MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in FAO27, ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag countries: UK, Ireland)
	Stock:	Plaice in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)
Date	19 May 2023	
Report Code	DNK24	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark (Flag countries: UK, Ireland)	
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 (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
Stock	Plaice in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy-CFP) and UK
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, seines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

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 in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland) 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. Therefore, the stock was assessed under Category D, using the PSC risk-rating (Table D1).
With a productivity attribute score of 1.71 and a susceptibility attribute score of 2.75, it PASSES the PSA risk-rating.

Consequently, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland) 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 6.a (West of Scotland) as Category D, the stock is not assessed using a formal assessment process and thus reference points are not defined.

The assessor correctly assigned values and scores on table D1. The given average attribute scores result in a passing score on Table D3.

Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland) passes Category D and the PSA 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 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*	Plaice in ICES division 6.a (West of Scotland)	European Union (CFP), UK	D	LC[3]	No

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/190304/45098360

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*)	
Productivity Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Average age at maturity (years)		10.5	2
Average maximum age (years)		47.8	3
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		158,114 [50,000-500,000]	1
Average maximum size (cm)		81.6	1
Average size at maturity (cm)		43.5	2
Reproductive strategy		Broadcast spawner	1
Mean trophic level		3.2	2
		Average Productivity Score	**1.71**
Susceptibility Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Availability (area overlap)		Medium overlap, 10-30%	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		Individuals<size at maturity are frequently caught and individuals<half size at maturity are retained by gear	3
Post-capture mortality		Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**2.75**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**Pass**
		Compliance rating	**PASS**

Further justification for susceptibility scoring

This map was computer-generated and has not yet been reviewed.
Pleuronectes platessa   AquaMaps   Data sources: GBIF OBIS

Encounterability: Plaice usually occur at depths of 10-50m but can occur down to 200m. In ICES division 6.a, they are mainly fished using demersal gears (seines and bottom otter trawls). As such, risk is considered high: high overlap with trawl fishing gear (20-60m depth).

References
Fishbase, *Pleuronectes platessa* Linnaeus, 1758. European plaice:
https://www.fishbase.se/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1342&AT=plaice#

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)		Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)		High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)	
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap		10-30% overlap		>30% overlap	
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).		Medium overlap with fishing gear.		High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species	
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a	Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a	Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a	Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b	Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b	Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b	Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.		Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.		Retained species or majority dead when released.	

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