, control and enforcement

M2.1	M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.
	<i>In reaching a determination for M2.1, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M2.1.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with specific monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) mechanisms in place.
	M2.1.2 There are relevant tools or mechanisms used to minimise IUU fishing activity.
	M2.1.3 There is evidence of monitoring and surveillance activity appropriate to the intensity, geography, management control measures and compliance behaviour of the fishery.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery operates under a comprehensive Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) system, with clear institutional responsibility and effective tools to ensure compliance. The Danish Fisheries Agency is responsible for monitoring and enforcing fisheries regulations, including inspection activities, control of fishing operations, and implementation of closures and authorisations. A range of EU-mandated control tools are in place to minimise IUU fishing, including vessel licensing, logbooks, satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), and landing declarations. These measures are complemented by the EU control framework and national enforcement systems. Monitoring and surveillance activities are proportionate to the industrial nature of the fishery and are supported by routine data collection, inspection regimes, and electronic tracking systems. Overall, there is strong evidence of effective compliance monitoring, robust IUU controls, and enforcement consistent with the scale and risk profile of the fishery	
References Questions and answers on the 2026 fishing opportunities for EU-managed stocks in the Atlantic and Skagerrak-Kattegat waters: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/de/qanda_25_2556/QANDA_25_2556_EN.pdf	

M2.2	M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when infringements against laws and regulations are discovered.
	<i>In reaching a determination for M2.2, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M2.2.1 The laws and regulations provide for penalties or sanctions that are adequate in severity to act as an effective deterrent.
	M2.2.2 There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery is subject to a robust framework of sanctions under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and associated national legislation, which provides for penalties that are proportionate, effective, and dissuasive. The EU control system includes administrative and criminal sanctions such as fines, quota deductions, licence suspensions, and potential withdrawal of fishing authorisations, ensuring deterrence against non-compliance. These measures are implemented and enforced at the national level by Danish authorities, supported by comprehensive monitoring and control systems. There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance within the fishery, and compliance levels are considered high, consistent with the tightly regulated and monitored nature of EU industrial pelagic fisheries. Overall, the sanctions regime is well established and effectively supports adherence to fisheries laws and regulations.	
References ▪ European Commission - EU fisheries control system: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/enforcing-rules/eu-fisheries-control-system_en ▪ European Commission - Inspections, monitoring and surveillance: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/enforcing-rules/inspections-monitoring-and-surveillance_en ▪ European Commission - Infringements and sanctions: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/rules/enforcing-rules/infringements-and-sanctions_en	

M2.3	M2.3 There is substantial evidence of widespread compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing. <i>In reaching a determination for M2.3, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	M2.3.1 The level of compliance is documented and updated routinely, statistically reviewed and available.
	M2.3.2 Fishers provide additional information and cooperate with management/enforcement agencies/organisations to support the effective management of the fishery.
	M2.3.3 The catch recording and reporting system is sufficient for effective traceability of catches per vessel and supports the prevention of IUU fishing.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The Danish boarfish fishery demonstrates a high level of compliance supported by comprehensive monitoring, reporting, and traceability systems. Compliance levels are routinely documented through EU and national control frameworks, including data collection and reporting systems that are regularly analysed and made available for scientific and management purposes. Fishers are required to record catches through logbooks, landings declarations, and electronic monitoring systems, and they actively contribute data that supports stock assessment and management, indicating strong cooperation with authorities. The EU control regime, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and strict reporting requirements, ensures full traceability of catches at the vessel level and significantly reduces the risk of IUU fishing. There is no evidence of widespread non-compliance or IUU activity in this fishery. Overall, the combination of robust reporting systems, high industry cooperation, and effective oversight provides strong assurance of compliance and traceability.	
References ▪ European Commission - EU fisheries control system: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/enforcing-rules/eu-fisheries-control-system_en ▪ European Commission - Inspections, monitoring and surveillance: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/enforcing-rules/inspections-monitoring-and-surveillance_en ▪ European Commission - Infringements and sanctions: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/rules/enforcing-rules/infringements-and-sanctions_en ▪ Annual Report on fishing fleet capacity 2024 – Denmark: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/546c1d41-4922-4ebc-ba95-785832333830/download	

Species requirements

This section, or module, comprises of four species categories. Each species in the catch is subject to an assessment against the relevant species category in this section (see clauses 1.2 and 1.3 and Table 6).

Type 1 species can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery under assessment. They make up the bulk of the catch and are subjected to a detailed assessment. Type 1 species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. If a species-specific management regime is in place for a Type 1 species, it shall be assessed under Category A. If there is no species-specific management regime in place for a Type 1 species, it shall be assessed under Category B.

