



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment *Thornback ray (Raja clavata) in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Thornback ray ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d
Date	2 May 2023	
Report Code	GBR19	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
Country: UK & 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	Re-approval
Assessment Period	Up to May 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Thornback ray ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )
Stock	Thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	Not provided by client/not available on MT tracker
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. Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Raja clavata</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>UK and EU have fisheries management plans for stocks in territorial waters and shared stocks, including the North Sea. However, neither management organization manages thornback ray in this region. Thus, this stock is not subject to a species-specific management regime. Therefore, this stock cannot be assessed under category C and, instead, will be assessed as category D.</p> <p>Table D1 (PSA) shows that the stock as an average productivity score of <b>1.85</b> and an average susceptibility score of <b>2.25</b>. The PSA risk rating results (Table D3) determined that the species FAILS Table D3. It was subsequently evaluated under Table D4. The impacts of the fishery on the species/stock are monitored and there is no evidence of negative impacts from the fishery on the species/stock. It passes clauses D4.1 and D4.2.</p> <p>Therefore, thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d under Category D.</p> <p>After failing table D3, they finally passed clauses D4.1 and D4.2.</p> <p>Therefore, thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Thornback ray	<i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback ray in ICES subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d	UK and EU	D	NT	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/39399/103110667>

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

## 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.

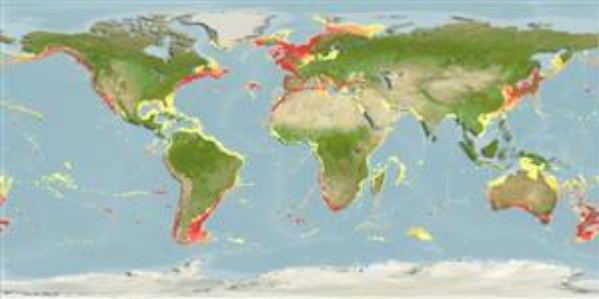
<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>		<b>Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>)</b>		
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>		<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>	
	Average age at maturity (years)		3.3 years	1	
	Average maximum age (years)		15.1 years	2	
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		140 eggs per year	2	
	Average maximum size (cm)		94.5 cm	1	
	Average size at maturity (cm)		49.6 cm	2	
	Reproductive strategy		Demersal egg layer	2	
	Mean trophic level		3.8	3	
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>			<b>1.85</b>	
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>		<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>	
	Availability (area overlap)		<10%	1	
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		See below	3	
	Selectivity of gear type		See below	3	
	Post-capture mortality		Retained	3	
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>			<b>2.25</b>	
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>			<b>FAIL</b>	
	<b>Compliance rating</b>			<b>FAIL</b>	
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b>				
	1. Availability: The submitted stock is in ICES 4, 3.a, and 7.d. This stock area is less than 10% of the species' geographical extent.				
					
2. Encounterability: Gear types were not provided. This attribute scored as '3' out of precaution.					
3. Selectivity of gear type: Gear types were not provided. This attribute scored as '3' out of precaution.					
4. Post-capture mortality: Retained species is scored as a 3.					
<b>References</b>					
Fishbase. 2023. Thornback ray, <i>Raja clavata</i> . <a href="https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Raja-clavata.html">https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Raja-clavata.html</a>					
Holden, M.J., 1975. The fecundity of <i>Raja clavata</i> in British waters. <i>ICES Journal of Marine Science</i> , 36(2), pp.110-118. <a href="https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article-pdf/36/2/110/2234515/36-2-110.pdf">https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article-pdf/36/2/110/2234515/36-2-110.pdf</a>					
<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		Thornback Ray ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	
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.			Yes	
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			Yes	
<b>Outcome:</b>					<b>PASS</b>
<b>Evidence</b>					
<p><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.</b></p> <p>In 1999, the European Council (EC) introduced a TAC for “skates and rays” in general (not species specific) and from 2008 onward, member states were required to provide species-specific landings data for the major species, including thornback ray. UK has a share of this overall quota for the North Sea; 4.5 tonnes of skates and rays may be taken in the north sea monthly (DEFRA 2023).</p> <p>Therefore, the impacts of the fishery are considered during the management process. These TAC limits are taken to minimize the impacts on the species. <b>It passes D4.1.</b></p> <p><b>D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.</b></p> <p>ICES WGEF reports that the status of the greater North Sea thornback ray stock is stable/increasing (ICES 2022). The distribution area and abundance have decreased over the past century, with the stock concentrated in the south-western North Sea where it is the main commercial skate species. Its distribution extends into the eastern Channel. Survey catch trends in divisions 4.c and 7.d have been increasing since 2009, but have been stable in recent years. The status of <i>R. clavata</i> in divisions 4.a-b is uncertain.</p> <p>Because the catch trends in the greater North Sea of thornback ray is stable or increasing and fishing effort has remained relatively constant over that same time indicates that the population has not been in decline. These trends combined with the IUCN’s global redlist assessment of the species describing the population as stable provides support that the fishery does not have a significant negative impact on the species/stock. Therefore, <b>it PASSES clause D4.2.</b></p>					
<b>References</b>					
DEFRA. 2023. Current catch limits 10 metres and under pool 2023. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool-2019">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool-2019</a>					

ICES (2022): Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF): Chapter 15 Demersal elasmobranchs in the North Sea, Skaerak, Kattegat, and eastern Channel. ICES Scientific Reports. Report. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.21089833.v1">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.21089833.v1</a>	
<b>Links</b>	
<b>MarinTrust Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.1
<b>GSSI</b>	D.5.01