



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

#### FRA36

#### *Sole (Solea solea)*

#### in ICES Subarea 4

**MarinTrust Programme**

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES Subarea 4
Date	November 2024	
Report Code	FRA36	
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	Re-approval
Assessment Period	November 2024 – November 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> )
Stock	ICES Subarea 4
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, Norway, UK
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

## 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. Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Solea solea</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU Multi-Annual Plan is in place for this stock; however there is no agreement with the UK regarding the MAP.</p> <p>The stock is subject to an annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak. The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024, using all available catch data and five survey indices, therefore C1.1 is met. SSB was estimated by the stock assessment to be above the target reference point level, and therefore C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 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 MSY <math>B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>B_{lim}</math>. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). It passes Category C.</p> <p>Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	ICES Subarea 4	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198739/87698320>

## 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		Sole ( <i>Solea solea</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

**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.**

Sole in ICES Subarea 4 is subjected to regular stock 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 an age-based analytical assessment which used catch data and two survey indices in the model and forecast. Discards and below minimum size landings were included in the assessment where available.

The catch advice states that “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 10 196 tonnes” (ICES 2024).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

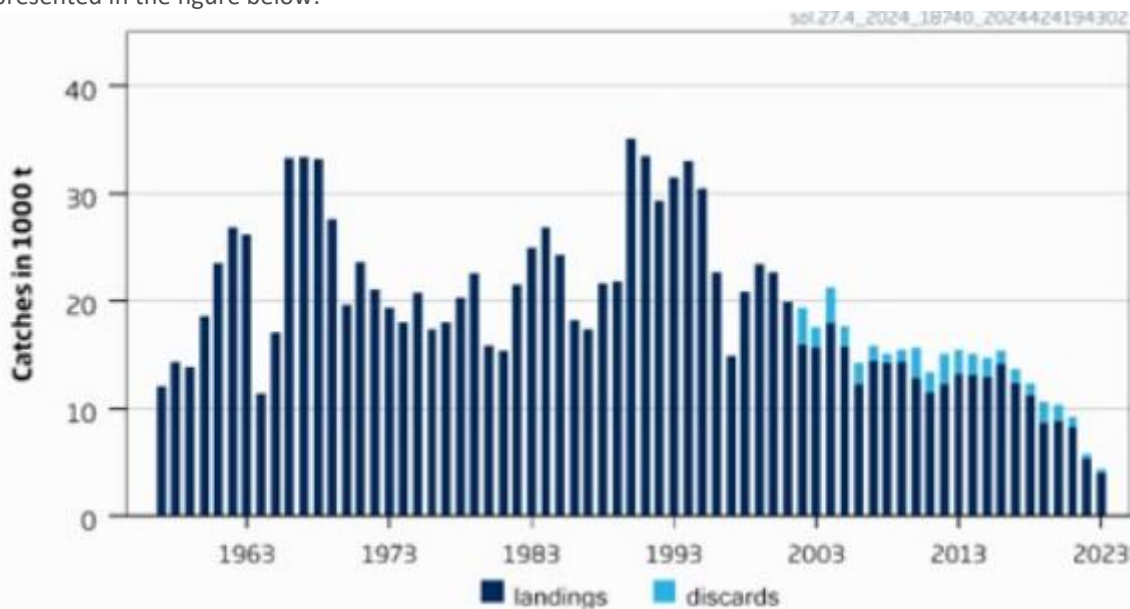


Figure 1. Sole in ICES Subarea 4: Catches (ICES 2024)

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 catch advice provides an indication of the current status of the stock relative to established reference points. The target reference points MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and MAP MSY  $B_{trigger}$  have been set at 52,532t. The limit reference points  $B_{lim}$  and MAP  $B_{lim}$  have been set at 37,804t. The catch advice includes a short-term forecast for SSB in 2025, projecting that it will be 61,320t.

The catch advice also states, “Fishing pressure on the stock is below  $F_{MSY}$ , and spawning-stock size is above MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ ” (ICES 2024). Estimated SSB relative to reference points is shown in Figure 2 below.

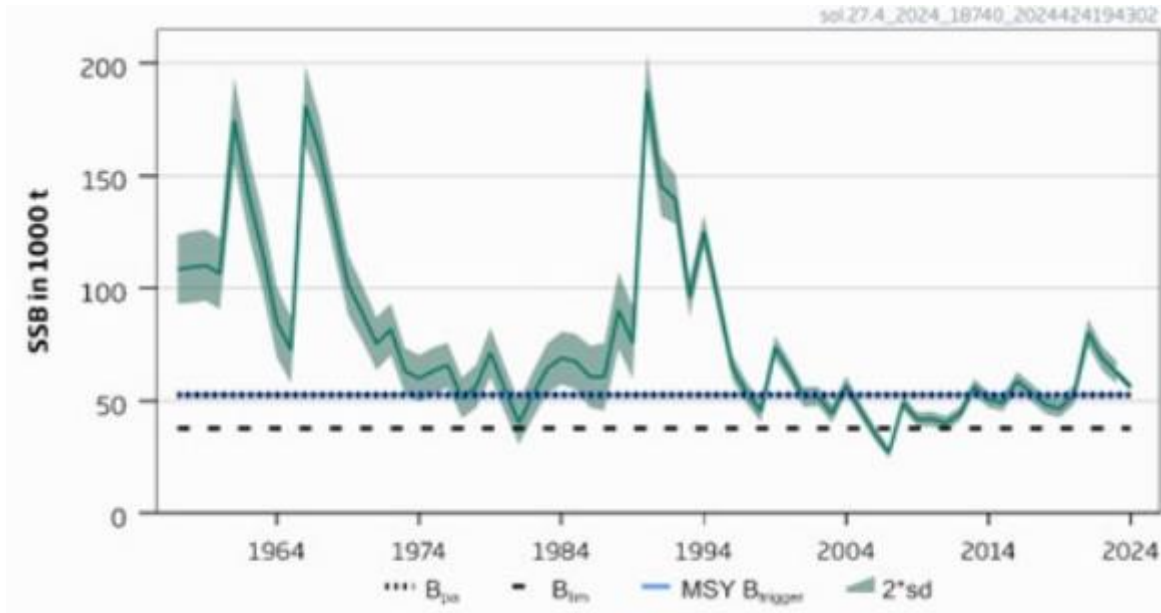


Figure 2. Sole in ICES Subarea 4: estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

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). Sole (*Solea solea*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019669.v1>

**Links**

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