# MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment

*Plaice Pleuronectes platessa (ICES Division 7.b-c West of Ireland)*

# Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

| Fishery Under Assessment | Species: | Plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* |
|---|---|---|
| | Geographical area: | FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic. ICES division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) |
| | Country of origin of the product: | Ireland, France (Flag states) |
| | Stock: | Plaice in ICES division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) |
| Date | May 2022 | |
| Report Code | DNK20 | |
| Assessor | Conor Donnelly | |
| Country of origin of the product - PASS | Ireland, France (Flag states) | |
| Country of origin of the product - FAIL | | |

| Application details and summary of the assessment outcome | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Company Name(s):  Marine Ingredients Denmark; FFSkagen, TripleNine | | | |
| Country: Denmark | | | |
| Email address: | | Applicant Code: | |
| Certification Body Details | | | |
| Name of Certification Body: | | Global Trust Certification | |
| Assessor | Peer Reviewer | Assessment Days | Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval |
| Conor Donnelly | Ivan Mateo | 0.5 | Surveillance 1 |
| Assessment Period | To May 2022 | | |

| Scope Details | |
|---|---|
| Main Species | Plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* |
| Stock | ICES division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) |
| Fishery Location | FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic |
| Management Authority (Country/ State) | EU/Common Fisheries Policy |
| Gear Type(s) | Seines, otter trawl, midwater trawls ([Ref: The Stock Book 2021](#)) |
| Outcome of Assessment | |
| Peer Review Evaluation | Agree with assessor's determination |
| Recommendation | **APPROVE** |

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

| Assessment Determination |
|---|
| If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust raw material. |
| The species is not subject to a species-specific management regime and has no defined reference points and therefore, the stock was assessed under Category D. It was assessed using a Productivity – Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) and passed. |
| Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the Marin Trust Standard v.2. |
| **Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments** |
| The assessor correctly classified plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) as category D, it is not subject to species-specific management and there are no reference points for either biomass or fishing mortality for this stock. |
| Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) passes the PSA and is therefore approved under the Marin Trust Standard v.2. |
| **Notes for On-site Auditor** |
| None. |

# 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* | ICES division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) | EU/Common Fisheries Policy | D | LC (Europe) | Not listed |

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

# CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **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. | |
| | **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. | |
| | | **Clause outcome:** | |

**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**.

**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.**

| References | |
|---|---|
| **Links** | |
| **MarinTrust Standard clause** | 1.3.2.2 |
| **FAO CCRF** | 7.5.3 |
| **GSSI** | D.3.04, D5.01 |

# CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which 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 a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

| D1 | Species Name | Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES division 7.b-c (West of Ireland) | |
|----|--------------|-----|-----|
| **Productivity Attribute** | | **Value** | **Score** |
| Average age at maturity (years) | | 3.09 | 2 |
| Average maximum age (years) | | 33.3 | 3 |
| Fecundity (eggs/spawning) | | 0 – 59,600 | 1 |
| Average maximum size (cm) | | 40 | 1 |
| Average size at maturity (cm) | | 25.77 | 1 |
| Reproductive strategy | | Open water / substratum egg scatterers | 1 |
| Mean trophic level | | 3.2 | 3 |
| | | **Average Productivity Score** | **1.71** |
| **Susceptibility Attribute** | | **Value** | **Score** |
| Availability (area overlap) | | 25-50% of stock occurs in area fished | 2 |
| Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear) | | High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20-60m depth) | 3 |
| Selectivity of gear type | | Species > 2 times mesh size | 3 |
| Post-capture mortality | | Most dead or retained | 3 |
| | | **Average Susceptibility Score** | **2.75** |
| | | **PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)** | **PASS** |
| | | **Compliance rating** | |

**Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)**
*For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*

**Availability**
The West of Ireland plaice stock occur in ICES divisions 7.b-c (see figure 1 below). ICES (2021) note that most catches are in 7.b, catches in 7.c are negligible (see figure 2 below). There are two distinct areas in which plaice are caught by Irish vessels in 7.b: an area around Galway Bay and an area in the north of 7.b, which extends into 6.a (the Stags and Broadhaven Ground). Information isn't available on the distribution of plaice across the stock assessment area (e.g. is it widely distributed or is it only concentrated in the areas fished). On a precautionary basis and, taking into account the restricted distribution of fishing effort within 7.b-c, medium risk is identified for availability.

**FIGURE 1. PLAICE IN DIVISION 7.B-C (WEST OF IRELAND). STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT AREAS (SOURCE: MARINE INSTITUTE, 2021)**
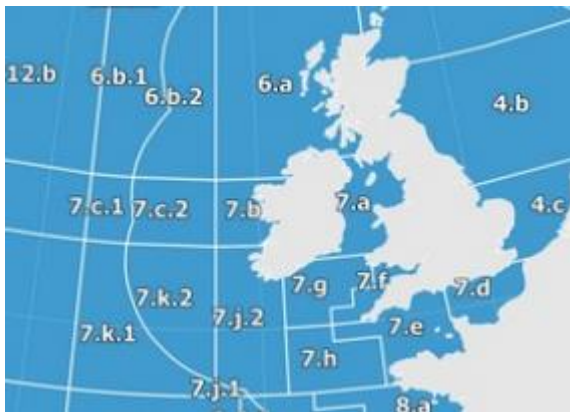


**FIGURE 2. ICES DIVISIONS AROUND IRELAND (SOURCE: FAO)**

**Encounterability**
Plaice usually occur at depths of 10-50m but can occur down to 200m (Fishbase). In ICES division 7.b-c, they are mainly fished using demersal gears (seines and bottom otter trawls)(MFRI, 2021). As such, risk is considered high: high overlap with trawl fishing gear (20-60m depth).

**References**

FAO 27 Fishing area and ICES statistical areas.

Fishbase. https://www.fishbase.de/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1342&AT=plaice

ICES. 2021. Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). ICES Scientific Reports. 2:40. 1461 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5978

Marine Institute, 2021. The Stock Book. Annual Review of Fish Stocks in 2021 with Management Advice for 2022. November 2021. https://oar.marine.ie/handle/10793/1726.

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*

# 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 | |
|---|---|---|
| | **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. | |
| D4.2 | There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species. | |

|  Outcome: | |
|---|---|

**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.**


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

**References**

**Links**

| MarinTrust Standard clause | 1.3.2.2, 4.1.4 |
|---|---|
| FAO CCRF | 7.5.1 |
| GSSI | D.5.01 |