



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) in ICES subdivision 7.d (eastern English Channel)*

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:	U.K. and Ireland (Flag states not provided by client)
	Stock:	Plaice in FAO area 27 Subdivision 7d (eastern English Channel)
Date	18 Nov 2022	
Report Code	GBR29	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	U.K. and Ireland (Flag state(s) not provided by client)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

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:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	Up to November 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
Stock	Plaice in FAO area 27 Subarea 7.d
Fishery Location	FAO 27 northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU Common Fisheries Policy
Gear Type(s)	2021 estimates: Beam trawl (39%), Otter trawl (39%), Trammel nets (10%), others (<1%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessors' recommendation of approval
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. Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is not assessed on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>A multiannual management plan (MAP) which has been adopted by the EU for this stock and which ICES considers to be precautionary. There is no agreed shared management plant with the UK for this stock, and ICEA provides advice according to ICES MSY approach. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock. The stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined, therefore it was 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, plaice in ICES subdivision 7.d (eastern English Channel) is APPROVED 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 plaice in ICES subdivision 7.d under Category C, as 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 and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above the limit reference point, so the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, plaice in ICES subdivision 7.d should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which flag state(s) the plaice is being sources from.</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>	ICES Subdivision 7.d (eastern English Channel)	EU Common Fisheries Policy	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**

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.

The 2022 assessment is an age-based analytical assessment (Aarts and Poos, 2009) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Long-term catches are presented in Figure 1 below. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 4738 tonnes.

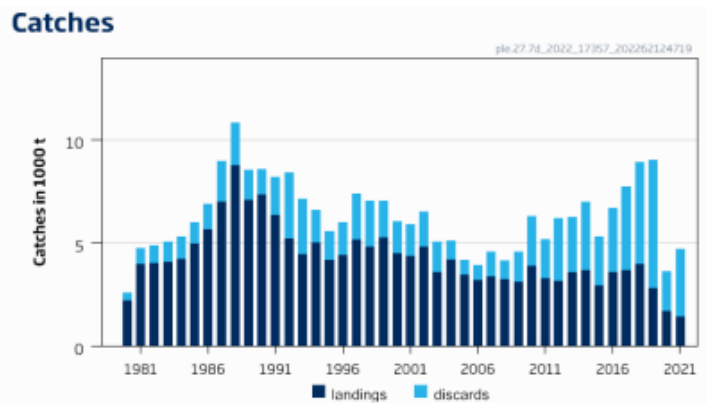


Figure 1. Long-term catches and discards for plaice in Subdivision 7.d (eastern English Channel). Source: ICES 2022

Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process. 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.

There is uncertainty about catches of the Division 7.d plaice stock because of migrations between 7.d and the North Sea and the western English Channel during the spawning period. The current assessment results are dependent on the proportion of quarter 1 removals estimated from an historical tagging survey. A new FR CGFS index is used in 2022 assessment to fix the reported issues in 2021 assessment (ICES, 2021). The update of reference points, based on the latest selectivity and biological patterns, resulted in a substantial decrease of F_{MSY} due to decreasing trends in the stock weight at age in the recent years.

According to the last ICES assessment, fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} but below F_{pa} and F_{lim} and the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is above MSY B_{trigger}, B_{pa}, and B_{lim} (Figure 2).

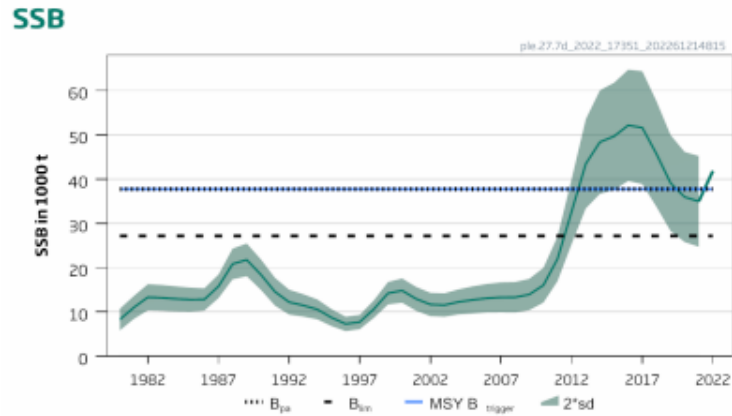


Figure 2. Long-term spawning stock biomass (SSB) trends in Subdivision 7.d (eastern English Channel) with 95% confidence intervals. Source: ICES 2022.

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point. The stock passes Clause C1.2.

References

ICES. 2022. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Division 7.d (eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, ple.27.7d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453628>.

Links

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