



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment *Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)* in FAO 27, Division 6.b (Rockall)

**MarinTrust Programme**

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, Division 6.b (Rockall)
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ) in Division 6.b (Rockall)
Date	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	
Report Code	DNK04	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Pass (Denmark)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen A/S, Thyborøn			
Country: Denmark			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Certification Trust/NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period		January 2024 – January 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )
Stock	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ) in Division 6.b (Rockall)
Fishery Location	FAO 27, Division 6.b (Rockall)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy); North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); Danish Directorate of Fisheries ( <i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i> )
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

**Table 2. Assessment Determination**

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was conducted in October 2022. An EU multiannual management plan (EU MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock and which ICES considered to be precautionary. There is no agreed management plan for haddock in this area. Two management strategies (North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission - NEAFC and EU MAP) have been assessed to be precautionary. NEAFC requested ICES to evaluate the harvest control rules (HCRs) that use fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield - FMSY as a target. ICES concluded that the NEAFC HCRs in the long-term management strategy for Rockall haddock were consistent with the precautionary approach.</p> <p>As reference points are defined for this stock and there is a management plan in place, it has been assessed under category C. Removals of the species are taken into consideration in the last stock assessment and the biomass is well above <math>MSY B_{trigger proxy}</math>, so the stock PASSES clauses C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, haddock in ICES Division 6.b, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish-oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in ICES division 6.b (Rockall) as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above <math>MSY B_{trigger proxy}</math>. Therefore, because the stock has biomass above target reference point proxy, it is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point proxy.</p> <p>Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in ICES subdivision 6.b (Rockall) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>N/A</p>

## 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 a 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy); North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); Danish Directorate of Fisheries ( <i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i> )	C	LC	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <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.

<b>Species Name</b>		Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			Pass

**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.**

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 4,078 tonnes in each of the years 2023 and 2024. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by some of the relevant management authorities for this stock. The assessment type is a survey-biomass trend applying the *r<sub>fb</sub>* rule for advice (Figure 1).

The *r<sub>fb</sub>* rule is an empirical control rule that incorporates biomass ratio (*r*), fishing proxy via length data and target catch (*f*), and biomass safeguard (*b*). These data requirements are satisfied by the input data considered in the last assessment and are the follows: commercial catch (international landings and discards, length frequencies from catch sampling), one survey index (Rock-WIBTS-Q3 [G4436]), and growth parameters estimated from survey data. Catches are presented in the figure below:

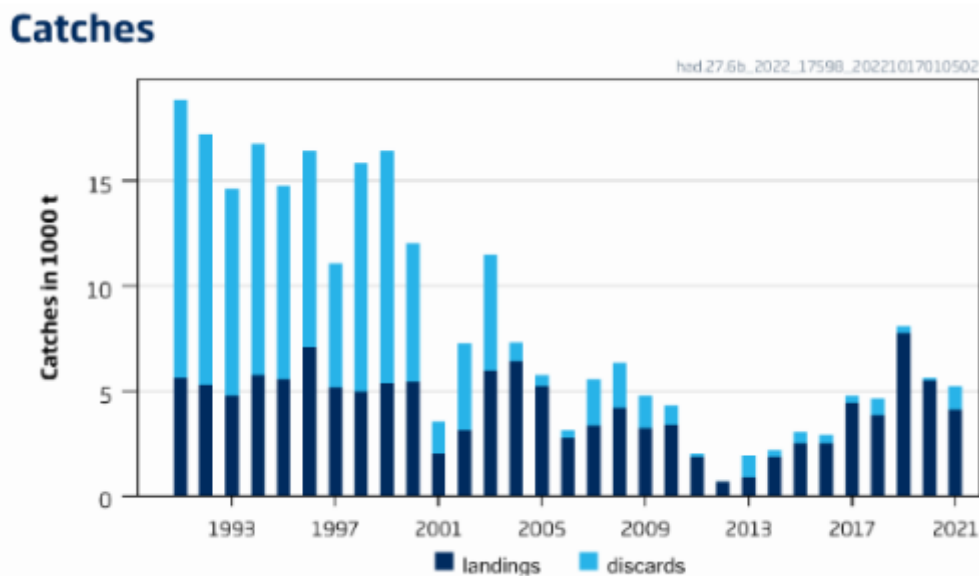


Figure 1. Long term catches for haddock in division 6.b from 1991 to 2021.  
Source: ICES 2022

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the stock PASSES clause C1.1.

