



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *GBR18 Cod in ICES Division 5a, Iceland Grounds*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Cod, <i>Gadus morhua</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Division 5a, Iceland Grounds
Date	May 2023	
Report Code	GBR18	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
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 Piero Crespo	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	May 2023 – May 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Cod, <i>Gadus morhua</i>
Stock	ICES Division 5a, Iceland Grounds
Fishery Location	FAO 61
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Iceland
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls, gillnets, longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Pass

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Cod has been categorised by the IUCN as Vulnerable and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Cod in ICES Division 5a is managed relative to reference points and was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022 using all commercial catch data and with the assumption that discarding is negligible. The stock assessment concluded that the current biomass of the stock is substantially larger than the limit reference point. Therefore the byproduct continues to meet 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 Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) demersal trawls, gillnets and longline fishery in ICES Division 5a (Iceland grounds). The species is classified as VU in the IUCN red list. Cod is managed relative to biomass-based reference points in the Iceland grounds and therefore assessed under category C.</p> <p>Cod in ICES Division 5a was last assessed by ICES in 2022. That assessment indicates that the spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim (above target and limit reference points). Therefore, the stock passes category C.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the Cod demersal trawl, gillnet and longline fishery in ICES Division 5a 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

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
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Iceland Grounds	Yes	C	Vulnerable ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/8784/12931575>

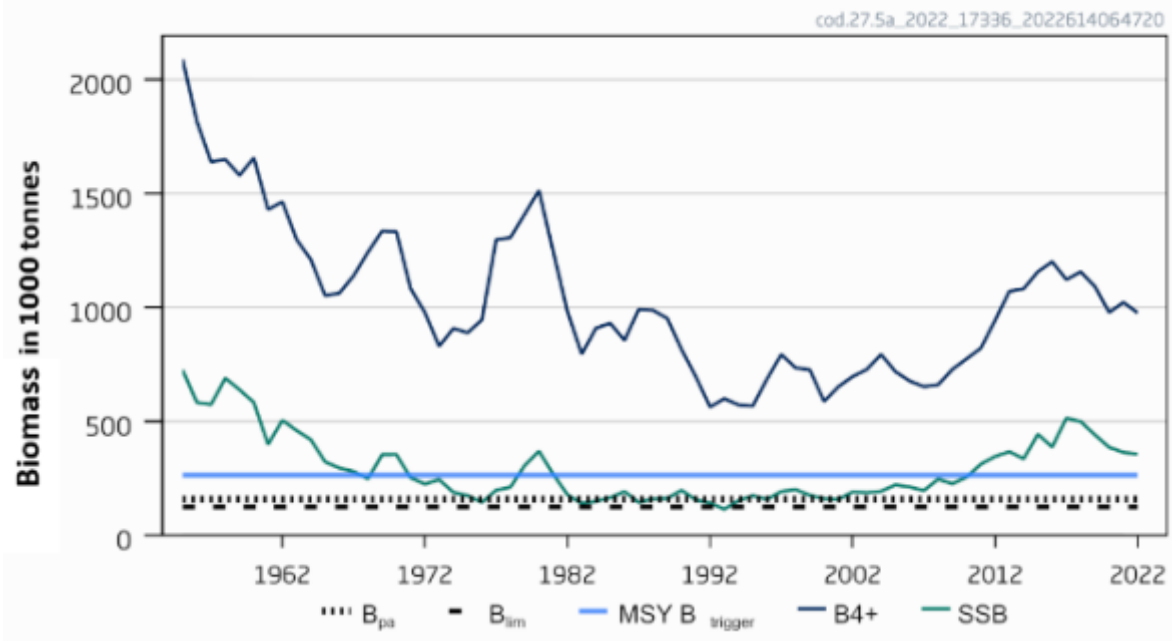
CATEGORY C SPECIES

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		Cod	
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>Cod in ICES Division 5a is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Northwestern Working Group (NWWG). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2022 using a separable catch at age model using catches in the assessments and forecasts. Discarding in the fishery is considered negligible. The stock assessment methodology was most recently benchmarked in 2021.</p> <p>All removals are considered in the stock 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 catch advice provides an indication of the stock status relative to established reference points. The target reference points MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and MGT $B_{trigger}$ have been set at 265,000t, 160,000t, and 220,000t respectively. The limit reference point B_{lim} has been set at 125,000t. The most recent catch advice, published in June 2022, indicated that SSB in 2023 was projected to be 370,488t, significantly greater than all three target reference points. The advice also stated that “spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}” (ICES 2022).</p> <p>The stock is considered in its most recent stock assessment to have a biomass above the limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.</p>			

Stock size



Cod in Division 5a, SSB and biomass aged 4+ relative to current reference points. Note that reference points are relative to SSB (ICES 2022)

References

ICES (2022). Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Division 5.a (Iceland grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, cod.27.5a, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19447886>

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
	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
	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			
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	