MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, FRA25- *Saithe (Pollachius virens) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)*

MarinTrust Programme
Unit C, Printworks
22 Amelia Street
London
SE17 3BZ
E: standards@marin-trust.com
T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	*Pollachius virens* - Saithe
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)
	Country of origin of the product:	France (Flag country: Iceland, UK, France, Norway)
	Stock:	ICES subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)
Date	22/08/2024	
Report Code	FRA25	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France (Flag country: Iceland, UK, France, Norway)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Copalis Industrie			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LQRA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Sam Peacock	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pollachius virens - Saithe
Stock	ICES subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)
Fishery Location	FAO 27, ICES subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	France
Gear Type(s)	Estimated by ICES in 2023: 16.9% gillnets; 20.9% other*, 18.2% purse-seine; 44.0% bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor
Recommendation	APPROVE

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. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, saithe (Pollachius virens) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) was assessed as a category C species considering that is under the Norwegian management plan. The HCR was last evaluated by ICES in 2011 (ICES, 2011), with FMP = 0.35. The evaluation concluded that the HCR is precautionary. The FMP was lowered to the current value of 0.32 by Norwegian authorities in 2013. The benchmark in 2024 concluded that the current HCR remains precautionary with the existing values of FMP=0.32 and MP Btrigger = 220,000t. The last assessment for Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) was published on June 28th, 2024. Results indicates that fishing pressure on the stock is below FMP, Fpa, and Flim, and spawning-stock size is above MP Btrigger and Blim. Therefore, Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) 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 peer reviewer agrees that this stock is eligible for MarinTrust approval, and that it should be assessed under Category C. The assessor has demonstrated, with references, that the stock is subject to a regular stock assessment which incorporates fishery removals, and that stock biomass is currently above the limit reference point level. For these reasons, the peer reviewer agrees that this byproduct should be re-approved for use as a raw material.
Notes for On-site Auditor

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]
Saithe	*Pollachius virens*	Saithe in subareas 1 and 2	Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs and EU Common Fisheries Policy	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	**Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)**	
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

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.

Commercial catches include international landings, ages, and length frequencies from Norwegian and German catch sampling. One survey index is derived from the Norwegian coastal survey Q4 (NOcoast-Aco/BTr-Q4 [A6335]), split into two periods: 1994–2001 and 2002–2023, and recalculated using StoX from 2004 onwards. Revised stock weights and maturity at age are used. Discarding is considered negligible, and bycatch is included.

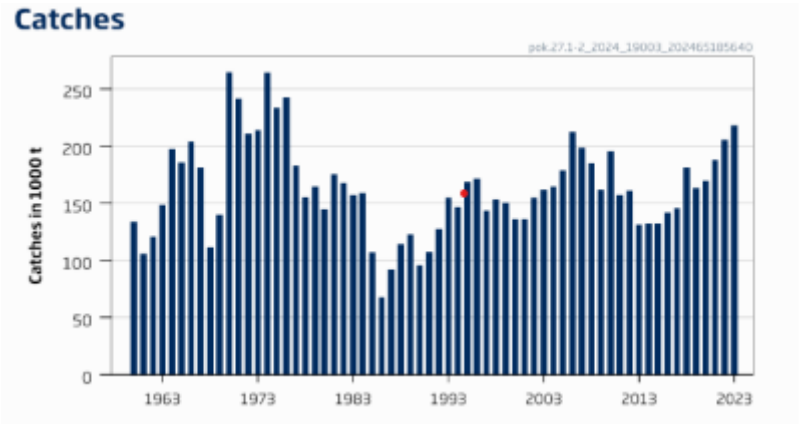

Figure 1. Saithe in subareas 1 and 2. Summary of the catches. Source: ICES 2024

ICES advises that when the Norwegian management plan is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 193,117 tonnes. Therefore removals are considered in the stock assessment and C1.1 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.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMP, Fpa, and Flim, and spawning-stock size is above MP Btrigger and Blim.

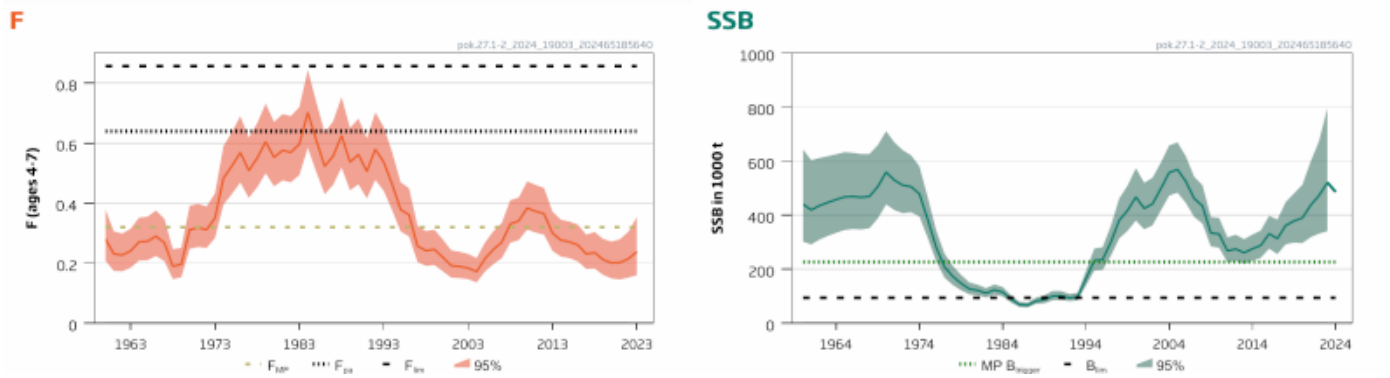

Figure 2. Saithe in subareas 1 and 2. Summary of the assessment. Assumed recruitment value for 2024 is shown in a lighter blue. SSB is at the start of the assessment year. Source: ICES 2024

The revision of SSB in 2024 is largely due to revised proportions of mature fish at age, estimated during the northeast Arctic (NEA) saithe benchmark (ICES, 2024). The model revisions have not resulted in significant changes in estimated population numbers, and therefore F only had a minor revision.

Therefore, C1.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2024. Saithe (Pollachius virens) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2024. ICES Advice 2024, pok.27.1-2, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019462

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**		
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
		Average Productivity Score	
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
		Average Susceptibility Score	
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
		Compliance rating	
	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*		
References			
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

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