



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, FRA36

Sole, ICES Subarea 4

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Sole, <i>Solea solea</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Subarea 4
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Sole in the North Sea
Date	November 2023	
Report Code	FRA36	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): BIOCEVAL SAS Concarneau			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	November 2023 – October 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sole, <i>Solea solea</i>
Stock	Sole in the North Sea
Fishery Location	FAO 27, ICES Subarea 4
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Sole has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Sole in the North Sea is managed using a single TAC which is set based on the status of the stock relative to established reference points; it was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>All fishery removals including discards, which represent around 10% of total catch, are included in the annual stock assessment conducted by ICES. Stock spawning biomass was estimated by the most recent stock assessment to be below the target reference point but above the limit reference point. Biomass is currently estimated to be slightly above the limit reference point level and future MT assessments of the byproduct should ensure it has not fallen below.</p> <p>The byproduct currently meets the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment is the Dover sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) bottom trawl fishery in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) (FAO area 27). The species is classified as Data deficient (DD) by the IUCN. The species is managed relative to biomass-based reference points, and it is therefore assessed under category C.</p> <p>In the most recent stock assessment for the species, it is considered that biomass is slightly above the limit reference point and therefore, it passes category C.</p> <p>Therefore, the peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the Dover sole caught with trawls in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for notes

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
Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	North Sea	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

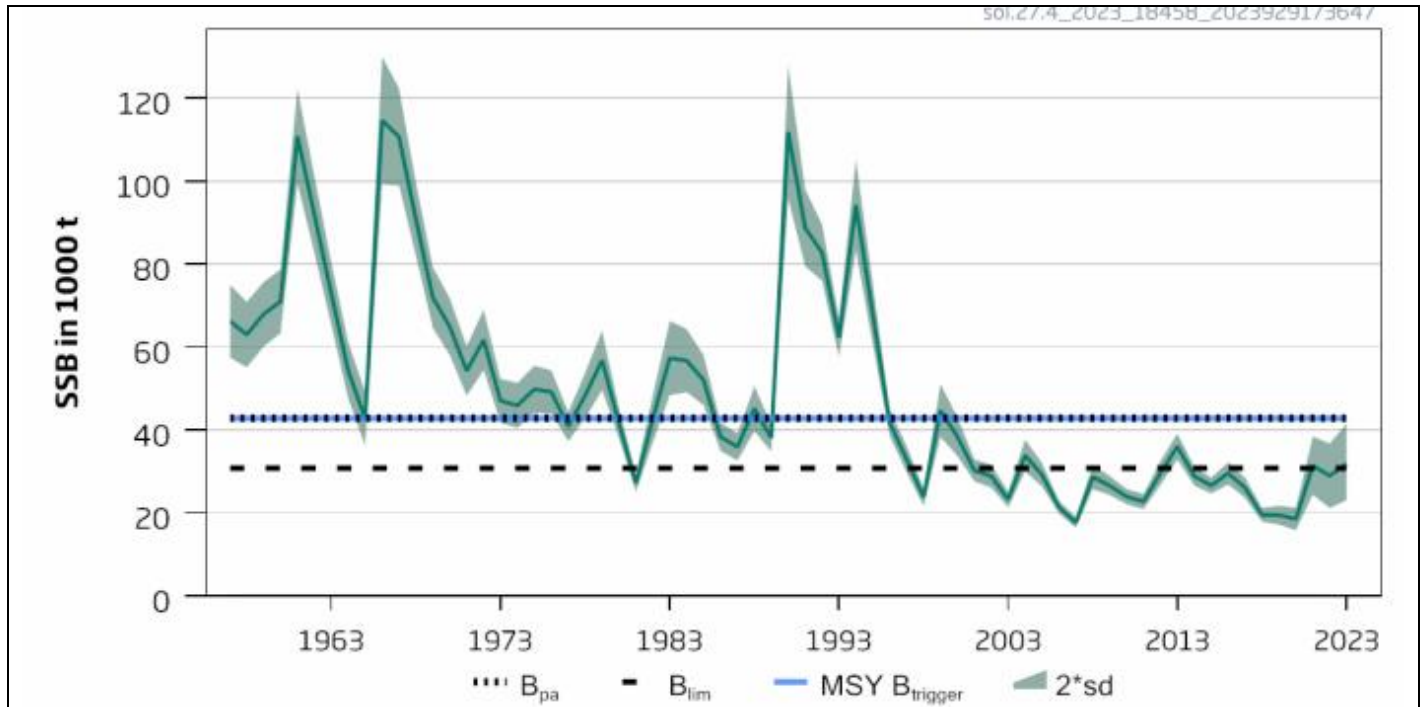
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198739/87698320>

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		Sole	
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
<p>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.</p> <p>Sole in the North Sea is subjected to an annual assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). The results of the most recent assessment, along with catch advice, were published in June 2023, and subsequently updated in October 2023. The stock assessment conducted was an age-based analytical assessment which explicitly incorporates catches in the model and the forecast (ICES 2023). Commercial catches plus age frequencies from catch sampling were included in the model. Discards, estimated to represent 9.5% of the total catch in 2022, have been included in the assessment since 2002. The catch advice includes a section covering “issues relevant for the advice”, and this section does not include any concerns regarding data completeness in the June 2022 advice. Fishery removals are considered in the assessment process and C1.1 is met.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The 2023 catch advice included an estimate of the current stock status relative to the established target and limit reference points. The target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} and $MAP MSY B_{trigger}$ are set at 42,838t. The limit reference points B_{lim} and $MAP B_{lim}$ are set at 30,828t. The 2023 stock assessment produced a short-term projection for SSB in 2024 of 24,939t, below the limit reference point. However, the catch advice states “spawning-stock size is below $MSY B_{trigger}$ and between B_{pa} and B_{lim}”. The recommended TAC for 2024 is substantially smaller than in 2023. As the stock is currently estimated to have a biomass above the limit reference point, C1.2 is met.</p>			



Sole in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea), current and historic SSB estimates relative to current reference points (ICES 2023)

References

ICES (2023). Sole (*Solea solea*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea). Replacing advice provided in June 2023. ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.24258793.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.

D1	Species Name	n/a	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	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		
	Average Productivity Score		
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	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		
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	References		
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

D4		Species Name	n/a
Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
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.		
			Outcome:
Evidence			
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.			
References			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	