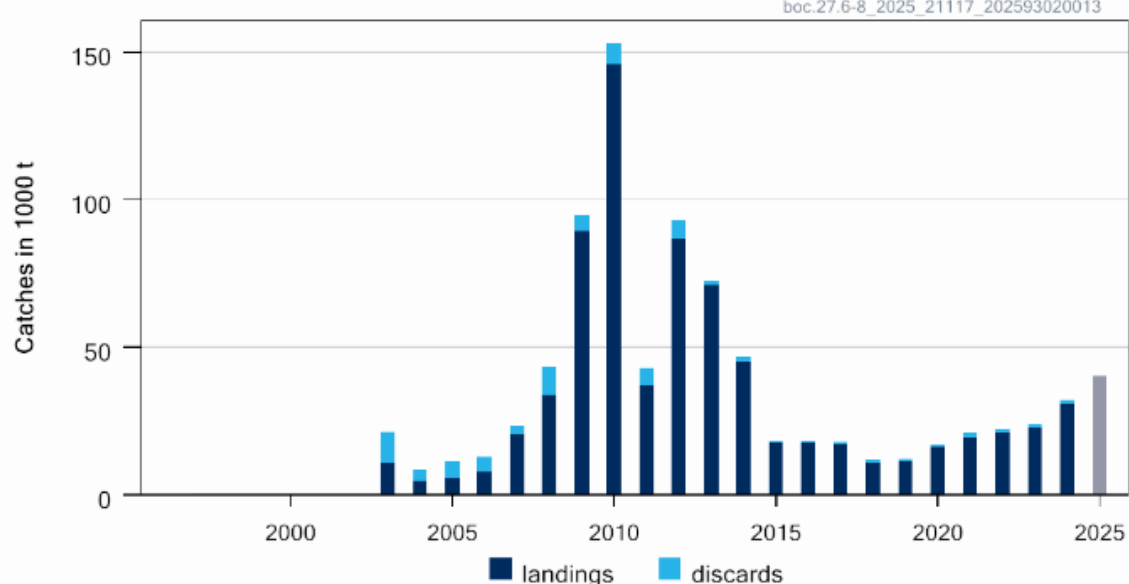
Type 2 Species can be considered the ‘non-target’ species in the fishery under assessment. They comprise a small proportion of the annual catch and are subjected to a relatively high-level assessment. Type 2 species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch. If a species-specific management regime is in place for a Type 2 species, it shall be assessed under Category C. If there is no species-specific management regime in place for a Type 2 species, it shall be assessed under Category D.

Species that comprise less than 0.1% of the catch are not required to be assessed or listed here.

Category A species

- 2.1. All clauses must be met for a species to pass the Category A assessment.
- 2.1.1. If a species fails any of the Category A clauses, it should be re-assessed as a Category B species.

A1 Data collection

A1.1	A1.1 Landings data are collected such that the fishery-wide removals of this species are known.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale Landings data for the Danish boarfish fishery are comprehensively collected and reported under the EU fisheries control system and Data Collection Framework, ensuring that total fishery removals are well quantified. All vessels are required to record catches through electronic logbooks, landing declarations, and sales notes, which are transmitted to national authorities and stored in centralised databases. These data are complemented by Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and electronic reporting systems, allowing catches to be linked to fishing effort and location at the vessel level. Collected data are compiled nationally and submitted to EU and ICES processes, where they underpin stock assessments and management advice. Landings data are presented in ICES advice (ref. ICES, 2025 §Table 8 and §Figure 1 Catches (presented below)). Catches  <i>Figure 1. Boarfish in subareas 6–8. Summary of the assessment. The 2025 catch (shaded grey) is estimated by ICES based on national quotas, expected uptake, and an estimate of discards (Source: Figure 1 in ICES 2025).</i> Overall, the system provides a high level of confidence that total removals of boarfish across the fishery are accurately recorded and known. A1.1 is met.	

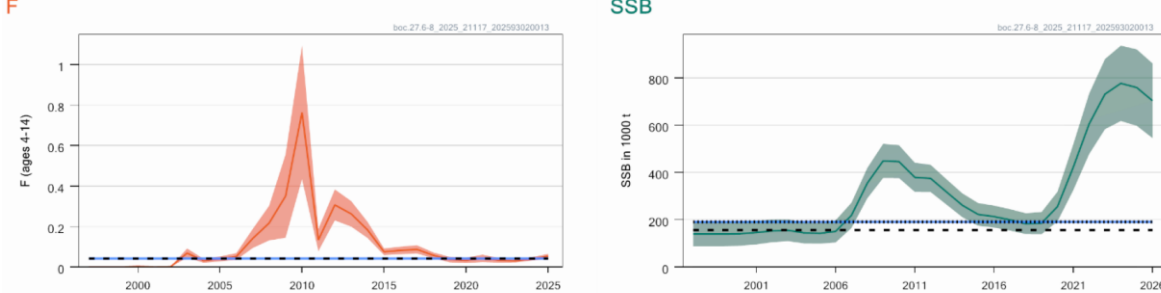
References

- ICES. 2025. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524>
- Inspections, monitoring and surveillance - Oceans and fisheries: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/enforcing-rules/inspections-monitoring-and-surveillance_en
- About EU Data Collection Framework Denmark: <https://www.dcf-denmark.dk/about>
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Logbook data: <https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/VMS-and-Logbook.aspx>
- Home - Data Collection Framework - DCF - European Commission: https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/index_en

