



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment, GBR26, *Megrim (Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis)*, United Kingdom and *Ireland*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	United Kingdom and Ireland
	Stock:	ICES 4.a, 6.a
Date	August 2023	
Report Code	GBR26	
Assessor	Blanca Gonzalez	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	United Kingdom and Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
Country: United Kingdom and Ireland			
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	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	August 2023-August 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )
Stock	ICES 4.a, 6.a. northern North Sea and West of Scotland
Fishery Location	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Finfish trawls, Nephrops trawls, other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	Approve

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) was assessed as a category C species considering that it is a Least Concern species by the IUCN, it is not included in any CITES Appendixes, and the EU has adopted the multiannual management plan (MAP) for this stock (ICES 2022).</p> <p>Megrim is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES working group for Celtic Seas Ecoregion. The last stock assessment was published in 2023 using commercial landing and discards data in the model and in the forecast; results indicate that spawning-stock size is above MSY <math>B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>B_{lim}</math>. (ICES 2023).</p> <p>The megrim by-product meets the Marin Trust requirements and it should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p> <p>ICES (2023). Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus</i> spp.) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840918.v1">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840918.v1</a></p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees with the decision to assess megrim in ICES Divisions 4a and 6a as a Category C species. The assessor has provided evidence that a reliable stock assessment is regularly conducted, and the most recent assessment concluded that stock biomass is above the limit and target reference point levels. PR agrees that the byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>There are no concerns that requires attention from the on-site assessor.</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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	ICES 4.a, 6.a. northern North Sea and West of Scotland	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198730/144939913>

## 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		Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</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.	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:

Since the 2019, The European Union adopted the multiannual management plan (MAP) for this stock, which is considered to be precautionary for The International Council for exploration of the Sea (ICES). The last stock assessment for megrim in Divisions 4.a and 6.a was published in 2023 and carried out by the ICES working group for Celtic Seas Ecoregion using a Bayesian state-space biomass dynamic model that uses catches (commercial landing and discards data) in the model and in the forecast; thus, removals of the species by commercial catches are included in the stock assessment process (ICES 2023) (Figure 1).

### Catches

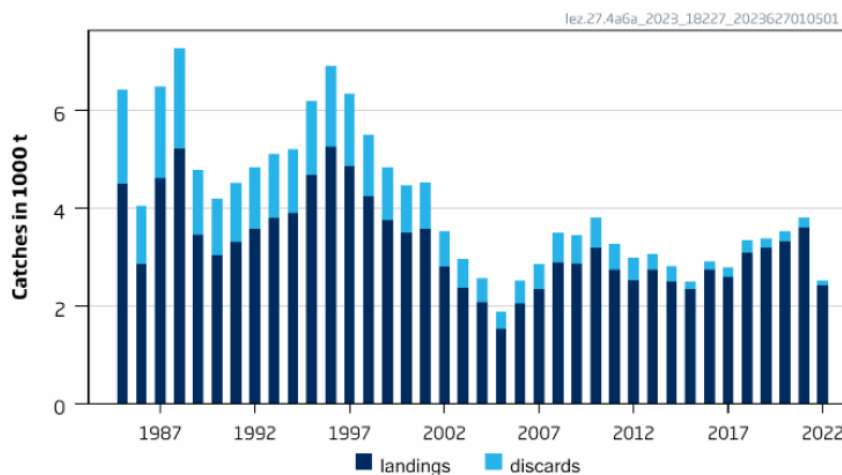


Figure 1. Megrim catches in Divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea and and West of Scotland (ICES 2023).

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 megrim stock assessment published in 2023 indicates that spawning-stock size is above MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ , and biomass is expected to continue above the limit reference point (ICES 2023) (Figure 2).

### B/Bmsy

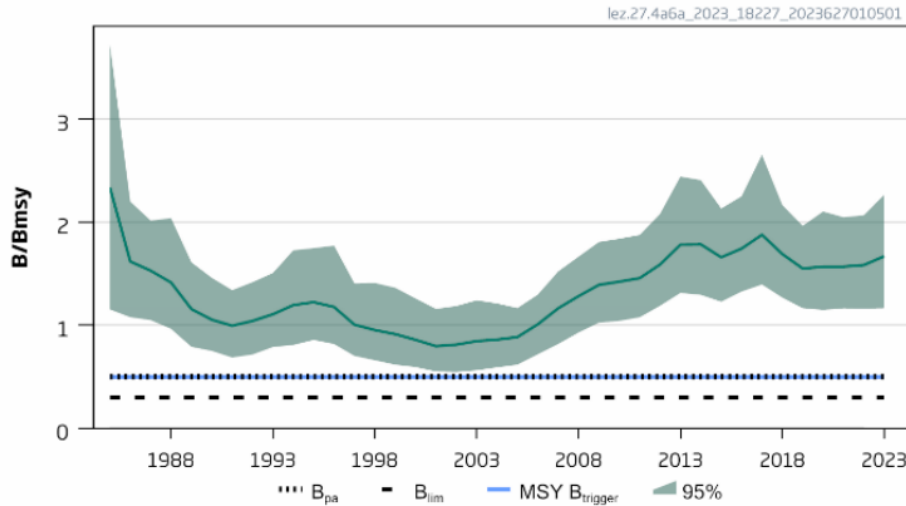


Figure 2. Spawning stock biomass for megrim in Divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea and West of Scotland) (ICES 2023).

#### References

ICES (2023). Megrim (*Lepidorhombus* spp.) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840918.v1>

#### 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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>		
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b>		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
<b>References</b>			
<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			
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</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.		
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
<b>Outcome:</b>			
<b>Evidence</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.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	