



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR43 – Tusk in FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Tusk, <i>Brosme brosme</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 4 and 7-9, and Divisions 3a, 5b, 6a and 12b
Date	February 2024	
Report Code	GBR43	
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	Tusk, <i>Brosme brosme</i>
Stock	ICES Subareas 4 and 7-9, and Divisions 3a, 5b, 6a and 12b
Fishery Location	ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, UK, Norway
Gear Type(s)	Longline, trawl, gillnet and others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation to approve
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Tusk has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Tusk in the Northeast Atlantic is not managed relative to absolute reference points; however, relative reference points have been established and several annual TACs are set. Therefore the stock can be considered to be under species-specific management and was assessed using Category C.</p> <p>Tusk is subjected to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2023 and incorporated all international catch data and discard estimates. The assessment concluded that the current CPUE is significantly greater than the $I_{trigger}$ proxy target reference point level. The byproduct meets the MT requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>Based on the information presented, the recommendation to approve this byproduct is appropriate.</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
Tusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	ICES Subareas 4 and 7-9, and Divisions 3a, 5b, 6a and 12b	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

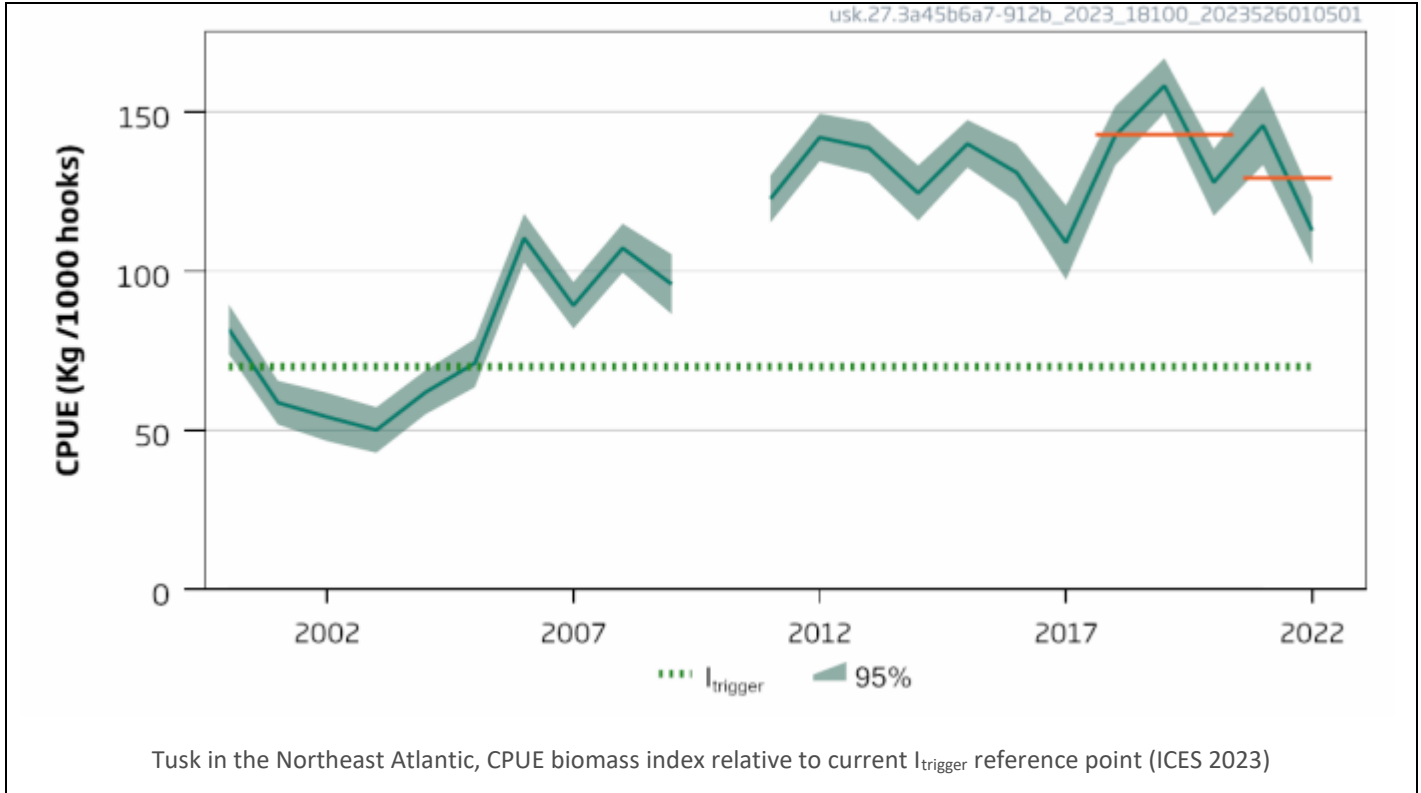
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18125264/45129766>

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		Tusk	
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>Tusk in the Northeast Atlantic is subjected to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023, and was a CPUE trends-based assessment taking into account total international catches, standardised CPUE data from the Norwegian longline reference fleet, and estimated discards. The 2023 catch advice notes that the CPUE series is considered robust and does not raise any issues with the reliability of the assessment or its outcomes. 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>There are no absolute reference points set for tusk in the Northeast Atlantic; however, CPUE data is used to produce a biomass proxy time series, measured relative to the target reference proxy $I_{trigger}$. $I_{trigger}$ is defined as 1.4 times larger than the lowest observed CPUE from the time series, at 70.11kg per 1,000 hooks. The 2023 stock assessment concluded that in 2022 the CPUE index value was 113kg per 1,000 hooks, and the catch advice states that “the stock size index is above $I_{trigger}$” (ICES 2023). C1.2 is met.</p>			



References

ICES (2023). Tusk (*Brosme brosme*) in subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21828462>

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	n/a	
	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		
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		n/a	
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	