A1.2	A1.2 Sufficient additional information is collected to enable an indication of stock status to be estimated.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale In addition to landings data, the Danish boarfish fishery collects a wide range of biological, environmental, and fishery-dependent information sufficient to support robust assessment of stock status. Under the EU Data Collection Framework, data are gathered on catch composition, fishing effort, fleet characteristics, and biological parameters such as age, length, and weight, alongside survey data from scientific monitoring programmes. These datasets are analysed by scientific institutions, including DTU Aqua and ICES, to produce regular stock assessments and advice. The integration of fisheries-dependent data (e.g. logbooks and landings) with independent scientific surveys provides a comprehensive evidence base for estimating stock status. Overall, sufficient additional information is collected to enable reliable and ongoing assessment of the boarfish stock.	
References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

A2 Stock assessment

A2.1	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.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The boarfish stock assessment is conducted annually using a length-based, age-structured analytical model known as Stock Synthesis 3, which integrates data from a wide range of sources. The stock was benchmarked in 2024 and changed to an ICES Category 1 stock where Category 1 stocks are assessed annually to provide up-to-date scientific advice on stock status, fishing mortality, and reference points. This regular evaluation ensures that management decisions are based on the most current biological and ecological data, helping to maintain sustainable fisheries and respond to changing environmental conditions (ICES, 2025b). Overall, a stock assessment is conducted at least once every 3 years and considers all fishery removals and the biological characteristics of the species.	
References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

A2.2	A2.2 The assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale The assessment provides an estimate of status with respect to defined reference points in accordance with the MSY (target) and precautionary (target/limit) approaches (ICES, 2025) with current values of: - MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} = 190,845 tonnes B_{lim} = 156,762 tonnes F_{MSY} and F_{PA} = 0.042. The 2025 stock assessment estimates SSB_{2025} = 758,773 tonnes (ICES, 2025) and F (ages 4–14) = 0.053 and graphical presentations of status with respect to reference points are provided:	
	
Figure 1. Boarfish in subareas 6 – 8. Summary of the assessment. Overall, the assessment provides an estimate of the status of the biological stock relative to a reference point or proxy.	
References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

A2.3	A2.3 The assessment provides an indication of the volume of fishery removals which is appropriate for the current stock status.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale The assessment explicitly provides an indication of removals appropriate to the estimated stock status where, for 2025, ICES advises that catches should be no more than 29,720 tonnes in 2026 (ICES 2025).	
References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

A2.4	A2.4 The assessment is subject to internal or external peer review.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale The boarfish stock assessment is subject to robust independent peer review through the ICES advisory process. ICES assessments are developed using internationally recognised scientific methodologies and undergo extensive internal review within expert working groups, followed by external scrutiny and validation through advisory committees and benchmark processes. These processes are transparent and involve multiple scientists from different institutions and countries, ensuring independence and scientific rigour. ICES benchmarking workshops (such as the 2024 boarfish benchmark) further provide periodic comprehensive peer review of assessment methods and data. Overall, there is strong evidence that stock assessments are independently reviewed and meet high standards of scientific credibility and transparency. References ICES (2023). Guide to ICES advisory framework and principles. General ICES Advice guidelines. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.22116890.v1	

A2.5	A2.5 The assessment is made publicly available.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale As with all other ICES assessments, the latest (and past) boarfish assessment is publicly available on the ICES website: https://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx. The 2025 boarfish assessment is here: https://ices-library.figshare.com/collections/ICES_Advice_2025/7488219?q=:keyword:%22boarfish%22 References See above.	

A3 Harvest strategy

A3.1	A3.1 There is a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale Total fishing mortality for the species is restricted through the implementation of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC, quota) applicable to EU, UK, and international waters. Once the overall TAC is established, agreements apportion quotas to individual states.	
References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

A3.2	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.			
Outcome	Pass			
Rationale				
Since advice began in 2012, the Boarfish TAC has been consistently set to align with catches only exceeding advice in 2 years (2012 and 2024) where 2 of 13 years does not constitute ‘regular’ in the view of the assessor. See below from Table 6 in ICES, 2025.				
Table 6. Boarfish in subareas 6–8 in ICES, 2025 with rows preceding TAC (pre-2012) removed and years where catches exceeded advice in red.				
Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Total allowable catch (TAC) *	ICES catch
2012	No increase in catches	82000	82000	86508
2013	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	82000	82000	71047
2014	MSY approach	133957	133957	44995
2015	Data-limited stocks (DLS) approach	53296	53292	17597
2016	Precautionary approach	≤ 42637	42637	17504
2017	Precautionary approach (–36% relative to previous advice)	≤ 27288	27288	17134
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 21830	20380	10850
2019	Precautionary approach (same advice as for 2018)	≤ 21830	21830	11577
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 19152	19152	16211
2021	Precautionary approach (same advice as for 2020)	≤ 19152	19152	19166
2022	Precautionary approach	≤ 22791	22791	21115
2023	Precautionary approach (same advice as for 2022)	≤ 22791	22791	22612
2024	MSY approach	≤ 27349	27349	30787
2025	MSY approach**	≤ 38295	38295	
2026	MSY approach	≤ 29720		
* EU, UK, and international waters of subareas 6, 7, and 8.				
** This advice replaces that issued in 2023.				

