



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides) FAO 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO area 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	UK, Ireland (flag state(s): UK, Ireland)
	Stock:	Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14
Date	8 August 2023	
Report Code	GBR24	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK, Ireland (flag state(s): 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	Ivan Mateo	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	Up to August 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)
Stock	Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14
Fishery Location	FAO area 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU CFP
Gear Type(s)	2022 estimates: Bottom trawl/shrimp trawl (81%), gillnet/longlines (19%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's assessment
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. Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>ICES is not aware of any agreed upon precautionary management plan for Greenland halibut in this area. ICES gives advice for this stock on an annual basis based on the MSY approach. The stock was benchmarked in 2023. A new model was adopted for the assessment (Gadget) using length and age information from the stock and the fishery. This was in contrast to the previous assessment method which was only based on biomass dynamics (stock production model). This has increased the quality of the assessment and improved the robustness of the advice by taking length- and age-specific dynamics into account.</p> <p>As the stock is subject to a management regime (despite no agreed upon plan) and reference points are defined, the 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, Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14 in category C, the stock is managed, and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point. Therefore, Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14 passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and therefore Greenland halibut in FAO subareas 27 ICES 5, 6, 12, and 14 is approved</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>N/A</p>

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
Greenland halibut	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut in FAO 27 ICES subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14	UK & EU CFP	C	NT	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		Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</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 2024 should be no more than 21, 541 tonnes.

This stock is assessed using an Analytical assessment (Gadget) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Input data for the model are as follows: commercial catches (international landings); length composition by gear; one combined survey biomass index (GRL-deep, 1998–2016, and the Icelandic bottom-trawl survey – Autumn (IS-SMH) since 1996); Age and length distributions from the Icelandic bottom-trawl survey. Discards are considered negligible.

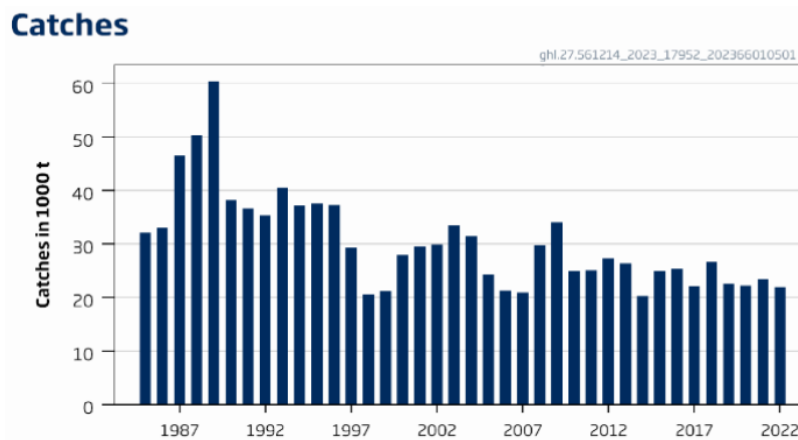


Figure 1. Long-term catches for Greenland halibut ICES subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 from 1985 to 2022.

Source: ICES 2023.

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 two sets of reference points that align with the MSY and precautionary approaches.

MSY approach		Precautionary approach	
MSY B _{trigger}	21,402 t	B _{lim}	15,657 t
F _{MSY}	0.24	B _{pa}	MSY B _{trigger}
		F _{lim}	0.5
		F _{pa}	0.38

Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and below F_{pa} and F_{lim}. Spawning-stock size is above MSY B_{trigger}, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}.

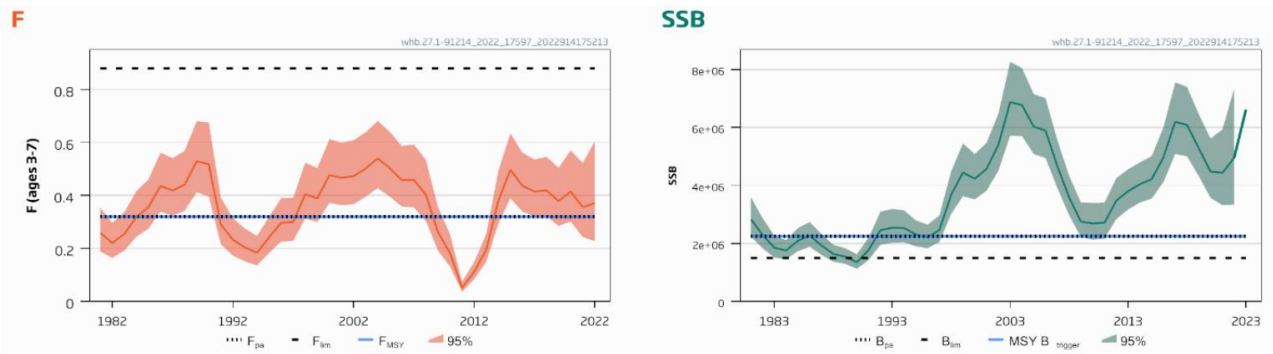


Figure 2. Greenland halibut in ICES subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 summary of the stock assessment. The left panel shows the historical fishing pressure from 1980 to 2022 and the right panel show historical biomass over the same time period. Source: ICES 2023.

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. 2023. Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, ghl.27.561214, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21828333>

Links

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