MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, FRA57, *Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa), France*

MarinTrust Programme
Unit C, Printworks
22 Amelia Street
London
SE17 3BZ
E: standards@marin-trust.com
T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES 3.a.20, 4 (Skagerrak Subdivision, North Sea Subarea)
Date	July 2023	
Report Code	FRA57	
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): 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	Initial
Assessment Period	July 2023-July 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
Stock	ICES 3.a.20, 4 (Skagerrak Subdivision, North Sea Subarea)
Fishery Location	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, Otter trawl, other.
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) was assessed as a category C species considering that it is a Least Concern species by the IUCN, it is not in included in any CITES Appendixes, and there is an EU multiannual management plan (MAP) that has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU 2018). The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) uses landing, discard and bycatch data for stock assessment. The last assessment for plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 was published in June 2023, and results indicates that fishing pressure is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}. The plaice by-product meets the Marin Trust requirements; therefore, its approval is recommended for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor has correctly categorised and assessed the byproduct under Category C. The stock is subject to a robust and regular stock assessment, and stock biomass is currently estimated to be well above the limit reference point level. The peer reviewer agrees that this byproduct should be approved for use as a raw material.
Notes for On-site Auditor
There are no concerns that requires attention from the on-site assessor.

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*	ICES 3.a.20, 4 (Skagerrak Subdivision, North Sea Subarea)	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/135690/50018800

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 (*Pleuronectes platessa*)**	
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 International Council for exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak conduct stock assessments for plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20 since 1987. The last assessment was published in June 2023 using an age-based analytical assessment, where commercial catch landings, discard and bycatch data, were used as input (ICES 2023) (Figure 1).

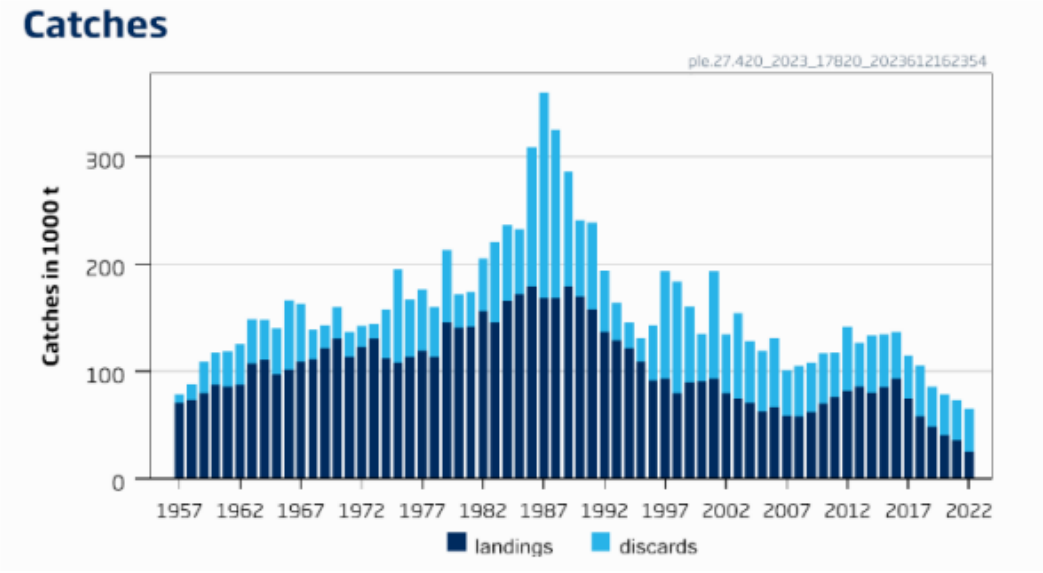

Figure 1. Plaice catches in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (ICES 2023).

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 most recent stock assessment carried out in June 2023 indicates that spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}. Since 2017 ICES advised a MSY approach for this stock (ICES 2023)

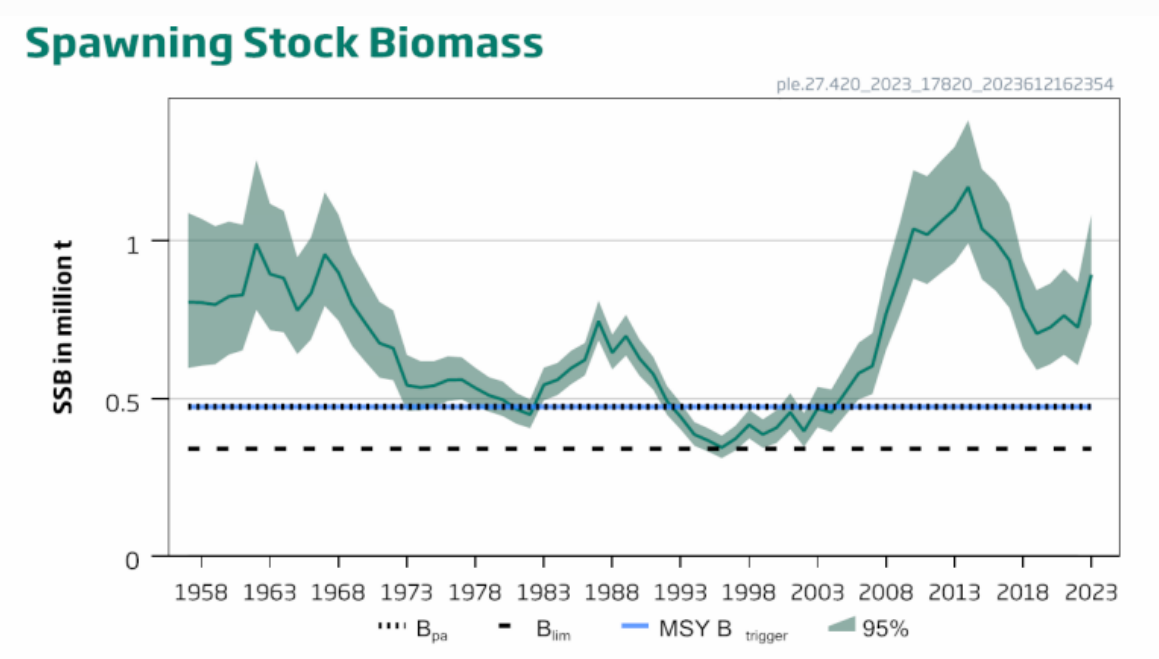

Figure 2. ICES spawning stock biomass for plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (ICES 2023).

References

EU. (2018). Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L 179. 13 pp. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj

ICES. (2023). Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, ple.27.420. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840975

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		
	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) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
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		
	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