While the % exceedances were 5.5% and 12.6% respectively, the stock was well above its limit (156,762 t) in both cases:

- 2012: SBB = 374,493 t (316,778 t – 432,208 t)
- 2024: 776,486 t (617,139 t – 935,833 t)

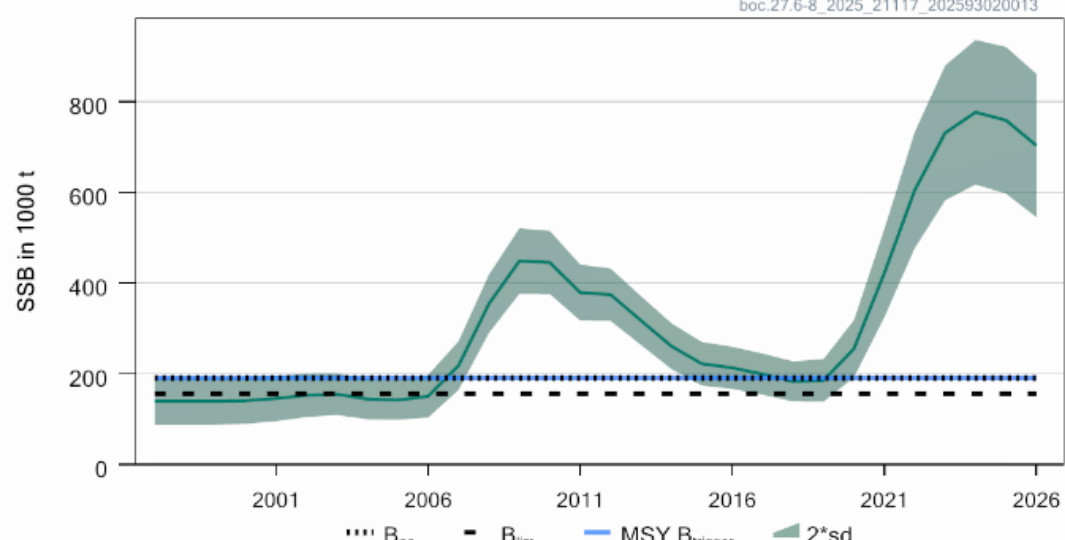
Overall, total fishery removals of this species do not regularly exceed the level indicated or stated in the stock assessment such that A3.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2025. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524>

A3.3	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).
Outcome	Choose an item.
Rationale As the stock has never been below its defined limit, there is no direct evidence of fishery closure in such a scenario. That said, there are numerous examples of similarly managed ICES fisheries closing when stocks are estimated to have fallen below management limits. While it has not happened to date, mechanisms are in place to close the fishery if it did, and there is ample evidence of management’s willingness to do so if required. Below are two recent examples where ICES advised fishery closure (zero catch) because the stock was below its limit reference point (B_{lim}) or in such poor condition that precautionary zero-catch advice was necessary. 1. Western Baltic Spring-Spawning Herring (WBSS) ICES advised zero catch for 2025 because the stock remains below critical biomass reference levels and requires continued rebuilding. Rather than implementing a strict zero TAC, managers retained a bycatch TAC stating: “Due to low biomass levels of western Baltic herring, the regulation retains the 2024 TAC for unavoidable by-catches.” 2. Eastern Baltic Cod ICES advised zero catch for 2025 and subsequently zero catch for both 2025 and 2026 in updated advice as the stock remains in an extremely poor state, with biomass well below precautionary levels and no evidence of rebuilding. The EU’s 2025 Baltic fishing opportunities regulation did not set a directed-fishery TAC. Instead, it continued a bycatch-only TAC and prohibited recreational cod fishing, explicitly to allow stock recovery.	
References • ICES (2024). <i>Herring (Clupea harengus) in subdivisions 20–24, spring spawners (Skagerrak, Kattegat, and western Baltic)</i>. DOI: 10.17895/ices.advice.25019273. • ICES (2025). <i>Cod (Gadus morhua) in subdivisions 24–32, eastern Baltic stock</i>. DOI: 10.17895/ices.advice.27202563.	

A4 Stock status

A4.1	A4.1 The stock is at or above the target reference point; OR IF NOT: 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.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale The current 2025 assessment indicates that, following a decline from 2012 to 2019, SSB has been increasing sharply in recent years following high recruitment in 2017 to 2019, but declining since 2024. SSB is estimated to be well above MSY $B_{trigger}$ in 2025 ($SSB_{2025} / MSY B_{trigger} = 758,773 \text{ t} / 190,845 \text{ t} = 3.98$) and forecast to remain above MSY $B_{trigger}$ in 2026 and 2027. SSB  Figure 2. Boarfish in subareas 6–8. SSB versus reference points. References ICES. 2025. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524	

Category B species

Category B species are assessed using a risk-based approach.

