



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

# *Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in FAO 27, ICES 7.e (Western English Channel)*

**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 Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag countries: UK, France, Belgium)
	Stock:	Plaice in ICES division 7.e (Western English Channel)
Date	18 May 2023	
Report Code	DNK22	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark (Flag countries: UK, France, Belgium)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen: Skagen: FF Skagen: Hanstholm			
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
Léa Lebechnech	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	To May 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )
Stock	Plaice in ICES division 7.e (Western English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy-CFP) and UK
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, otter trawl, fixed nets, other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

**Table 2. Assessment Determination**

Assessment Determination
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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 in ICES Division 7.e (Western English Channel) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust raw material.

There is a species-specific management regime in place for this stock including a stock assessment with reference points defined and a TAC set and therefore, the stock was assessed under Category C. In the last stock assessment, removals are considered and the stock is above its limit reference point  $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$  ( $I_{trigger}$ ), therefore the stock PASSES clauses C1.1 and C1.2.

Consequently, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.e (Western English Channel) 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.e (Western English Channel) as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.

Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above  $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$ . Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.

Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Division 7.e (Western English Channel) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.

**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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice in ICES division 7.e (Western English Channel)	European Union (CFP), UK	C	LC <sup>3</sup>	No

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/190304/45098360>

## 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 should be no more than 1219 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.

ICES is aware of the multiannual management plan (MAP) which has been adopted by the EU for this stock (EU, 2019) and which ICES considers to be precautionary. There is no agreed shared management plan with UK for this stock, and ICES provides advice according to ICES MSY approach.

The assessment type is a survey biomass trend applying the rfb rule for advice.

The input data considered in the last stock assessment are the following: Commercial catch (international landings and discards, length frequencies from catch sampling); one survey index: UK-FSP (B4381).

Discards estimates are raised to total international commercial catches. Discard information is available since 2012.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

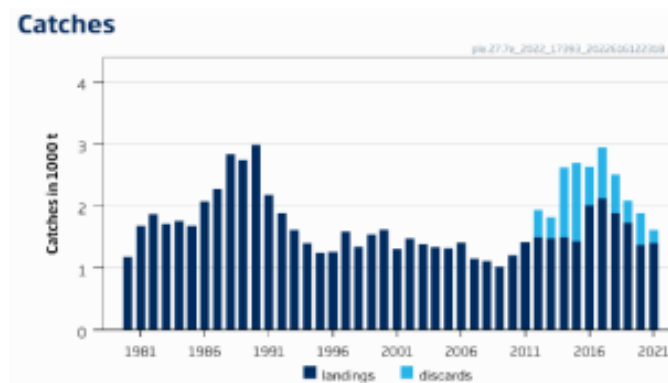
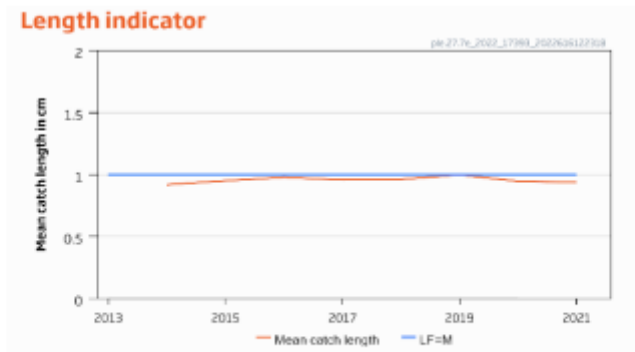


Figure 1. Catches of plaice in Division 7.e. ICES landings and discards (estimates available since 2012) and stock biomass index from the UK-FSP survey.  
Source: ICES, 2022.

**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.

Fishing pressure proxy on the stock is above  $F_{MSY\ proxy}$  (Figure 2), and the stock-size index is above  $MSY\ B_{trigger}$  ( $I_{trigger}$ ) (Figure 3).



**Figure 2** Plaice in Division 7.e. Length indicator (mean length of fish in the catch and  $MSY\ proxy\ reference\ length\ L_F = M$ ). The exploitation status is below  $F_{MSY\ proxy}$  when the indicator ratio value is higher than 1 (shown by a blue line).

Source: ICES, 2022.



**Figure 3:** Plaice in Division 7.e. Summary of the stock assessment. The horizontal orange lines indicate the average of the biomass index for 2017 to 2019 and for 2020 to 2021.

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**

ICES, 2022. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Division 7.e (western English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, ple.27.7e. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453631>.

**Links**

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