



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

*Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic, ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel)
Date	20 July 2023	
Report Code	FRA17	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Bioceval SAS - Concarneau			
Country: France			
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	Ivan Mateo	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	Up to		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
Stock	Pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy), France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (Ireland)
Gear Type(s)	2021 Estimates: Otter trawls (16.2%), Static nets (52%), and Other (31%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's assessment
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. Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Pollack in subareas 6 and 7 is managed an EU multiannual plan (MAP) that is in place for this stock. ICES has assessed this plan and considers it precautionary. ICES evaluates the health of the stock and provides advice in relation on benchmarked reference points. As this stock is managed by an EU MAP and reference points are defined, pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 was 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 below the limit reference point, it FAILS Clause C1.2.</p> <p>As the stock fails category C, it was assessed under category D. Table D1 (PSA) shows that the stock as an average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 3. The PSA risk rating results (Table D3) determined that the species passes.</p> <p>Therefore, pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel) 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 assessor correctly classified pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel) as category D, because given that the biomass is below the limit reference point, it FAILS Clause C1.2. As a consequence, the stock fails Category C and it has to be assessed under category D. PSA analysis was correctly conducted Table D1 (PSA) shows that the stock have an average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 3. The PSA risk rating results (Table D3) determined that the species passes.</p> <p>Therefore, I agree with the assessor that pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel) should be APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which flag state(s) the species is being sources from.</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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Pollack	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack in ICES subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy), France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (Ireland)	Fails C Assessed as Category D	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		Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</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.	No

Clause outcome: FAIL

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 and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024.

This stock is assessed using a surplus production model in continuous time. This model uses the following data: Commercial landings; VAST survey index from 2005, utilizing Irish Groundfish Survey [G7212], Irish Anglerfish and Megrim Survey [G3098], French Southern Atlantic Bottom Trawl Survey [G9527] and French Channel Groundfish Survey [G3425]. Discards are considered to be negligible.

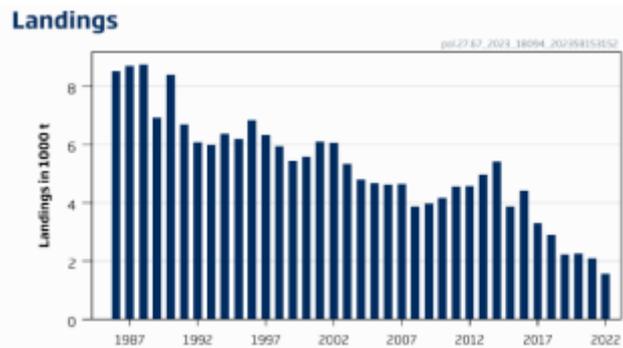


Figure 1. Long-term catches for pollack in ICES 6 and 7 from 1986 to 2022.

Source: ICES 2023.

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.

This stock has two sets of reference points that align with the MSY and precautionary approaches.

MSY approach		Precautionary approach	
MSY $B_{trigger}$	$0.5 * B_{MSY}$	B_{lim}	$0.3 * B_{MSY}$
F_{MSY}	F/F_{MSY}	B_{pa}	N/A
		F_{lim}	$1.7 F_{MSY}$
		F_{pa}	N/A

Fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and Flim; stock size is below MSY Btrigger and Blim.

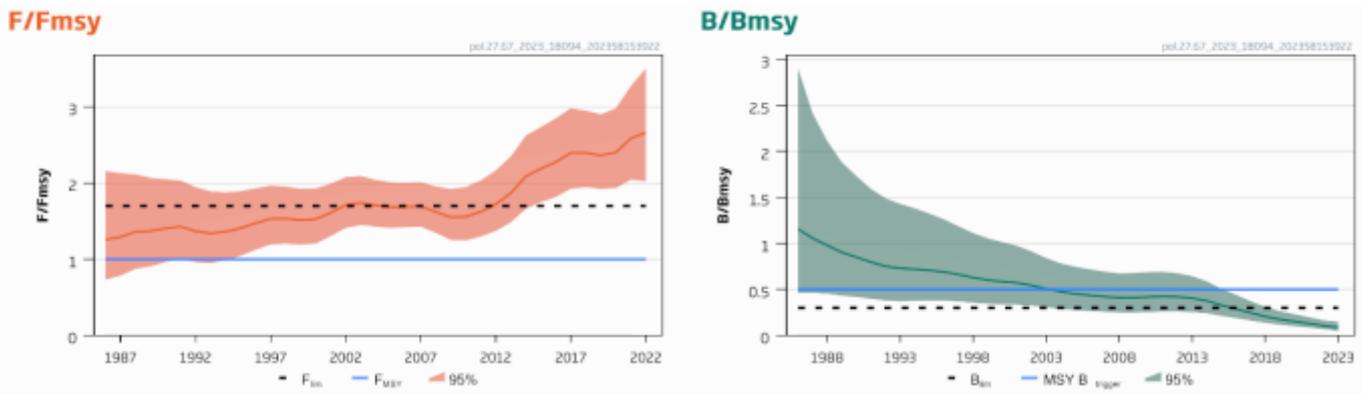


Figure 2. Pollack in ICES 6 and 7 summary of the stock assessment. The left panel shows the historical fishing pressure from 1986 to 2023 and the right panel show historical biomass over the same time period.
Source: ICES 2023.

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

References

ICES. 2023. Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in subareas 6–7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, pol.27.67. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21841011>

Links

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

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		Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)		
	Productivity Attribute		Value	Score	
	Average age at maturity (years)		3.5 years	1	
	Average maximum age (years)		16 years	2	
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		>20,000	1	
	Average maximum size (cm)		130 cm	2	
	Average size at maturity (cm)		45.4 cm	2	
	Reproductive strategy		Broadcast spawner	1	
	Mean trophic level		4.3	3	
	Average Productivity Score			1.71	
	Susceptibility Attribute		Value	Score	
	Availability (area overlap)		>30%	3	
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		High risk	3	
	Selectivity of gear type		Not provided by client	3	
	Post-capture mortality		Retained	3	
	Average Susceptibility Score			3	
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)			PASS	
	Compliance rating			PASS	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)				
	<p>1. <i>Availability: The submitted stock is ICES subareas 7.e-j, 8.a, & 9.a. With a large multi-ocean distribution, the fishing effort occurs on between 10% and 30%.</i></p>				
<p>1. <i>Encounterability: This stock is fished using trawl and gill net. Pollack is a demersal species and has high overlap with the given gear types.</i></p>					
<p>2. <i>Selectivity of gear type: The client did not provide any indication on gear used in the application. Gears identified previously were taken from ICES 2023 advice. As no gear was identified by the client and it cannot be further determined the level of selectivity of the gear, this attribute is scored as a 3 out of precaution.</i></p>					
<p>3. <i>Post-capture mortality: Retained species is scored as a 3.</i></p>					
References					
<p>Fishbase. 2023. <i>Pollachius pollachius</i>. https://fishbase.mhn.fr/summary/Pollachius-pollachius.html. Accessed 20 July 2023.</p>					

Suquet M, Normant Y, Gaignon JL, Quemener L, Fauvel C. 2005. Effect of water temperature on individual reproductive activity of pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*). *Aquaculture* 243(1-4):113-20.

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