



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Lemon sole, <i>Microstomus kitt</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	ICES in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)
Date	23/09/2021	
Report Code	BP189	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Denmark		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Conor Donnelly	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	To September 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Lemon sole, <i>Microstomus kitt</i>
Stock	ICES in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union Common Fisheries Policy
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVE

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in ICES in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel) do not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor do they appear in CITES appendices; therefore, lemon sole is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea (EU, 2018) and adjacent waters applies to bycatches of this stock. UK and Norway have not requested ICES to provide advice based on the EU MAP. The MAP stipulates that when the FMSY ranges are not available, fishing opportunities should be based on the best available scientific advice. There is a TAC set for it so there is evidence of a species-specific regime in place and due to Norway and UK do not request advice, a precautionary approach is in place. Therefore, there is a management plan for the stock, and it has been assessed under category C.</p> <p>Fisheries removals are considered in the stock assessment and the stock has been above proxy biomass reference points, therefore, clauses C1.1 and C1.2 are met.</p> <p>Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel) is APPROVED by the assessors for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products standard</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>Agree with assessor recommendation, noting that the species is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product material and information from the stock advice shows that clauses C1.1. and C1.2 are met.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MARINTRUST raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Lemon sole	<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	ICES in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	European Commission (EC)	C	LC	NO

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

CATEGORY C SPECIES

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

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Yes
	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.	Yes
			Clause outcome: PASS
<p>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.</p> <p>In the last stock assessment the input data were as follows: Commercial catches (international landings and discards), three survey indices (IBTS Q1 [G1022] and IBTS Q3 [G2829], BTS Q3 [B2453]), fixed maturity estimates, and annual weight-at-age data from the surveys Discards and bycatch Discarding is known to take place and discards have been quantified for 2002–2020 (rate for 2020 – 12.9%).</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process (figure 1 below) and it PASSES clause C1.1.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Management of lemon sole and witch flounder under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species. Latest stock assessment information is shown in Figure 1.</p>			

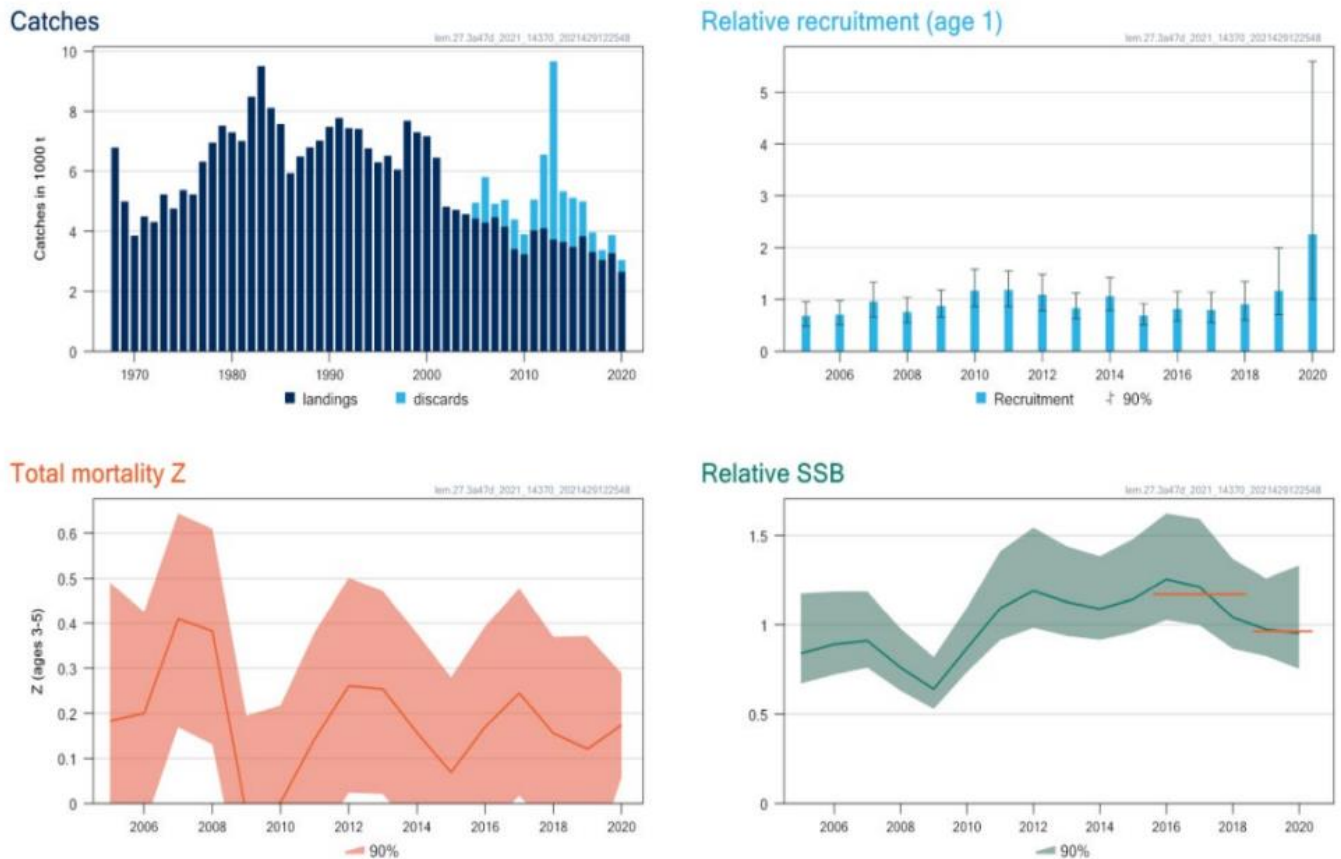


Figure 1. Lemon sole in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Discards are available since 2005. The orange horizontal lines show the mean stock indicators for 2016–2018 and 2019–2020. Source: ICES 2021.

No reference points for stock size have been defined for this stock but a proxy based on F_{MSY} has been defined. Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY (Figure 2).

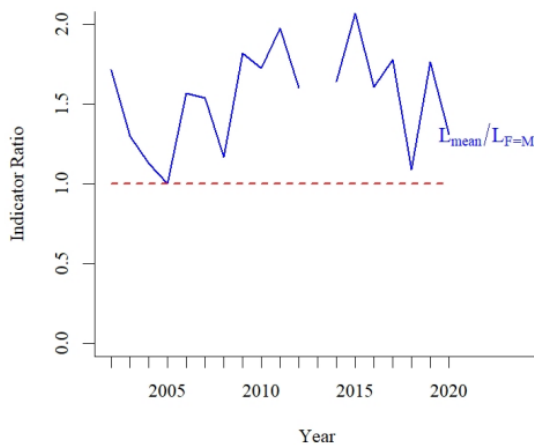


Figure 2. Lemon sole in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d. The indicator ratio $L_{mean} / L_{F=M}$ from the length-based indicator (LBI) method is used for the evaluation of the exploitation status. The exploitation status is below the FMSY proxy when the indicator ratio value is higher than 1 (shown by a dotted red line). Source: ICES 2021

Relative SSB is fluctuating around the mean stock indicators and it could be assumed that the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point or proxy and it **PASSES** clause C1.2

References

Fernandes, P., Cook, R., Florin, A.-B., Lorange, P. & Nedreaas, K. 2016. Merluccius merluccius. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T198562A84946555.

ICES. 2021. Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, lem.27.3a47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7782>

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