



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag state: Denmark)
	Stock:	Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak)
Date	16 March 2023	
Report Code	DNK11	
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			
Country:			
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 2
Assessment Period	Up to March 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
Stock	Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak)
Fishery Location	FAO 27, northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, EU CFP
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, otter trawl and other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with 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. Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is not assessed on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pleuronectes platessa</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, plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) is APPROVED 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 Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) 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, plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggeyrak)	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, EU CFP	C	LC	No

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		Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</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 in 2023 should be no more than 150 705 tonnes.

This stock is assessed using an age-based analytical assessment (SAM) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Input data for the stock assessment are: commercial catch, ages, and length frequencies from port and observer and self-sampling. Five survey indices: combined BTS and IBTS Q3 (1996–2021, [B2453], [G2829]), BTS-Isis (1985–1995, [B2453]), SNS (split into two series, SNS1 1970–1999 and SNS2 2000–2021, [B3499]), and IBTS Q1 (2007–2021, [G1022]). Both the BTS+IBTS Q3 and IBTS Q1 survey indices are updated yearly using a Delta-GAM model (Berget al., 2014). Natural mortality is age dependent and was estimated using Peterson-Wroblewski method during benchmark and it is time invariant. Maturity-at-age is assumed constant over time.

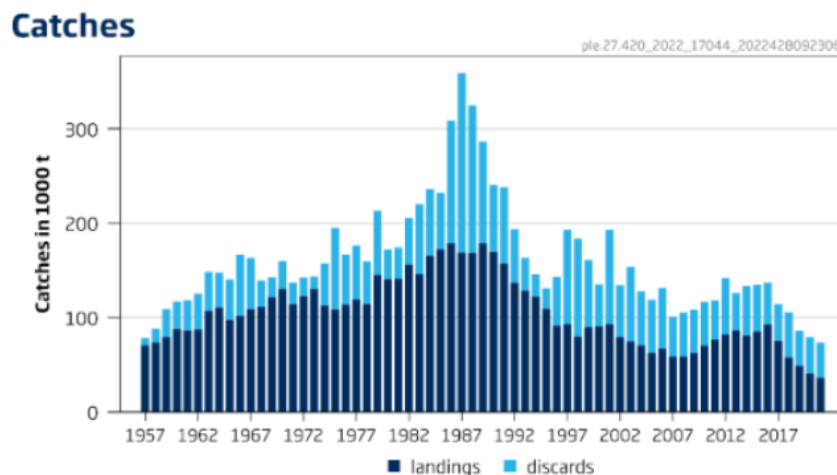


Figure 1. Long-term catch (including discards) trends for plaice in subarea 4 and subdivision 3.a.20 from 1957 to 2021. Source: ICES 2022.

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.

Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggeiak) 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 2022. Long-term trends in comparison with the sets of reference points can be found in Figure 2 below:

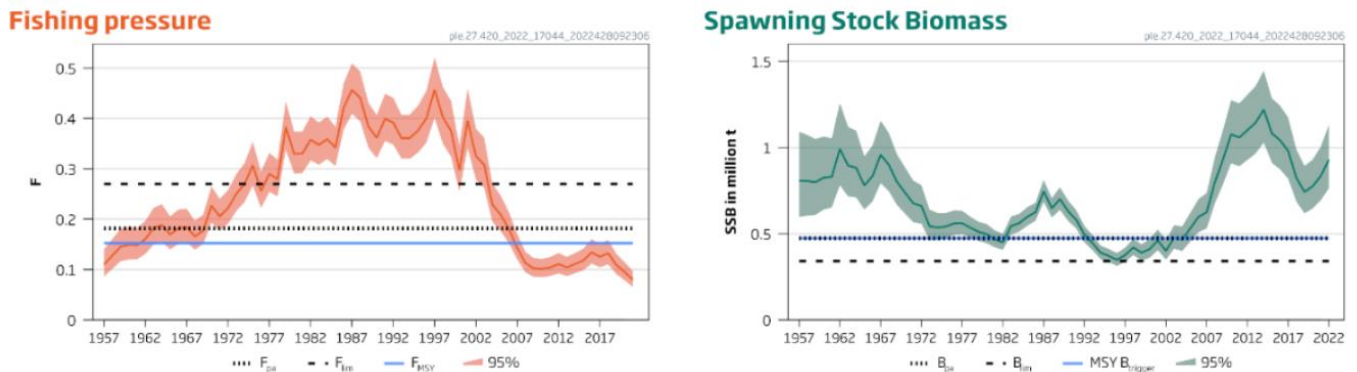


Figure 2. Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggeiak) summary of the stock assessment. The left panel shows the historical fishing pressure from 1957 to 2021 and the right panel show historical biomass over the same time period. Source: ICES 2022.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , F_{lim} , and F_{pa} , and spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and 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. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, ple.27.420. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453586>

Links

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