- 2.2. The risk matrix in Table B(a) shall be used when assessing a Category B species when estimates of Fishing mortality (F), Biomass (B) and reference points are available.
- 2.3. The risk matrix in Table B(b) shall be used when assessing a Category B species when no reference points are available.

B1	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).
Table used B(a) or B(b)	n/a
Outcome	Choose an item.
Rationale	
References	

Category C species

- 2.4. All clauses must be met for a species to pass the Category C assessment.
- 2.4.1. Where a species fails this Category C clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead, except if there is evidence that the species is currently below the limit reference point.

C1.1	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.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale All recorded catches of mackerel are included in the stock assessment process for mackerel. Refer to Table 8 Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14 and in divisions 9.a, 12.a, and 12.b. History of commercial catch and landings in ICES, 2025 below for more details. That said, 0.01% of the latest available boarfish landings = circa. 3 t of mackerel bycaught in the boarfish fishery which, in the context of overall ICES catches of mackerel in the same year of 897,701 t could well be considered negligible. References ICES. 2025. Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in subareas 1-8 and 14 and in divisions 9.a, 12.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). <i>In</i> Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, mac.27.nea, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202689	

C1.2	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.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale The latest mackerel assessment estimates SSBs below Blim in 2025 (SSB2025 = 2,740,823 t Vs Blim = 3,067,017 t) based on which ICES advised that catches in 2026 should be no more than 174,357 mt. As has been the case for years, the 2026 has been highly contested with the international coastal states (United Kingdom, Norway, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland) setting a 299,010 mt TAC representing a 48% cut from 2025 levels. While the EU initially pushed for a more conservative 70% reduction in line with ICES advice, it subsequently agreed to align with the proposed international TAC. While the exact Danish figure depends on the final EU internal quota distribution and any swaps/transfers between Member States, Denmark's revised 2026 mackerel quota is expected to be circa 31,800 tonnes. While there is evidence of management measures being implemented, including a 48% reduction in allowable catches, this is still not in line with the steeper circa 70% indicated by associated ICES advice with the agreed 2026 TAC representing a policy decision balancing biological risk against socio-economic and market considerations. As the second part of C1.2 focusses on removals by the fishery under assessment rather than the totality of all removals, it is only removals by the pelagic boarfish fishery, and their contribution ot	

the overall ‘problem’, that must be considered. Here, the 0.01% of mackerel bycaught in the boarfish fishery representing mere tonnes annually is negligible in the context of even the drastically lower 2026 TAC of almost 300,000 mt such that, on balance, a pass is warranted here.
References ICES. 2025. Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in subareas 1-8 and 14 and in divisions 9.a, 12.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, mac.27.nea, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202689 European Commission, Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and quotas 2026: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries-management/fishing-quotas/tacs-and-quotas-2026_en

Category D species

Category D species are assessed against a risk-based approach.

- 2.5. The Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) in Table D(a) shall be used when assessing Category D species.
- 2.6. Table D(b) shall be used to calculate the overall PSA risk rating for the Category D species.
- 2.7. Should the PSA indicate a high risk, further assessment shall be completed against the requirements in Table D(C).

Productivity Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) and scores

Table D(a) provides detailed values and scores for the species productivity and susceptibility attributes and attributes, the assessor shall use Table D(a) to the PSA table.

Table D(b) is used to calculate the overall PSA risk rating for the Category D species.

Species name	n/a	
Productivity attributes	Value	Score
Average age at maturity		
Average maximum age		
Fecundity		
Average maximum size		
Average size at maturity		
Reproductive strategy		
Mean Trophic Level (MTL)		
Density dependence (to be used when scoring invertebrate species only)		
Susceptibility attributes		
Areal overlap (availability): Overlap of the fishing effort with a species concentration of the stock		
Encounterability: The position of the stock/ species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear		
Selectivity of gear type: Potential of the gear to retain species		
Post-capture mortality (PCM): The chance that, if captured, a		

species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival		
Average productivity score		
Average susceptibility score		
PSA risk rating (from Table D(b))		
Compliance rating		

Further assessment for Category D species

Should the PSA indicate a high risk, further assessment shall be completed against the requirements D1 and D2 – Table D(c).

D1	D1. The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.
Outcome	Choose an item.
Rationale	
References	

D2	D2. There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.
Outcome	Choose an item.
Rationale	
References	

Ecosystem requirements

This section, or module, assesses the impacts that the fishery under assessment may have on key ecosystem components: ETP species, habitat and the wider ecosystem.

- 2.8. All ecosystem criteria must be met (pass) for a fishery to pass the Ecosystem Requirements.
 - 2.8.1. The sub-criteria offer a structured evidence base to demonstrate that the fishery sufficiently meets the ecosystem criteria, it is not expected that sub-criteria are assessed independently of the main criterion.

