MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Major Fishing Area 27
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland)
Date	May 2021	
Report Code	BP66	
Assessor	Vito Romito	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	PASS	

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

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice
Stock	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland)
Fishery Location	FAO Major Fishing Area 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU Common Fisheries Policy Framework
Gear Type(s)	All gear types
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVE

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Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 MARINTRUST raw material. Plaice in ICES Division 7 b-c is not is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list nor is listed in Appendix 1 of CITES.

ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for plaice in this area. ICES advised in 2020 that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 19 tonnes in each of the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches as catches in this fishery are extremely limited. The ICES framework for category 6 stocks was applied for this stock. For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considered that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer of 0.8 has been applied in 2020.

There are no reference points for either biomass or fishing mortality for this stock and landings in the past10 years have been the lowest on record. Due to the lack of data indication stock status, the stock is assessed as category D using the PSA tool.

With an average of susceptibility 2.6 of and availability 2 of the stock has been scored in table D4. The stock has achieved a PASS in D4.1 and D4.2 and therefore, the by-product covered by this report is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MARINTRUST v2 by-product standard. |

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The stock has been correctly assessed under category D.

The scores given in the PSA are accorded to the species and the information provided in table D4 gives evidences that there are no evidences of negative impacts on the stock caused by the fishery.

Therefore, PR agrees with the assessor's determination. |

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]
Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland)	EU Common Fisheries Policy Framework	D	Least Concern	Not listed

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that

D1	Species Name	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)	
Productivity Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Average age at maturity (years)		10.5 years	3
Average maximum age (years)		Max. reported age: 50 years	3
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		158,114 eggs estimated as geometric mean	1
Average maximum size (cm)		100.0 cm SL male/unsexed	2
Average size at maturity (cm)		L_m 30.8 cm	2
Reproductive strategy		Broadcast spawner	1
Mean trophic level		3.2 +/- s.e. 0.27. Estimated from diet data.	2
		Average Productivity Score	**2**
Susceptibility Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Overlap of adult species range with fishery		Unknown.	
Distribution		The distribution of the species is extends all across European waters.	1
Habitat		As this is flatfish living on the seabed, its habitat will overlap with that where bottom trawls operate.	3
Depth range		Depth range 0 - 200 m, usually 10 - 50 m. High overlap with trawl gear.	3
Selectivity		The species is likely to be > 2 time the mesh size.	3
Post-capture mortality		The survival percentage falls within the range of 12-35% or around 19%[3]. Most would be dead after release in trawl gear.	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**2.6**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**Go to TABLE D4**
		Compliance rating	**Pass D4**

References

Freyhof, J. 2015. Pleuronectes platessa. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T135690A55118705. Downloaded on 26 May 2021.

ICES. 2020. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, ple.27.7bc. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5769.

van der Reijden, Ampe B., Van Bogaert N., Vanderperren E., Torreele E., Polet H. 2018. Survival of plaice caught and discarded by Belgian beam trawlers. Institute for Agricultural, Fisheries and Food Research Animal Sciences Unit - Fisheries and Aquatic Production Ankerstraat 1 8400 Oostende. https://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Discards/2018/Annex%20VIIIa%20-%20Report_Survival%20Plaice_9-04-2018_final.pdf

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

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[3] https://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Discards/2018/Annex%20VIIIa%20-%20Report_Survival%20Plaice_9-04-2018_final.pdf

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk Score 3	Medium productivity/ Medium risk Score 2	High productivity/ Low risk Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk Score 3	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk Score 2	Low susceptibility/ Low risk Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		Plaice, *Pleuronectes platessa*	
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		Pass
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		Pass
			Outcome:	Pass

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts. The stock passes.

The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process as advice and TAC are set. In recent years, since 2016 ICES has been applying the precautionary approach by using buffers (e.g. 0.8 buffer used in 2020) to limit catches until better information becomes available. Catches have been very small in the region of 30 tonnes annually for the past 15 years and all within ICES advice.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species. The stock passes.

Catches are quite limited and accordingly, there is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References
ICES. 2020. Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, ple.27.7bc. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5769.

Links: See above

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01