MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR40 – Lesser-spotted Dogfish in FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Lesser-spotted dogfish, *Scyliorhinus canicula*
	Geographical area:	FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	1: Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d 2: Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a-c and 7e-j
Date		February 2024
Report Code		GBR40
Assessor		Sam Peacock
Country of origin of the product - PASS		UK
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		n/a

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Lunar FPR Ltd			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Sam Dignan	0.2	Initial
Assessment Period		February 2024 – February 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Lesser-spotted dogfish, *Scyliorhinus canicula*
Stock	1: Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d 2: Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a-c and 7e-j
Fishery Location	ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, UK, Norway
Gear Type(s)	All gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation to approve
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Lesser-spotted dogfish, also known as small spotted catshark, has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as a species of Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. The area over which the fishery takes place encompasses two stocks: lesser-spotted dogfish in Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d; and in Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a-c and 7e-j. In both cases, there are no absolute reference points established, and no TAC is set. A stock size indicator is available for both stocks, providing an indication of relative stock health and a basis for ICES catch advice. Overall, the assessor determined Category D to be the appropriate assessment to apply.

Lesser-spotted dogfish was awarded a Productivity score of 2.28 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, leading to further consideration under Table D4. Lesser-spotted dogfish is rarely targeted as it has limited economic value. Despite the absence of a TAC or minimum landing size, landings from both stocks are consistently within the level recommended by ICES. No absolute reference points have been established, but a biomass index proxy indicator is above the $I_{trigger}$ relative reference point for both stocks. The byproduct meets the requirements of Table D4 and should be approved for use as a raw material. |

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The target stocks are both above their biomass index.

Based on the information presented, the recommendation to approve this byproduct is appropriate. |

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 an 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]
Lesser-spotted dogfish	*Scyliorhinus canicula*	1: Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d 2: Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a-c and 7e-j	No	D	Least Concern[3]	No

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161307554/201955962
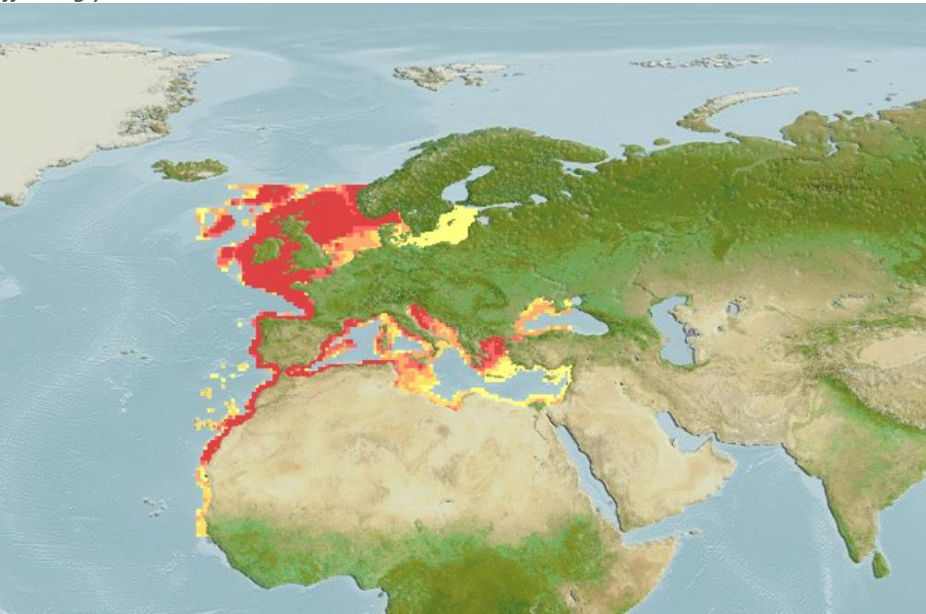
CATEGORY C SPECIES

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	n/a	
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.	
	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 outcome:	

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.

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.

References

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**	**Lesser-spotted Dogfish**	
Productivity Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Average age at maturity (years)		5.2 years	2
Average maximum age (years)		23.9 years	2
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		66	3
Average maximum size (cm)		100cm	2
Average size at maturity (cm)		46.3cm	2
Reproductive strategy		Open water / substratum egg scatterers	2
Mean trophic level		3.8	3
		Average Productivity Score	**2.28**
Susceptibility Attribute		**Value**	**Score**
Availability (area overlap)		<10% overlap	1
Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		Unknown, assumed targeted	3
Selectivity of gear type		Retained	3
Post-capture mortality		Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**2.5**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**TABLE D4**
		Compliance rating	**PASS**

Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)
For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision

Lesser-spotted dogfish, computer-generated distribution. From fishbase,
https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Scyliorhinus-canicula.html

References
Fishbase, Lesser-spotted dogfish. https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Scyliorhinus-canicula.html
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