E1 Impact on Endangered, Threatened or Protected species (ETP species)

E1.1	E1.1 Information on interactions between the fishery and ETP species is collected.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E1.1, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E1.1.1 ETP species which may be directly affected by the fishery have been identified.
	E1.1.2 Interactions between the fishery and ETP species are recorded and reported to management organisations.
	E1.1.3 Collection and analysis of ETP information is adequate to provide a reliable indication of the impact the fishery has on ETP species.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale ICES requires that, in line with the ICES data call specifications, member countries submit complete fishing effort and monitoring effort data for all métiers, even when no bycatch has been reported. ICES recommends that member countries use at-sea observers and electronic monitoring protocols, corresponding to systems with appropriately placed cameras and suitable species identification methods, for the collection of robust and reliable bycatch data. This data is most commonly linked to at-sea observations carried out for the purposes of fisheries monitoring in accordance with the EU Data Collection Framework Regulation 2017/1004 (DCF)¹. The Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) was established in 2007 by ICES to cover the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent sea areas (Baltic, Mediterranean, and Black Seas). The working group collates and assesses information on bycatch monitoring and assessment for ETP species, including mammals, birds, turtles, and rare fish². As a member country, Denmark provides data to the working group. Denmark has been actively engaged in EM since 2009 and submitted EM estimates of ETP species bycatch to the 2024 WGBYC data call³. Real-time monitoring of bycatches during the fishing and onboarding phases is achieved through the combination of computer vision, camera technology, and video processing⁴.	
References ICES (2025). Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) 2025 Report. ICES Scientific Reports. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.30610370.v2	

E1.2	E1.2 The fishery has no significant negative impact on ETP species.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E1.2, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E1.2.1 The information collected in relation to E1.1.3 indicates that the fishery does not have a significant negative impact on ETP species.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale Information on interactions between the Danish boarfish fishery and endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species is systematically collected through EU and national monitoring programmes. Data are gathered via logbooks, observer schemes, and scientific sampling under the EU Data Collection Framework, which includes requirements to record bycatch and interactions with non-target species. ICES also compiles and assesses bycatch and ecosystem interaction data, including impacts on sensitive species groups, as part of its advisory process. This integrated approach ensures that interactions with ETP species are monitored and available to inform management. Overall, there is sufficient evidence that relevant information on ETP interactions is collected within the fishery.	
References ICES (2025). Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) 2025 Report. ICES Scientific Reports. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.30610370.v2	

E1.3	E1.3 There is an ETP management strategy in place for the fishery.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E1.3, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E1.3.1 There are measures applied to the fishery which are designed to manage the impacts of the fishery on ETP species.
	E1.3.2 The measures are considered likely to achieve the objectives of regional, national and international legislation relating to ETP species.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale An effective management strategy for endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species is in place for the Danish boarfish fishery through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and associated technical and control measures. These include requirements to minimise bycatch, the landing obligation, monitoring of sensitive species interactions, and the use of selective pelagic trawl gear, which has inherently low bycatch of ETP species. Scientific advice from ICES incorporates ecosystem considerations and bycatch monitoring, supporting the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. These measures are consistent with wider EU environmental legislation and international commitments, including the precautionary approach and biodiversity protections, and are considered likely to achieve their intended objectives. Overall, the fishery operates under a comprehensive framework of measures designed to manage and minimise impacts on ETP species.	

References

ICES (2025). Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) 2025 Report. ICES Scientific Reports. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.30610370.v2>

E2 Impact on the habitat

E2.1	E2.1 Information on interactions between the fishery and marine habitats is collected.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E2.1, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E2.1.1 Habitats which may be directly affected by the fishery have been identified, including any habitats which may be particularly vulnerable.
	E2.1.2 Information on the scale, location and intensity of fishing activity relative to habitats is collected.
	E2.1.3 Collection and analysis of habitat information is adequate to provide a reliable indication of the impact the fishery has on marine habitats.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale Information on interactions between the Danish boarfish fishery and marine habitats is adequately collected and analysed. The fishery primarily uses midwater (pelagic) trawl gear, which operates in the water column and has minimal direct contact with the seabed, significantly reducing habitat impacts. Habitats potentially affected by fishing activities are identified and monitored through EU and ICES frameworks, including ecosystem overviews and habitat assessments. Data on the scale, location, and intensity of fishing activity are collected through vessel monitoring systems (VMS), logbooks, and spatial fisheries datasets, enabling detailed mapping of fishing effort relative to habitats. These datasets are analysed within ICES and EU scientific processes to assess potential habitat interactions and impacts, providing a reliable indication of the fishery's footprint. Given the low-impact gear type and the comprehensive spatial and scientific data available, there is strong evidence that habitat interactions are well understood and effectively monitored.	
References ICES Ecosystem Overviews: https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx	

E2.2	E2.2 The fishery has no significant impact on marine habitats.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E2.2, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E2.2.1 The information collected in relation to E2.1.3 indicates that the fishery does not have a significant negative impact on marine habitats.
Outcome	<i>Pass</i>
Rationale Available evidence indicates that the Danish boarfish fishery does not have a significant negative impact on marine habitats. The fishery uses pelagic (midwater) trawling gear, which operates in the water column and avoids contact with the seabed, thereby minimising physical disturbance to benthic habitats. Spatial monitoring data from vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and logbooks confirm that fishing activity is well characterised and can be assessed relative to habitat distribution. Scientific assessments conducted within ICES and EU frameworks incorporate habitat considerations and have not identified significant adverse effects associated with this fishery. Overall, the combination of low-impact gear type and supporting monitoring data provides strong	

evidence that the fishery does not cause significant harm to marine habitats.

