



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Megrim in ICES Divisions 4a and 6a

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)
	Geographical area:	Northern North Sea & West of Scotland
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Divisions 4a and 6a
Date	November 2022	
Report Code	GBR26	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NONE	

a

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country: UK & Ireland			
Email address: geraldine.fox@pelagia.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	November 2022 – November 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)
Stock	ICES Divisions 4a and 6a
Fishery Location	Northern North Sea & West of Scotland
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	All gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Megrim has been categorised by the ICUN Red List as a species of Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Megrim in ICES Divisions 4a and 6a is managed relative to established reference points using annual catch quotas, and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Megrim is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion. The most recent assessment was carried out in 2022 and incorporated commercial catch and discard data. The stock biomass is currently considered to be significantly larger than the target and limit reference points. For these reasons the byproduct passed the Category C assessment, and should be re-approved for use as a raw material by MT-certified facilities.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) fishery is pursued by UK and Irish vessels in FAO fishing area 27, ICES subareas 4a – 6a. Megrim is managed by the EU in EU waters under the Common Fisheries Policy and the UK Fisheries Act in UK waters. For this Marin Trust assessment, megrim stock is scored as a category C species.</p> <p>All species scoring tables have been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to Pass both stocks of the fishery 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
Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	ICES Divisions 4a and 6a	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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

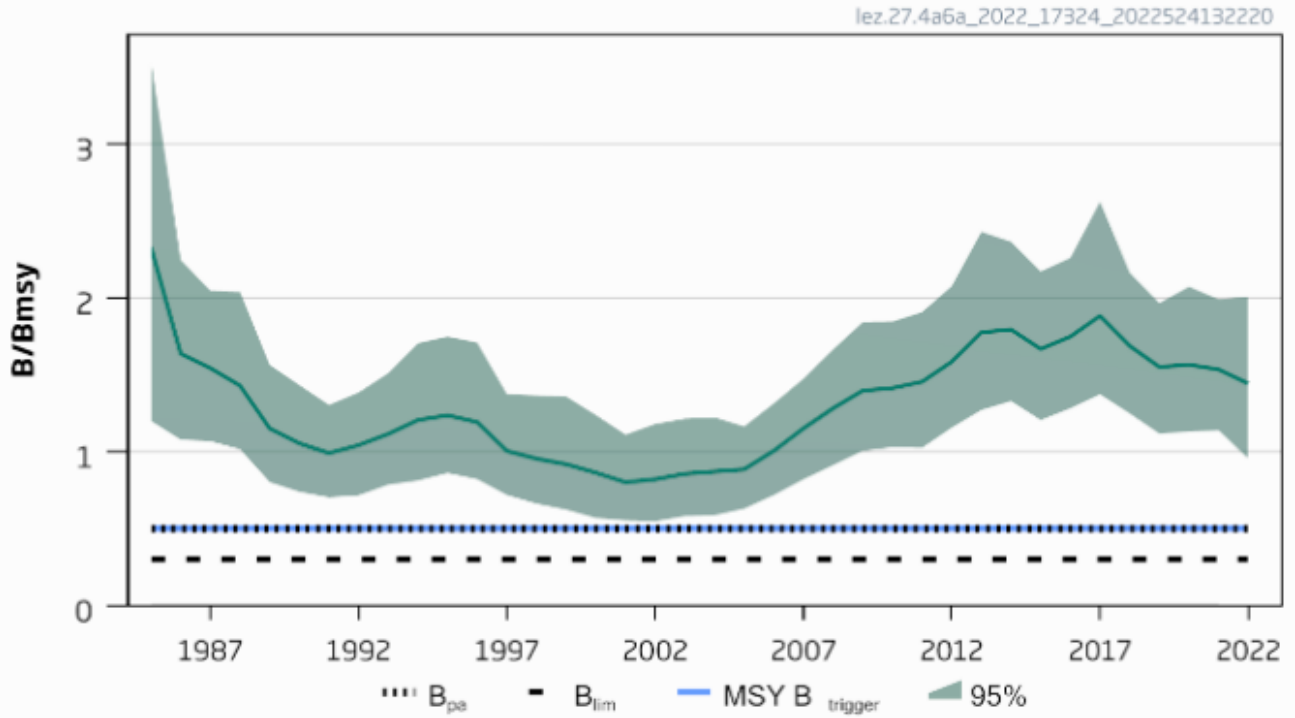
CATEGORY C SPECIES

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	
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>Megrim in ICES Divisions 4a and 6a is subject to an annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment, conducted in 2022, used a Bayesian state-space biomass dynamic model which incorporates catch data, commercial sampling of landings and discards, six survey indices and discards from bottom otter trawl fleets. There is no indication in the catch advice that the information used for the assessment is incomplete. 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 2022 ICES catch advice provides a summary of the stock assessment outcomes, including an indication of the stock status relative to reference points. The target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} are set at $0.5 B_{MSY}$. The limit reference point B_{lim} is set at $0.3 B_{MSY}$. The most recent stock assessment included a projection that biomass in 2023 would likely be 1.53 times larger than B_{MSY}. Additionally, the catch advice states that “spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}” (ICES 2022). The stock biomass is considered to be above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.</p>			

B/B_{msy}



Megrim in ICES Divisions 4a and 6a, biomass as a proportion of B_{MSY} relative to current reference points (ICES 2022).

References

ICES (2022). Megrim (*Lepidorhombus spp.*) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, lez.27.4a6a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19448042>

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	Score
	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	Score
	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			
<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			
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	