



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment, FRA26, *Saithe (Pollachius virens)*, France

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks  
22 Amelia Street  
London  
SE17 3BZ

E: [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com)

T: +44 2039 780 819

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES 3.a, 4, 6
Date	August 2023	
Report Code	FRA26	
Assessor	Blanca Gonzalez	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Bioceval SAS - Concarneau, Copalis Industrie			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Blanca Gonzalez	Sam Peacock	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	August 2023-August 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
Stock	ICES 3.a, 4, 6. Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland.
Fishery Location	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Bottom otter trawl, gillnet, others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	Approve

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) was assessed as a category C species considering that it is a Least Concern species by the IUCN, it is not included in any CITES Appendixes, and an EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this setting reference points and annual quotas with management purposes (ICES 2022).</p> <p>The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) uses catches data as input for the stock assessment process. The last assessment for saithe in ICES 3.a, 4, 6. (Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland) was published in June 2023. Results indicates that spawning-stock size is above <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>B_{lim}</math>.</p> <p>The saithe by-product meets the Marin Trust requirements and it should be re-approved for use as a raw material.</p> <p>ICES (2023). Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21841008.v1">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21841008.v1</a></p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees that assessment under Category C is appropriate for this stock. The assessor has provided evidence of regular, reliable stock assessments, and the most recent stock assessment indicated that stock biomass is around the target reference point level. The PR agrees that the byproduct should be re-approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>There are no concerns that requires attention from the on-site assessor.</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>	ICES 3.a, 4, 6. Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland.	Yes	C	Least Concern <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		Saithe ( <i>Gadus morhua</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.	PASS
	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.	PASS

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.**

Clause is met, considering that:

The stock was benchmarked in 2016 and an interbenchmark was conducted in 2019 by The International Council for exploration of the Sea (ICES) working group of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) (ICES 2022). Last assessment was carried out in 2023 implementing an Age-based analytical assessment (SAM) that uses catches and surveys in the model and in the forecast; thus, removals of the species are included in the stock assessment process (ICES 2022) (Figure 1).

### Catches

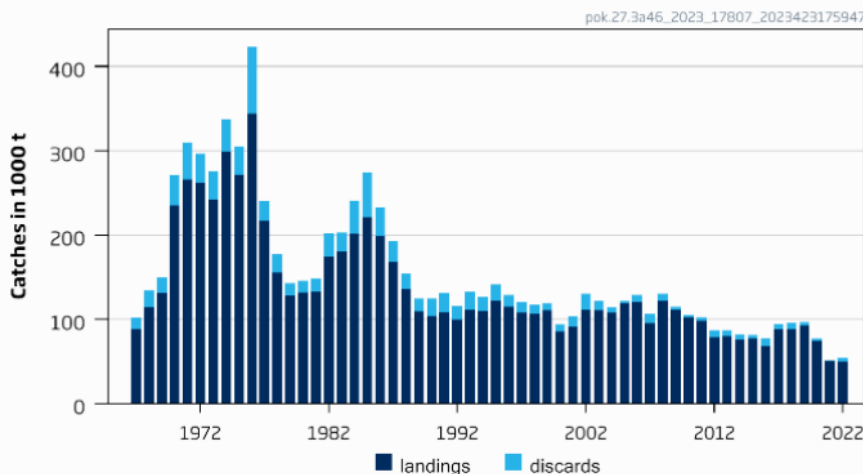


Figure 1. Saithe catches in ICES 3.a, 4, 6. Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland. (ICES 2022).

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.

Clause is met, considering that:

The 2023 saithe stock assessment indicates that spawning-stock size is above MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ . These values are encouraging considering that in 2022 SSB was below MSY  $B_{trigger}$  and  $B_{pa}$ . (ICES 2022).

### Spawning Stock Biomass

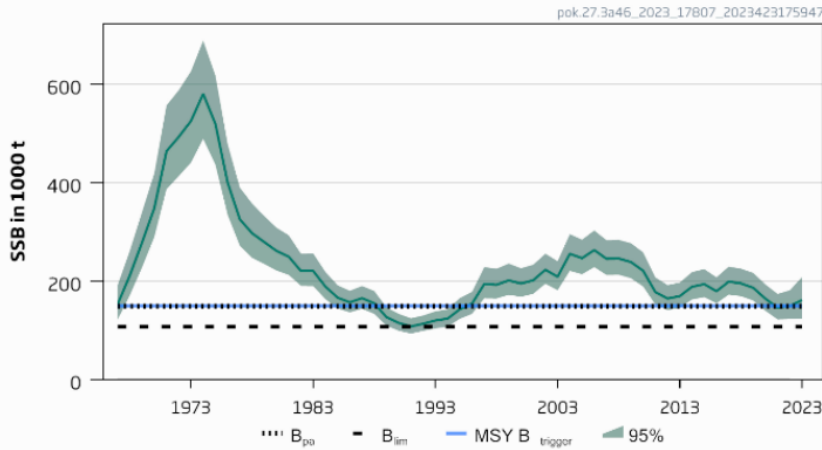


Figure 2. Spawning stock biomass for saithe ICES 3.a, 4, 6. Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland. (ICES 2022).

#### References

ICES (2023). Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21841008.v1>

#### 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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>		
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b>		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
<b>References</b>			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

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

D4 Species Name			
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
<b>Outcome:</b>			
<b>Evidence</b>			
D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	