MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment
DNK11 - Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 - northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark Flag country: Denmark
	Stock:	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20
Date	08th March 2024	
Report Code	DNK11	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark Flag country: Denmark	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen, Thyboron			
Country: Denmark	Flag country: Denmark		
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	Reapproval
Assessment Period		March 2024 – March 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)
Stock	Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20
Fishery Location	FAO 27 - northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy-CFP), Danish Directorate of Fisheries (*Fiskeristyrelsen*)
Gear Type(s)	Beam trawl, otter trawl and other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 (*Pleuronectes platessa*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material. An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) exists for this stock and takes bycatch of the species into account. As there is a management regime in place and reference points are defined, this stock is 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. Therefore, plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined. 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, because the stock has biomass above the limit and target reference point, it passes Category C. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) passes both clauses (C1.1 and 1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3.
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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]
Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	Plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak)	Yes	C	LC[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/135690/50018800

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 *(Pleuronectes platessa)*		
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

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.

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.

The assessment type is an age-based analytical assessment (SAM) that uses catches and surveys in the model and in the forecast. The input data includes commercial catch, ages, and length frequencies from port and observer and self-sampling. Five survey indices: combined BTS and IBTSQ3 (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. 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.
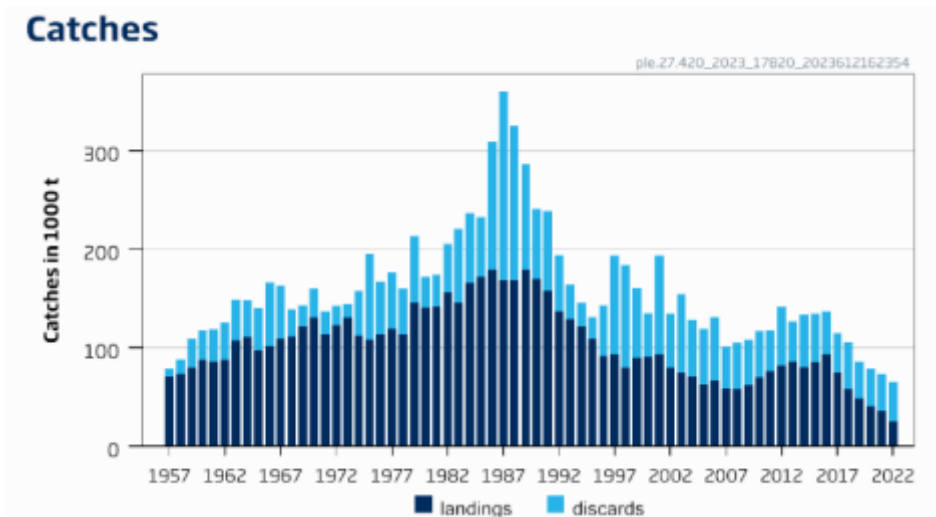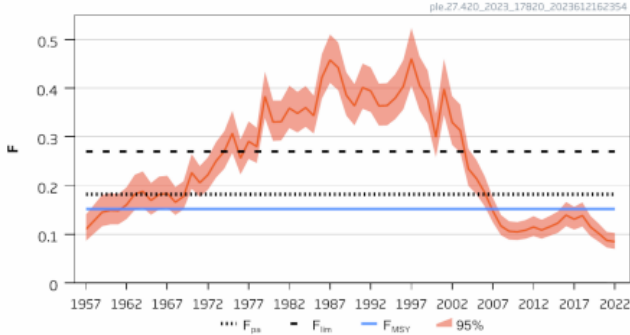

Figure 1. Long-term catch (including discards) trends for plaice in subarea 4 and subdivision 3.a.20 from 1957 to 2022 (ICES, 2023).

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.

ICES defines the reference points in accordance with the MSY (target) and precautionary (target/limit) approaches. MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} are set at 473,850 tonnes, B_{lim} is set at 341,003, F_{MSY} is set at 0.152, F_{pa} is 0.182, and F_{lim} is 0.270.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim.
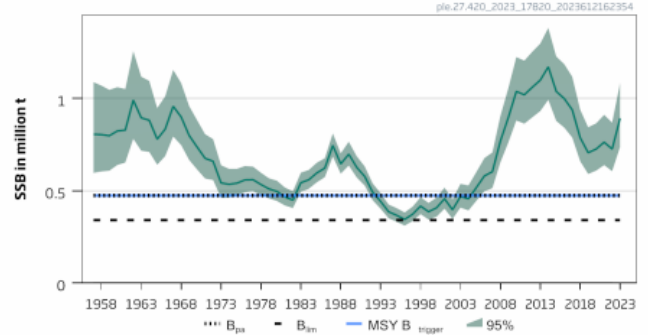

Figure 2. Plaice in subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea and Skaggerak) summary of the stock assessment.

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). 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. Published 30 June 2023. 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