MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

FRA13

Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)

in ICES Subareas 6 & 7

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 6 & 7
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	FRA17	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Concarneau			
Country: France			
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	July 2024 – July 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)
Stock	ICES Subareas 6 & 7
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	All 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 IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, *Pollachius pollachius* is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material. An EU Multi-Annual Management Plan has been established for this stock, and ICES considers it to be precautionary. There is no shared management plan between the EU and UK. A stock assessment is conducted annually by ICES, most recently in 2024 incorporating all catch and discard data, meeting C1.1. The stock assessment concluded that stock biomass is currently considerably lower than the limit reference point, meaning C1.2 is not met. For this reason the stock was subsequently assessed under Category D. Pollack was awarded a Productivity score of 1.71 and a Susceptibility score of 3, leading to a Pass rating on Table D3. Therefore, pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 should remain **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime. Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim}. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass below the limit reference point (or proxy). It FAILS Category C. Under Category D, the assessor correctly assigned attribute scores under the PSA and correctly calculated the average scores for Productivity and Susceptibility, respectively. The stock passes per Table D3. Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 passes Category D 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]
Pollack	*Pollachius pollachius*	ICES Subareas 6 & 7	Yes	C (failed); subsequently assessed under D	Least Concern[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18125103/45098355

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		**Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)**	
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.	FAIL
		Clause outcome:	FAIL

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.

Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 and 7 is subjected to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2024, and applied a Surplus Production model in Continuous Time. The assessment also incorporated four survey indices. Discards are considered negligible.

The 2024 ICES catch advice states, "ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2025" (ICES 2024).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

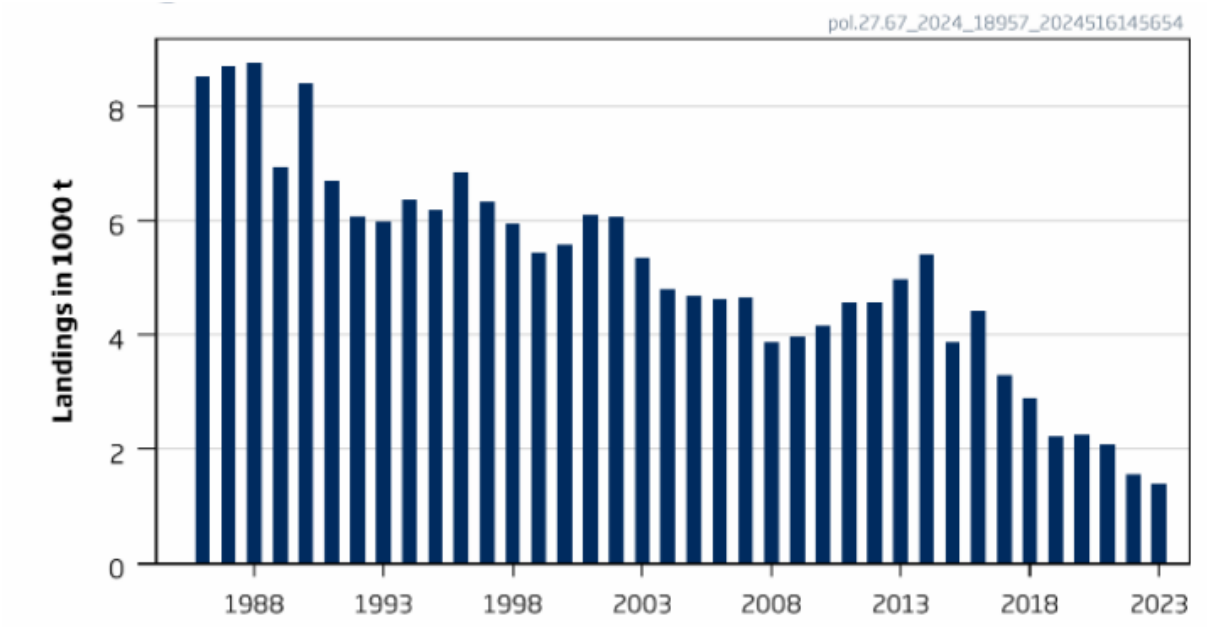


Figure 1. Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 & 7. Catches (ICES 2024)

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.

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.

The regular ICES catch advice includes an indication of the status of the stock relative to established reference points. The target reference point MSY $B_{trigger}$ is set at $B/B_{msy} = 0.5$. The limit reference point B_{lim} is set at $B/B_{msy} = 0.3$. The 2024 catch advice provided a projection of relative biomass for 2025, estimating that B/B_{msy} would be 0.089, substantially lower than the limit reference point level.

The ICES catch advice states, "Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and F_{lim}; stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim}." (ICES 2024).

See diagram below for estimated SSB over time.