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

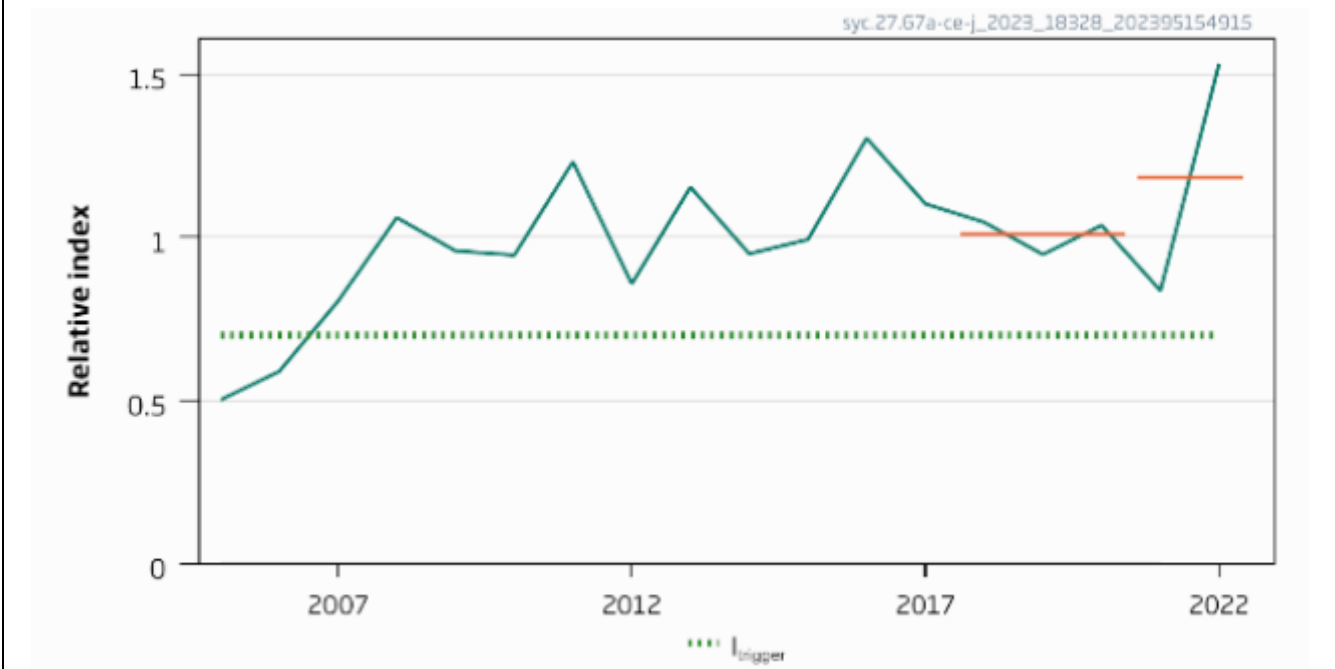| Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)		Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)		High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)	
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap		10-30% overlap		>30% overlap	
Encounterability 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		Lesser-spotted dogfish	
	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.		PASS
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		PASS
			Outcome:	PASS

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.

Landings of lesser-spotted dogfish from both stocks are recorded and reported by ICES. Catches and discarding are not quantified, although survival rates after discarding from some gears are thought to be high (possibly >90% from beam trawls, ICES 2023a). ICES notes that "management measures to account for conservation aspects may exist at a national or regional level" (ICES 2023a). There is currently no minimum landing size in place for UK fishers, although it is possible that additional management measures will be put in place as a result of the Fisheries Act (MSC 2024). Neither stock is currently thought to be depleted (see D4.2). There is limited economic incentive to catch the species, and landings from both stocks are consistently below the ICES advice even without a TAC in place (ICES 2023a, 2023b). Overall, although there is a lack of species-specific management for these stocks, this does not currently appear to be placing them at risk of over-exploitation and D4.1 is met.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

The ICES Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF) conducts regular assessments of both stocks. No reference points are defined for either stock in terms of absolute values; however, the value of the biomass index value relative to the lowest observed historical biomass index value is used as a proxy indicator for stock health. The most recent catch advice for both stocks states that "the stock-size indicator is above $I_{trigger}$" (ICES 2023a, 2023b). There is therefore evidence that both stocks are in relatively good health, and D4.2 is met.

Stock Size Indicator relative to current I$_{trigger}$ reference point, lesser-spotted dogfish in Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d (ICES 2023a)

Stock Size Indicator relative to current I$_{trigger}$ reference point, lesser-spotted dogfish in Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a-c and 7e-j (ICES 2023b)

References

ICES (2023a). Lesser spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, syc.27.3a47d, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21858426

ICES (2023b). Lesser spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a-c and 7.e-j (West of Scotland, Irish Sea, southern Celtic Seas). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, syc.27.67a-ce-j, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21907773

Marine Conservation Society (2021). Lesser-spotted dogfish.   https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/ratings/wild-capture/840/

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01