



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Herring (Clupea harengus) in FAO 27, ICES 3d.25-29, 32, excl. Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES 3.d. 25-29, 32, excluding Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)
	Country of origin of the product:	Latvia
	Stock:	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in ICES 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)
Date	08 November 2023	
Report Code	LVA01	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Latvia	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Organization of Fishery Producers of Kurzeme			
Country: Latvia			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification/NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	November 2023 – November 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in ICES 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)
Fishery Location	FAO 27, ICES 3.d. 25-29, 32, excluding Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Commission (EC), Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia
Gear Type(s)	Mainly pelagic trawls. Minor part taken by trapnets, gillnets, and purse-seines.
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor’s determination
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 Marin Trust raw material. Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, herring is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>According to ICES (2023a), this stock is shared between the European Union (EU) and Russian Federation. An EU annual management is in place for stocks in the Baltic Sea, which includes herring, while Russian Federation does not have a management plan for this stock. As there is a management plan and defined reference points for the stock, it has been assessed first under Category C. Fisheries removals are considered in the stock assessment, thus it PASSES clause C1.1.</p> <p>The biomass is below Blim reference point, and removals from Poland and Denmark are not negligible. However, after extensive consideration, it was concluded that the specific circumstances which had led to the current situation in this fishery were extenuating; namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fall below the LRP was caused by a change in the LRP, not a drop in biomass; 2. The recommended TAC for 2024 is 41-45% lower than the 2023 TAC; 3. The recommended TAC for 2024 is expected to lead to SSB rising above the new LRP in 2025, with a probability of 69-71%; 4. The recommended TAC follows the Multi-Annual Plan for this stock, which has been assessed and found by ICES to be precautionary. <p>As a result, and based on review of the MarinTrust assessment guidelines, the herring stock continues to meet the MT requirements and the species PASSES clause 1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in FAO 27, ICES 3.d. 25-29, 32, excluding Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea) 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

The assessor correctly classified herring (*Clupea harengus*) in FAO 27, ICES 3.d. 25-29, 32, excluding Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea) as Category D, because it failed clause C1.2.

With a Productivity score of 1.71 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, the species passes the PSA risk-rating (Table D3).

In conclusion, herring (*Clupea harengus*) in FAO 27, ICES 3.d. 25-29, 32, excluding Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea) should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.

Notes for On-site Auditor

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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
Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in ICES 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)	European Commission (EC), Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia	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		Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</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>According to ICES (2023a): “ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea is applied, catches in 2024 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 41 706 (corresponding to FMSY lower× SSB2024/MSY Btrigger) and 52 549* tonnes(corresponding to FMSY × SSB2024/MSY Btrigger). The current advice applies to all catches from the stock, including those taken in Subdivision 28.1”.</p> <p>The most recent stock advice uses an age-based analytical assessment SS (ICES, 2023b) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. An ensemble of three models is used where each model differs based on the assumed level of natural mortality. The input data used in the last stock assessment were the following: commercial catches (international landings, age distributions from catch sampling); one survey acoustic index (BIAS A1588); natural mortalities from multispecies model (SMS) until 2021, 2022 = 2021. Catches for Russian Federation since 2022 are taken from AtlantNIRO (2023a). Discarding is considered negligible.</p> <p>The catches are represented in Figure 1:</p>			