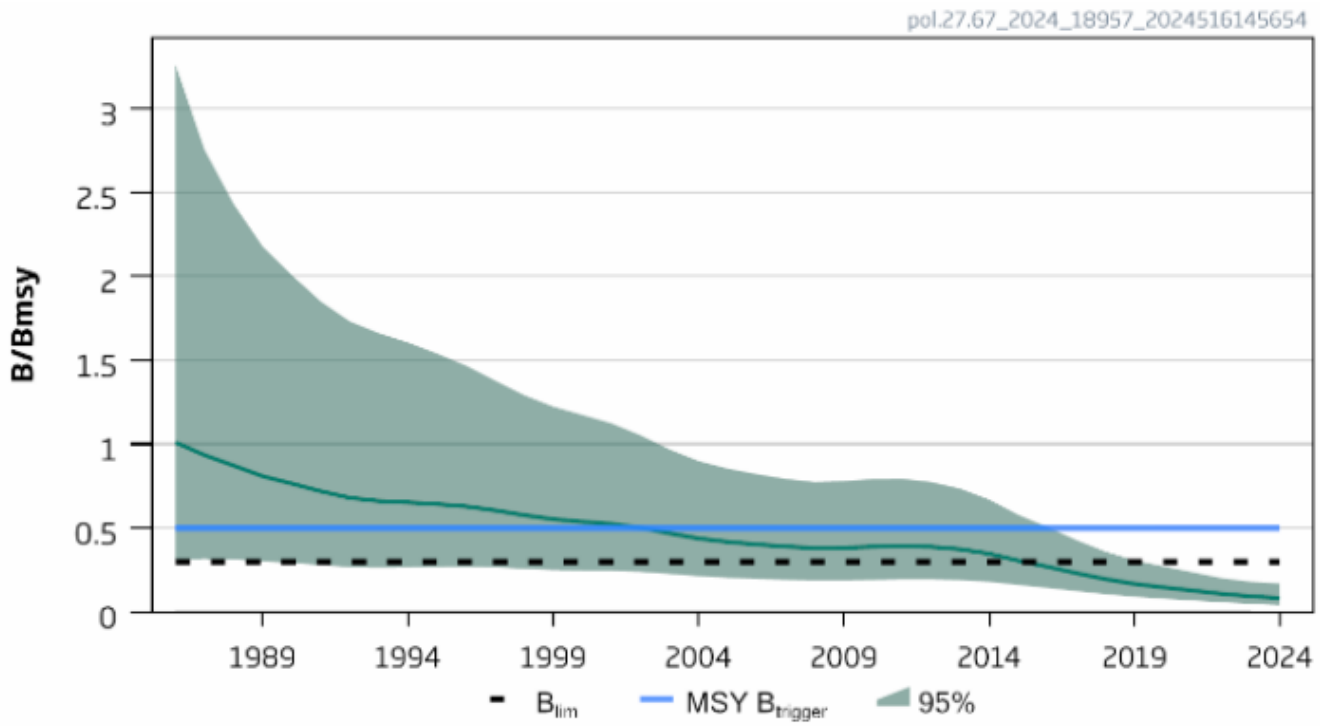


Figure 2. Pollack in ICES Subareas 6 & 7. Estimated ratio of B/B_{msy} relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass below the limit reference point (or proxy) and it FAILS clause C1.2. As per MT guidance, the stock will be assessed under Category D hereinafter.

References

ICES (2024). Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019477.v1

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

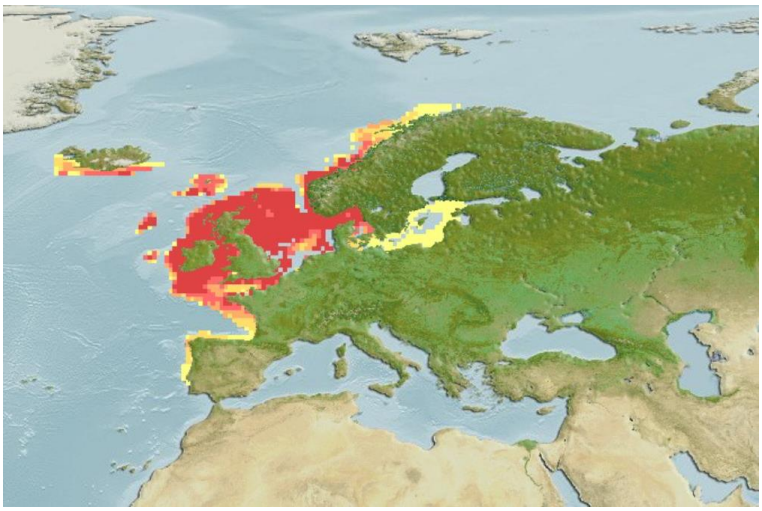
CATEGORY D SPECIES

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	Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	3.5 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	16 years	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>3 million	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	130cm	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	45.4cm	2
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
		Average Productivity Score	**1.71**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)	>30% overlap	2
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Targeted	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Targeted	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**3**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**PASS**
		Compliance rating	**PASS**

Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)

For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision



Pollack, native range. From Fishbase, https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Pollachius-pollachius

References:

Fishbase, pollack: https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/Pollachius-pollachius

Fecundity estimate taken from the Biological Traits Information Catalogue, BIOTIC.

http://www.marlin.ac.uk/biotic/browse.php?sp=6193

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