



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES subarea 4 and 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak)

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 north eastern Atlantic Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	UK and Ireland
	Stock:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)
Date	10 November 2023	
Report Code	GBR28	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Pass (UK and Ireland)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK: Aberdeen, Grimsby, Lunar FPR Ltd			
Country: UK and Ireland			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Certification Trust/NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	November 2023 – November 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
Stock	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 north eastern Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (CFP) / UK & Ireland management authorities
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, Otter trawl, other.
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An European Union - EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock. There is no agreement with Norway and UK regarding this plan, and it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the European Commission - EC and UK to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include FMSY ranges in the catch scenarios. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.</p> <p>The stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined, therefore it was assessed under Category C. 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, plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in FAO area 27 subarea 4 (North Sea) and subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in FAO area 27 subarea 4 (North Sea) and subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in FAO area 27 subarea 4 (North Sea) and subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3</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
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)	European Union (CFP) / UK & Ireland management authorities	C	LC	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		Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</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
<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>The last assessment was published in June 2023 and according to ICES (2023): “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 155 015 tonnes. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.”</p> <p>The assessment is an age-based analytical assessment (SAM) that uses catches and surveys in the model and in the forecast. The input data consisted in:” commercial catch, ages, and length frequencies from port and observer and self-sampling. Five survey indices: combined BTS and IBTS Q3 (1996–2022, [B2453],[G2829]), BTS-Isis (1985–1995, [B2453]), SNS (split into two series, SNS1 1970–1999 and SNS2 2000–2022, [B3499]), and IBTS Q1 (2007–2022, [G1022]). Both the BTS and IBTS Q3 and the IBTS Q1 survey indices are updated yearly using a delta GAM model (Berg et al., 2014). Natural mortality is age dependent and time invariant, and it was estimated using Peterson and Wroblewski’s method during benchmark. Maturity-at-age is assumed constant over time. In 2022, 56% of the total discards in Subarea 4 were obtained from sampling programmes. For Subdivision 20, 62% of the total discards were obtained from sampling programmes. BMS landings, where reported, are included with discards in the assessment from 2016 onwards. Catch information, landings since 1984, and discards since 2002 for plaice from Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) are now added to plaice for Subarea 4 (North Sea). Plaice migrate into Division 7.d during the first quarter; therefore, 50% of the mature catches in Division 7.d were assigned to the North Sea plaice stock during the stock assessment. This stock was last benchmarked in 2022.” (ICES, 2023).</p> <p>The catches are represented in Figure 1.</p>			

Catches

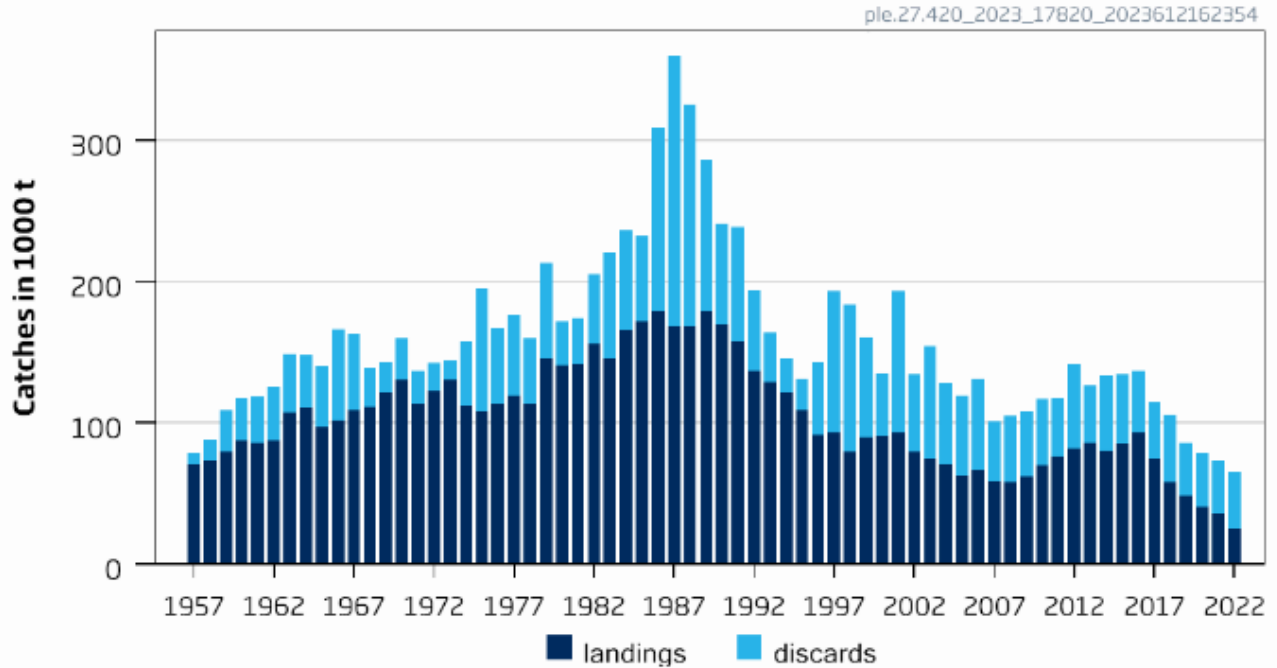


Figure 1. Catches of plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20.

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 is met.

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.

According to ICES (2023): “Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY B trigger, Bpa, and Blim” (Figure 2).

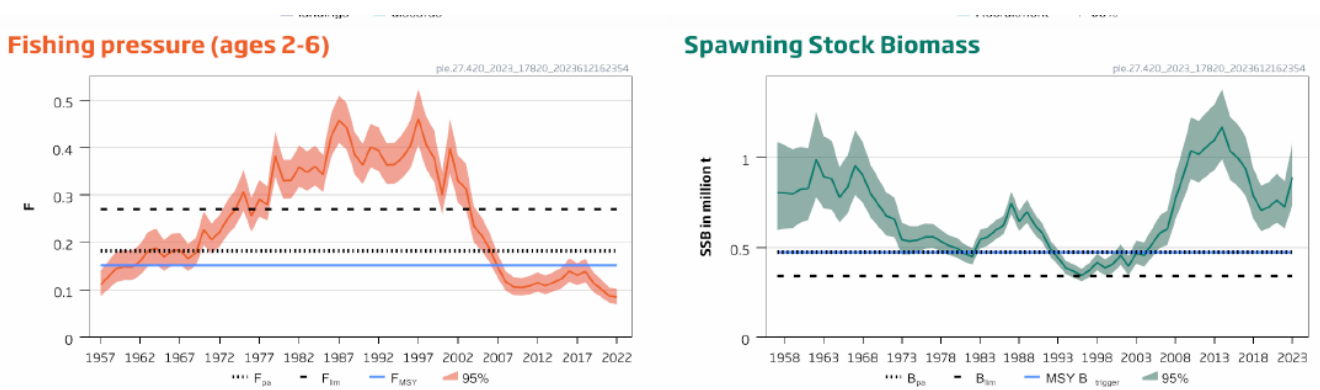


Figure 2. Summary of the stock assessment.

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point. C.1.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2023. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, ple.27.420. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840975>

Links

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