References

ICES Ecosystem Overviews: <https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx>

E2.3	E2.3 There is a habitat management strategy in place for the fishery.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E2.3, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E2.3.1 There are measures applied to the fishery which are designed to manage the impact of the fishery on marine habitats. E2.3.2 The measures are considered likely to prevent the fishery from having a significant negative impact on marine habitats.
Outcome	Choose an item.
Rationale A habitat management strategy is effectively in place for the Danish boarfish fishery under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and associated technical and control measures. These include restrictions on gear types, spatial management tools where relevant, and ecosystem-based management approaches informed by ICES advice. The fishery predominantly uses pelagic trawl gear, which operates in the water column and inherently avoids seabed contact, thereby acting as a primary mitigation measure to protect benthic habitats. Additional management measures, such as spatial monitoring through vessel tracking systems and broader EU environmental protections, ensure that potential habitat interactions are identified and managed. These measures are consistent with EU ecosystem and conservation objectives and are considered effective in preventing significant habitat impacts. Overall, the combination of gear selectivity, regulatory controls, and ecosystem-based management provides a robust strategy for minimising impacts on marine habitats.	
References ICES Ecosystem Overviews: https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx	

E3 Impact on the ecosystem

E3.1	E3.1 Information on the potential impacts of the fishery on marine ecosystems is collected.
	<i>In reaching a determination for E3.1, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E3.1.1 The main elements of the marine ecosystems in the area(s) where the fishery takes place have been identified.
	E3.1.2 The role of the species caught in the fishery within the marine ecosystem is understood, either through research on this specific fishery or inferred from other fisheries.
	E3.1.3 Collection and analysis of ecosystem information is adequate to provide a reliable indication of the impact the fishery has on marine ecosystems.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale Information on the potential impacts of the Danish boarfish fishery on marine ecosystems is comprehensively collected through EU and ICES scientific and monitoring frameworks. The main ecosystem components in the fishery area are well characterised through ICES ecosystem overviews and stock assessments, which identify key species, trophic interactions, and environmental drivers. The ecological role of boarfish is increasingly understood following improved stock assessment and research, including its function as a small pelagic species within the food web. Extensive data on catch composition, fishing effort, bycatch, and environmental variables are collected via the EU Data Collection Framework and control systems, supported by logbooks, VMS, and scientific surveys. These data are routinely analysed by ICES to provide integrated advice on stock status, bycatch, and wider ecosystem considerations, including cumulative impacts. With Danish boarfish catches primarily occurring in waters west and south-west of Ireland, the corresponding Ecosystem overviews would be Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast. Overall, the breadth and quality of ecosystem data collected and analysed are sufficient to provide a reliable indication of the fishery's impacts on the marine ecosystem, supporting an ecosystem-based approach to management.	
References ICES Ecosystem Overviews: https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx ICES (2024). Celtic Seas ecoregion – Ecosystem Overview. ICES Advice: Ecosystem Overviews. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25713033.v2. ICES (2024). Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast Ecoregion - Ecosystem Overview. ICES Advice: Ecosystem Overviews. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27899889.v1.	

E3.2	E3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem. <i>In reaching a determination for E3.2, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E3.2.1 The information collected in relation to E3.1.3 indicates that the fishery does not have a significant negative impact on marine ecosystems.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale Available evidence indicates that the Danish boarfish fishery does not have a significant negative impact on the wider marine ecosystem. Ecosystem interactions are routinely assessed through ICES advisory processes, which integrate fisheries data, bycatch information, and ecosystem indicators to evaluate cumulative impacts and sustainability. The fishery targets a small pelagic species using midwater trawl gear, which has minimal seabed interaction and very low bycatch levels, further reducing ecosystem disturbance. Comprehensive datasets collected under the EU Data Collection Framework and control systems support ongoing evaluation of ecosystem impacts, including trophic interactions and environmental considerations. Based on this information, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery is causing significant adverse ecosystem effects. Overall, the fishery is considered to operate within sustainable limits and is consistent with ecosystem-based management objectives.	
References ICES Ecosystem Overviews: https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx	

E3.3	E3.3 There is an ecosystem management strategy in place for the fishery. <i>In reaching a determination for E3.3, the assessor should consider if the following is in place:</i>
	E3.3.1 There are measures applied to the fishery which are designed to manage the impacts of the fishery on marine ecosystems. E3.3.2 The measures are considered likely to prevent the fishery from having a significant negative impact on marine ecosystems.
Outcome	Pass
Rationale An ecosystem management strategy is in place for the Danish boarfish fishery through the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and associated ecosystem-based management frameworks. The CFP explicitly incorporates an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, requiring consideration of impacts on the wider marine environment alongside stock sustainability. Management measures include TACs based on scientific advice, bycatch monitoring, the landing obligation, and spatial and technical controls where necessary, all designed to minimise ecosystem impacts. ICES advice integrates ecosystem considerations, including trophic interactions, bycatch, and environmental status, ensuring that management measures are informed by a broad understanding of ecosystem dynamics. The use of selective pelagic trawl gear, which has low bycatch and limited habitat interaction, further contributes to reducing ecosystem impacts. Overall, these measures are consistent with EU and international objectives for ecosystem-based	

fisheries management and are considered effective in preventing significant adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem.

