



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

# *Saithe (Pollachius virens) in FAO 27, ICES 3.a, 4, and 6 (North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skaggerak and Kattegat)*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag state: Denmark)
	Stock:	Saithe in FAO 27, ICES 4, 6, and 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skaggeak and Kattegat)
Date	13 February 2023	
Report Code	DNK05	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark (Flag state: Denmark)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen: Skagen, FF Skagen: Hanstholm, TripleNine Fish Protein a.m.b.a: Thyboron			
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
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	Up to February 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
Stock	Saithe in FAO 27, ICES 4, 6, and 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skaggeak and Kattegat)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fishery Policy), Danish Directorate of Fisheries ( <i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i> )
Gear Type(s)	2021 catch estimates: Bottom otter trawl (87%), gillnet (3%), and other gears (10%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

**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. Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is not assessed on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pollachius virens</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) exists for this stock and takes bycatch of the species into account. As there is a management regime in place and reference points are defined, this stock is assessed under category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, saithe in FAO 27, ICES 4, 6, and 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skaggerak and Kattegat) is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s determination, who correctly classified the stock of saithe in FAO 27, ICES 4, 6, and 3.a under Category C, as the stock is subject to a specific management regime in place and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and the stock has its biomass above limit reference point, so it passes Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, saithe in FAO 27, ICES 4, 6, and 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skaggerak and Kattegat), is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</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>
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe in ICES 4, 6, and 3.a	European Union (Common Fishery Policy), 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.

Species Name		Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</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

**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 not exceed 58,912 tonnes in 2023. A management plan for saithe in ICES 4, 6, and 3.a exists and TAC is established for two areas that cover the stock. There is one TAC for subarea 6 and another for subarea 4 and division 3.a.

This stock is assessed using an age-based analytical model (SAM) that uses fishery removals in the model and forecast (Figure 1). The input data considered in the last stock assessment are the following: commercial catches (including age frequencies from sampling), one survey index, combined commercial index scaled to exploitable biomass, constant maturity-at-age, constant natural mortality, and stock weights are equal to catch weights.

Discards were included, and 35% of the landings had associated discarding information; 75% of the discards were observed and 25% were raised. Of the imported discards, 96% had been sampled for age information. BMS landings for Norway are included with landings in the assessment since 2016; all other BMS landings (less than a tonne in 2021) are included with the discards. Logbook-registered discards were 0kg.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

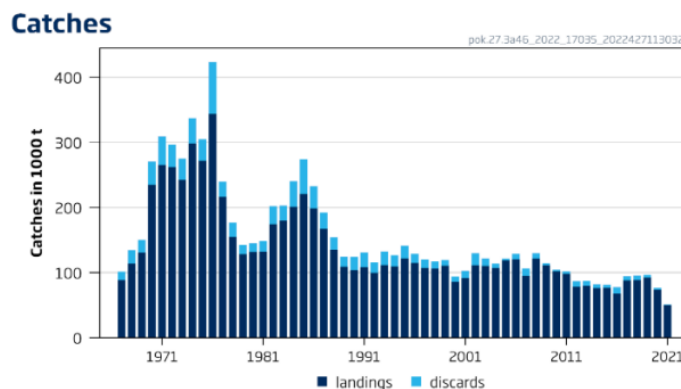


Figure 1. Long-term catches for saithe in ICES 6.a from 1967 to 2021. Landings and discards are for ages 3–10+ only, as used in the assessment.

Source: ICES 2022.

**Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore 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.**

Saithe in ICES 3.a, 4, and 6 is assessed as described above and has two sets of reference points defined that align with the MSY and precautionary approach. The stock was last benchmarked in 2021. Long-term trends in comparison with the sets of reference points can be found in Figure 2 below:

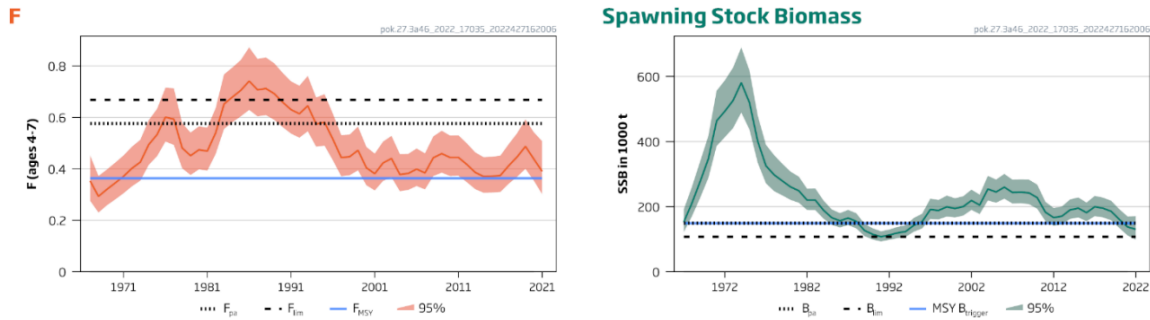


Figure 2. Saithe in ICES 3.a, 4, and 6 summary of the stock assessment. The left panel shows the historical fishing pressure from 1981 to 2021 and the right panel show historical biomass over the same time period.  
Source: ICES 2022.

Fishing pressure on the stock is above  $F_{MSY}$ , but below  $F_{lim}$ , and  $F_{pa}$ , and spawning-stock size is below  $MSY B_{trigger}$  and  $B_{pa}$ , but above  $B_{lim}$ .

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**

ICES. 2022. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, pok.27.3a46. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453649>

**Links**

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