



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

DNK32

Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*)

in ICES Subarea 4 and

Divisions 3a and 7d

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d
Date	September 2024	
Report Code	DNK32	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark	
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:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Matthew Jew	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	September 2024 – September 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)
Stock	ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Denmark / EU
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl, otter trawl, beam trawl, seine, gillnet
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Microstomus kitt</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea and adjacent waters applies to bycatches of this stock.</p> <p>The stock is subject to annual stock assessment conducted by ICES, which incorporates all commercial landings. Therefore C1.1 is met. The latest stock assessment concluded that SSB approximately at the target reference point level, and therefore above any possible limit reference point, meaning C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above $I_{trigger}$. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). It passes Category C.</p> <p>Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3</p>
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
Lemon sole	<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

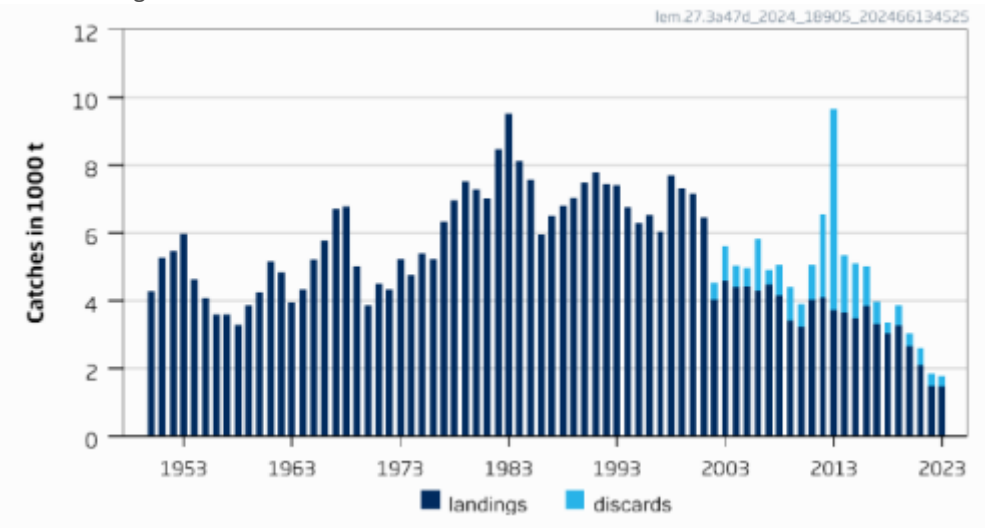
² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18227047/162705396>

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		Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</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.	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>This stock is subject to regular assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2024 using a stock size indicator based on survey-based assessments. The model incorporated all commercial catch and discard data, two survey indices, and fixed maturity estimates and annual stock weight-at-age data from three surveys (ICES 2024).</p> <p>The 2024 catch advice states that “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 1 450 tonnes” (ICES 2024).</p> <p>Catches are presented in the figure below:</p>  <p>Figure 1. Lemon sole in ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d: catches (ICES 2024)</p>			
<p>Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.</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>			

The annual ICES catch recommendation provides an indication of the status of the stock relative to established reference points. No limit reference points have been established for the stock; however it is primarily managed relative to the proxy target reference point $I_{trigger}$, defined as the lowest value of the stock-size indicator based on the survey-based assessment SSB. $I_{trigger}$ is currently set at 0.688; at the time of the most recent stock assessment the estimated relative SSB index was 0.692.

The 2024 catch advice states, “Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} proxy, and the stock-size indicator is above $I_{trigger}$ ” (ICES 2024).



Figure 2. Lemon sole in ICES Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d: estimated relative SSB and current biomass reference point $I_{trigger}$ (ICES 2024)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

References

ICES (2024). Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019321.v1>

Links

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