



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Lemon sole (Microstomus kitt) in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Fishery Under Assessment | Species: | Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) |
| | Geographical area: | FAO Area 27, northeast Atlantic Ocean |
| | Country of origin of the product: | UK and Ireland (flag state(s): UK and Ireland) |
| | Stock: | Lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d |
| Date | 18 April 2023 | |
| Report Code | GBR11 | |
| Assessor | Matthew Jew | |
| Country of origin of the product - PASS | UK and Ireland (flag state(s): UK and Ireland) | |
| Country of origin of the product - FAIL | NA | |

| Application details and summary of the assessment outcome | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Company Name(s): Pelagia UK | | | |
| Country: UK and Ireland | | | |
| 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 | Léa Lebechnech | 0.5 | Surveillance 2 |
| Assessment Period | Up to April 2023 | | |

| Scope Details | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Main Species | Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) |
| Stock | Lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d |
| Fishery Location | FAO Area 27, northeast Atlantic Ocean |
| Management Authority (Country/ State) | EU CFP |
| Gear Type(s) | 2021 estimates: Otter trawl (62%), Beam trawl (33%), seine (3%), gillnet (2%), and other gears (1%) |
| Outcome of Assessment | |
| Peer Review Evaluation | Agree with the assessor's determination |
| 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. Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) is not assessed on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Microstomus kitt</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea (EU, 2018) and adjacent waters applies to bycatches of this stock. As there is a management regime in place and reference points are defined, this stock is 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 above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d 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 internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s determination, who correctly classified and approved the stock of lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d under Category C. Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, so it PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore lemon sole in FAO 27, ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</p> |
| 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 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 |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lemon sole | <i>Microstomus kitt</i> | Lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, and 7.d | EU CFP | C | 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 | | Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</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. | Yes |

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.

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 2960 tonnes. Management of lemon sole and witch flounder under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species. ICES advises that management should be implemented at the species level in the entire stock distribution area (Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d). This stock is assessed using survey biomass index applying the chr rule for advice. The following sources were used for input data: Commercial catches (international landings and discards), relative abundance data from one survey index (IBTS Q1 [G1022]), and fixed maturity estimates and annual stock weight-at-age data from three surveys (IBTS Q1 [G1022], IBTS Q3 [G2829], BTS Q3 [B2453]). Discarding is known to take place and discards have been quantified for 2002–2021 (rate for 2021 = 19.18%).

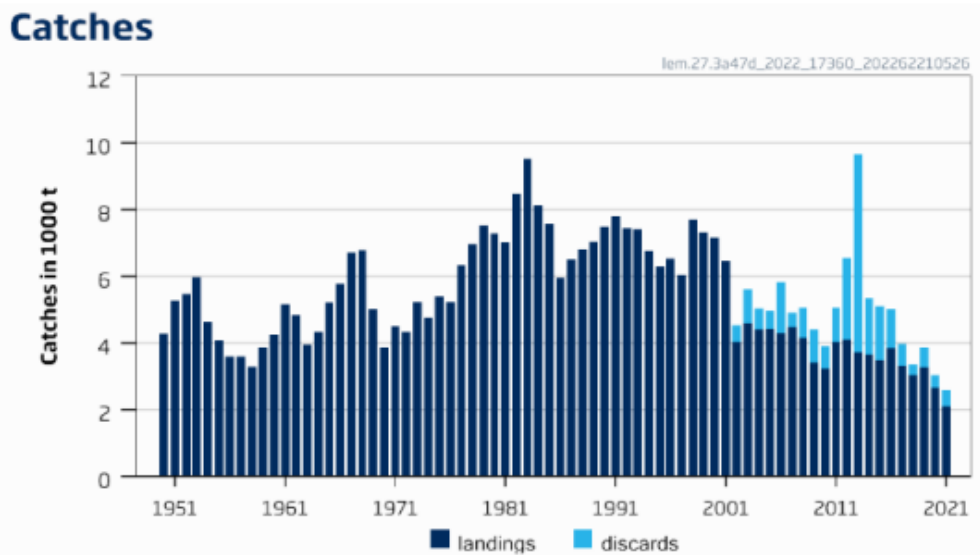


Figure 1. Long-term catches for lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, 7.d from 1950 to 2022.

Source: ICES 2022.

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 one sets of reference points that align with the MSY approach.

| MSY approach | |
|------------------------|---------|
| MSY Btrigger proxy | 146.141 |
| F _{MSY} proxy | 14.140 |

Fishing pressure on the stock is below the FMSY proxy (Figure 2). The stock size index is above MSY Btrigger proxy (Itrigger).

Biomass index



Figure 2. Lemon sole in ICES divisions 3.a, 4, 7.d summary of the stock assessment. The left panel shows the historical fishing pressure from 2007 to 2022 and the right panel show historical biomass over the same time period. Source: ICES 2022.

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

References

ICES. 2022. Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, lem.27.3a47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19448039>.

Links

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