



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), FAO 27, ICES 6.a (West of Scotland)

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 – Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark, UK, Ireland
	Stock:	ICES 6. a (West of Scotland)
Date	May 2024	
Report Code	DNK24	
Assessor	Blanca Gonzalez	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark, UK, Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen A/S, Thyborøn			
Country: Denmark			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Blanca Gonzalez	Sam Peacock	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	May 2024 – May 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
Stock	ICES 6. a (Western of Scotland)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 – Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU and UK
Gear Type(s)	Otter trawl, others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	PASS

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, do not appear in the CITES appendices, and there is no species-specific management in place or establish reference points for the West of Scotland (ICES Division 6.a) stock. Therefore, it was assessed under Category D.</p> <p>This is a stock that has not been assessed by ICES and there was no more information about this fishery available, so the assessment of plaice in division 7.b-c was taken as a reference, since in its last evaluation is stated that: “There are two distinct areas in which plaice are caught by Irish vessels in 7.b: an area around Galway Bay and an area in the north of 7.b, which extends into 6.a (the Stags and Broadhaven Ground). During 1995–2000 a large proportion of the 7.b-c plaice landings were taken from the Stags Grounds. The landings and LPUE in this area have dropped sharply since 2000, in line with a general decrease of LPUE in Division 6.a. Plaice in this area appear to be more linked with 6.a than populations further south.” (ICES 2023)</p> <p>In the Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) the plaice awarded an average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 2.5 passing against Table D3, indicating that the stock is not vulnerable to the fisheries in West of Ireland.</p> <p>The plaice byproduct meets the Marin Trust requirements and it should be re-approved for use as a raw material.</p> <p>ICES (2023). Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). ICES Scientific Reports. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.22268980.v1</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees that this species is eligible for assessment under the MarinTrust byproduct assessment methodology, and that the stock falls into Category D. The PSA has been carried out correctly, and the peer reviewer agrees with the conclusion that the stock meets the MT byproduct requirements.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>None</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 6. a (West of Scotland)	No	D	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/135690/50018800>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

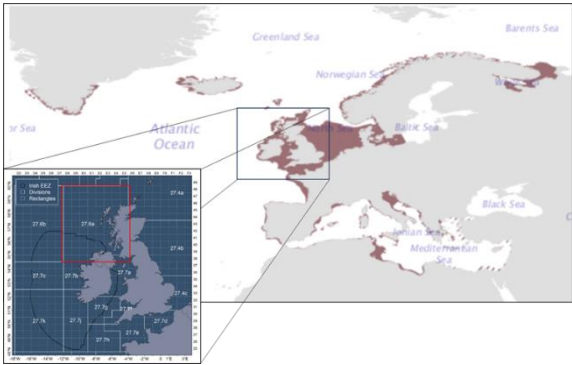
In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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		NA	
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:
<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>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>			
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	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)		
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score	
	Average age at maturity (years)	10.5 ¹	2	
	Average maximum age (years)	47.8 ¹	3	
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	158,114 ¹	1	
	Average maximum size (cm)	100 ¹	1	
	Average size at maturity (cm)	43.5 ¹	2	
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner ¹	1	
	Mean trophic level	3.2 ¹	2	
	Average Productivity Score			1.71
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score	
	Availability (area overlap)	<10% ^{2,3}	1	
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap ^{2,4}	3	
	Selectivity of gear type	Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught. ⁵	3	
	Post-capture mortality	Retained ⁵	3	
	Average Susceptibility Score			2.5
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)			PASS
	Compliance rating			PASS
	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>			
	<p>Availability: Plaice is commonly found around all coasts of Britain and Ireland. Their distribution ranges from the western Mediterranean, throughout the North Sea and into the White Sea (including coasts of Iceland)², and the ICES Division 6.a only overlaps with less than 10% of the species distribution³. (figure 1)</p>			
				
<p>Figure 1: Distribution of plaice², and location of ICES Division 6 a³.</p>				

	<p>Encounterability: Plaice are most commonly found from 0-200 m depth, but are mostly between 10-50m², and bottom otter trawls can be operated in a very wide range of depths, from a few meters to around 1500-2000 m⁴.</p> <p>Selectivity of gear type: Due to the minimum mesh size (80 mm) in the mixed beam and otter trawl fisheries, a large number of undersized plaice are discarded. The 80 mm mesh size is not matched to the minimum landing size of plaice (27 cm). This indicates that immature organisms are frequently caught by the fishery.⁵</p> <p>Post-capture mortality: There is no available information about the survival rate of the discarded plaice. As a precautionary approach, it was considered that majority of discarded plaice are dead when release.</p>
<p>References</p> <p>1 https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Pleuronectes-platessa.html</p> <p>2 https://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk/managing-sustainable-fisheries/plaice/</p> <p>3 Gerritsen, H. D., & Kelly E. (2019). Atlas of commercial fisheries around Ireland. Third edition. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337103736_Atlas_of_commercial_fisheries_around_Ireland_Third_Edition_2019</p> <p>4 https://www.fao.org/fishery/docs/CDrom/ARTFIMED/ArtFiWeb/descript/Gear/geartype/gt306.htm</p> <p>5 ICES (2023). Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). ICES Scientific Reports. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.22268980.v1</p>	
<p><i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i></p>	

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			
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	