Catches

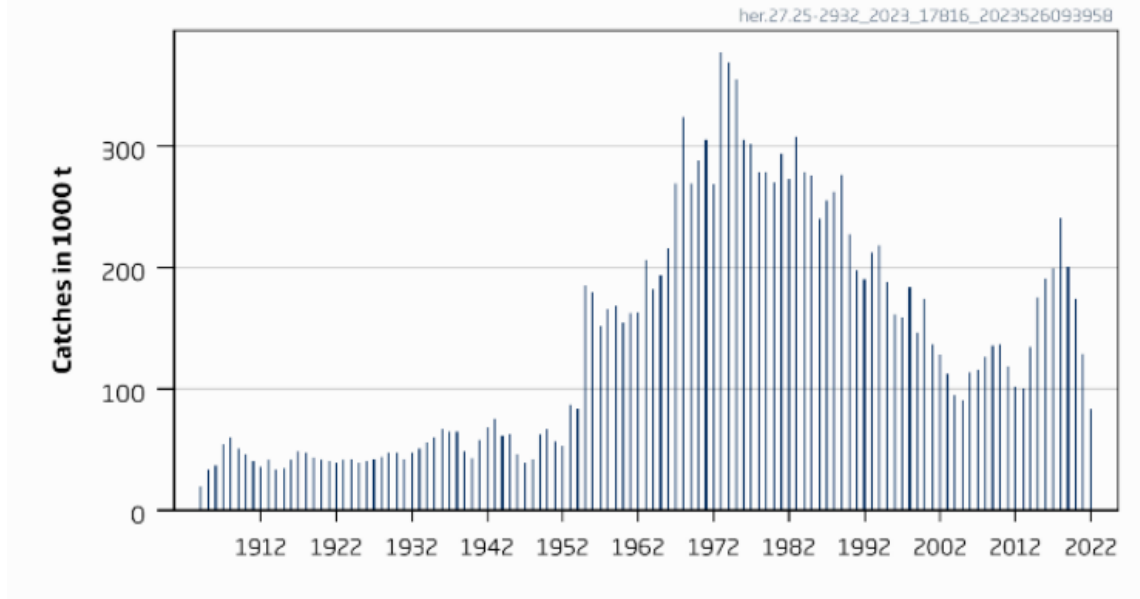


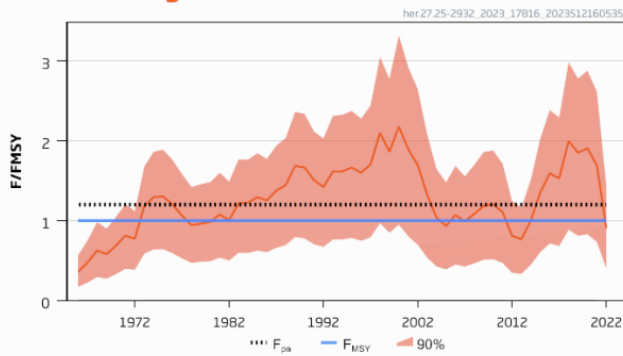
Figure 1. Catches of herring in subdivisions 25–29 AND 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (ICES, 2023a).

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 (2023a): “Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY and spawning-stock size is below MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. (...) Even a zero catch in 2024 will not bring the stock above Blim in 2025 with 95% probability” (Figure 2).

Relative Fishing Pressure



Relative Spawning Biomass

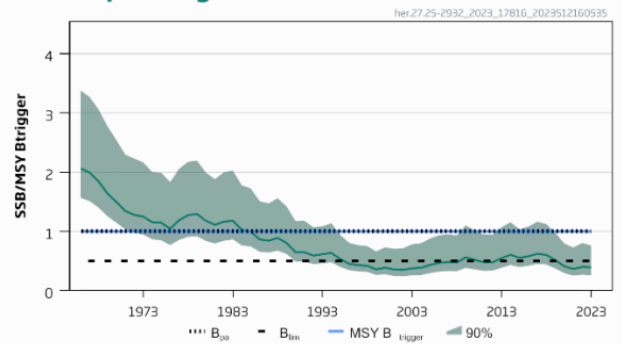


Figure 2. Herring in Subdivision 28.1. Left panel: Long-term fishing pressure (F) trends with target (F_{MSY} and F_{pa}) and limit reference points (F_{lim}). Right panel: Long-term spawning stock biomass (SSB) trends at spawning time is predicted for 2023 (ICES, 2023a).

However, despite the biomass being below the limit referent point, the ICES headline advice recommends a quota of up to 52,549t; if this advice is followed, the fishery will be open despite SSB being below the limit reference point.

The MarinTrust – MT guidance for this clause states, “Management measures should specify the actions to be taken in the event that the status of the stock under consideration drops below levels consistent with achieving management objectives that allow for the restoration of the stock to such levels within a reasonable timeframe”. With this in mind, the fishery assessment team considered the following additional evidence (ICES 2023):

1. SSB is below the limit reference point in 2023 due to a change in the limit reference point definition. There has been no sudden drop in stock size and fishing pressure was below FMSY in 2022.
2. The catch recommendation made by ICES is predicted to rebuild the stock to above the LRP by 2025 with a probability of 69-71%. It also represents a reduction of 41-45% relative to the previous year.
3. The catch recommendation made by ICES is based on the Multi-Annual Plan (MAP) for the fishery, which has been assessed by ICES and found to be precautionary. Additionally, the advice itself is considered precautionary by ICES.
4. The MAP would lead to the closure of the fishery under some circumstances; those being, if any level of fishing is projected to lead to SSB being below the LRP in the following year with a greater than 50% probability.

Taken together, the situation appears to meet the requirements set out in the MT guidance; namely, that a rebuilding plan is in place, which is expected to rebuild the stock within a reasonable timeframe. A revision to the stock LRP has meant that a biomass level which was considered healthy last year is now considered over-exploited. In response, the TAC recommendation has been cut by nearly half, to a level which is expected to lead to the stock size rising to above the LRP level by the following year.

The assessment team concludes that C.1.2 is met.

References

AtlantNIRO. 2023a. Preliminary results of the 2022 fishery in the Baltic Sea and its bays. Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Kaliningrad, Russia. <https://atlant.vniro.ru>

ICES. 2023a. Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in subdivisions 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea). Replacing advice provided in May 2023. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, her.27.25–2932. https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Herring_Clupea_harengus_in_subdivisions_25_29_and_32_excluding_the_Gulf_of_Riga_central_Baltic_Sea_Replacing_advice_provided_in_May_2023/23310368

ICES. 2023b. Benchmark Workshop on Baltic Pelagic stocks (WKBALPEL). ICES Scientific Reports. 5:47. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.23216492>

Links

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