**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.**

This stock was benchmarked in 2019. In previous years an age-structured assessment model has been used to provide advice as a category 1 stock (information regarding stock categorizations can be found in: [https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/files/2022\\_2/introduction\\_to\\_the\\_advice\\_on\\_fishing\\_opportunities\\_2022.pdf](https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/files/2022_2/introduction_to_the_advice_on_fishing_opportunities_2022.pdf)). This year, methods to update the previously utilised survey index were unavailable and the agreed assessment (and forecast) could not be carried out. Consequently, the assessment this year is based on a new biomass index derived from the Rock-WIBTS-Q3 survey as an indicator of stock size and a mean catch length indicator as a proxy for fishing pressure (under a category 3 approach). This survey has good coverage of the stock area, and it is considered representative of the stock trend.

Advice for this stock was previously given following ICES MSY approach based on a Category 1 stock assessment; the applied method gives advice following ICES MSY approach for data limited stocks using the empirical *r<sub>fb</sub>* rule (Fischer et al., 2021).

The fishing pressure proxy on the stock is below  $F_{MSY\ proxy}$ , and the stock-size index is above  $MSY\ B_{trigger\ proxy}$  (Index trigger value).

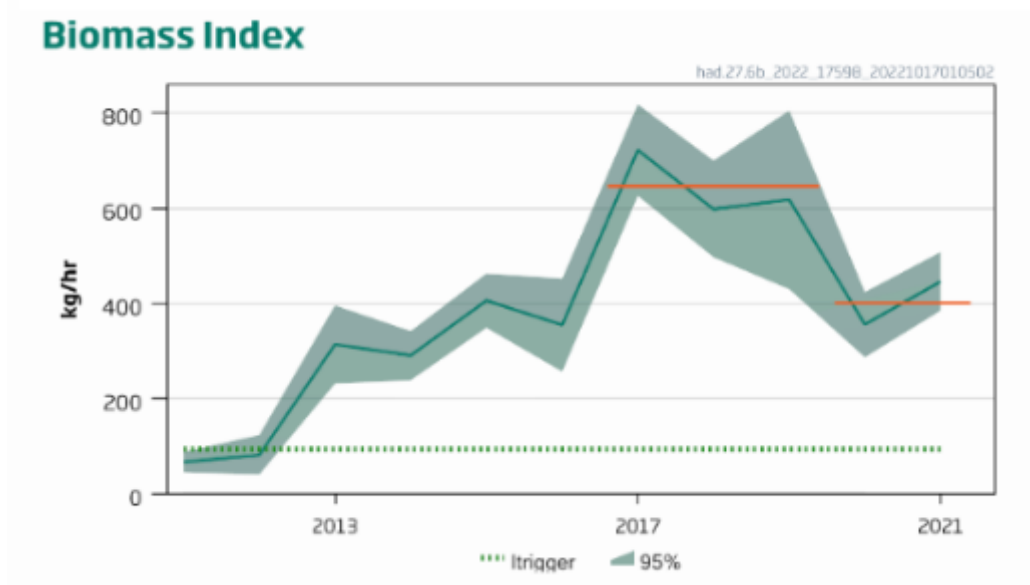


Figure 2. Long-term biomass trends for haddock in Division 6.b.  
Source: ICES 2022.

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point and it PASSES clause C1.2.

**References**

Fischer, S. H., De Oliveira, J. A. A., Mumford, J. D., and Kell, L. T. 2021. Application of explicit precautionary principles in data limited fisheries management. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 78: 2931–2942. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsab169>

ICES. 2022. Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Division 6.b (Rockall). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, had.27.6b. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19447952>. [Published 28 October 2022].

**Links**

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