References

ICES Ecosystem Overviews: <https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx>.

ICES. 2025. Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2025. ICES Advice 2025, boc.27.6-8, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202524>

European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, pp. 22–61: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/2023-01-01/eng>.

Annex 1: External Peer Review report

Assessment and determination summary

Fishery name	Denmark Boarfish (Capros aper) FAO 27 ICES 6-8 Celtic Seas English Channel and Bay of Biscay
MarinTrust report code	WF38
Type 1 species (common name, Latin name)	Boarfish (capros aper)
Fishery location	FAO 27 ICES 6-8 Celtic Seas, English Channel and Bay of Biscay
Gear type(s)	Pelagic (midwater) Trawl
Management authority (country/state)	European Union (Denmark)
Certification Body recommendation	Approved
FAPRG reviewer recommendation	Agree with CB determination

Summary of peer review outcomes

Summary
<i>Provide any information about the fishery that the reviewers feel is significant to their decision. This summary is used by the Certification Body in the Fishery Assessment Report.</i>
The whole fish fishery assessment report for re-assessment is very well written and evidenced throughout. The assessment of the Danish pelagic midwater trawl for Boardfish in FAO 27, ICES fishing areas 6-8, confirms that the Boarfish stock is sustainably managed and meets all MarinTrust requirements, with Boarfish meeting Category A requirements and Atlantic mackerel passing under Category C. Ecosystem impacts and interactions with habitats, were found to be low. ETP species haven't been explicitly identified, yet there is an adequate reporting system in place. Management measures, stock assessments, and monitoring frameworks have been considered and shown to be sufficient. Based on the evidence presented, the peer reviewer agrees with the assessment's conclusions and supports the approval of this fishery. A few minor clarification points are made below for the CABs consideration.
General comments on the draft report provided to the peer reviewer
None

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

1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	Yes
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2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	Yes
3. Are the scores in the following sections consistent with the MarinTrust requirements (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?	Yes
Section M – Management Requirements	Yes
Category A Species	Yes
Category B Species	n/a
Category C Species	See notes
Category D Species	n/a
Section E – Ecosystem Impacts	See notes

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. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	Yes
The report is written with the MT guidance in mind and is very detailed. The catch categorisation looks appropriate, however the catch information relative to the fishery under assessment, is not current. New data from the client or alternative sources such as government data should be used at the next surveillance. The remaining scoring justifications are clear and well evidenced, no further clarification is needed.	
Certification Body response	

2. Does the species categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	Yes
The catch categorisation looks appropriate, however the catch information relative to the fishery under assessment, is not current. New data from the client or alternative sources such as government data should be used at the next surveillance.	
Certification Body response	

3. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust requirements, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?	Yes
The scoring is consistent with the MT requirements and well evidenced throughout, links are up-to-date and working.	
Certification Body response	

3a. Are the "Category A Species" scores clearly justified?	Yes
Yes, the scores are clearly justified and well evidenced. The Boarfish makes a significant portion of the catch >99%, with few other species impacted. The fishery operates under a clear and effective managements system, and the annual stock assessment and survey demonstrate the stock to be in a good condition.	
Certification Body response	

3b. Are the "Category B Species" scores clearly justified?	n/a
Certification Body response	

3c. Are the "Category C Species" scores clearly justified?	No
Atlantic mackerel stock is in a poor state, below MSY Btrigger and Blim in 2025. For C1.1, references should be provided for both the catch data and the catch totals (i.e., ICES ref from C1.2). For C1.2 the "fishery removals are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible" applies. The MT guidance is not clear under C1.2 how this should be considered but it is explained more under C1.1 "Stock assessments rarely specify if fishery removals are negligible. Look for evidence such as management measures being implemented for stock rebuilding and that the management measures are not contradicting scientific advice. Examples of management measures: reduction in landings and effort, may also include increased landing controls, technical measures (such as gear modification or changes to minimum landing sizes) or spatial or temporal closures". Current management measures, or failure or such, should be considered under this clause. It not nesscarily the pelagic boarfishery that is going against ICES advice but I would agree in	

the grandscheme of the all mackerel catch, 3t is not contributing to the problem. Please could you also provided references for catch data 0.01% of mackerel bycatch in the boarfishery.

Certification Body response

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

n/a

Certification Body response

Are the scores in “Section M – Management Requirements” clearly justified?

Yes

The management scoring justifications are expetionally written and well evidenced - no comments.

Certification Body response

Are the scores in “Section E – Ecosystem Impacts” clearly justified?

Yes

There are not ETP species identified as interacting with the fishery - is this correct under E1.1, please confirm with references.

Certification Body response

Optional: General peer reviewer comments on the draft report

Certification Body response

