



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment *FRO03 – Mackerel in FAO 27, ICES Subareas 1.8 & 9.a and Division 14*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Atlantic mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Subareas 1-8 & 14, and Division 9a
	Country of origin of the product:	Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Norway
	Stock:	Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	FRO03	
Assessor	Vineetha Aravind	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Norway	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Faroe Marine Products, Havsbrún			
Country: Faroe Islands			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vineetha Aravind	Sam Peacock	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	June 2024-June 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Atlantic mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )
Stock	Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters
Fishery Location	FAO 27, ICES Subareas 1-8 & 14, and Division 9a
Management Authority (Country/ State)	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), EC, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Norway, Iceland, UK
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	PASS

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>To be approved as Marin Trust raw material, the species should not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red list and should not appear in CITES appendices. European Pilchard in the Mediterranean does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>ICES conducts regular stock assessment of Atlantic Mackerel and the stock is managed against reference points. Therefore it is assessed under Category C</p> <p>The last assessment was published in 2023. All stock removals are considered, so the stock passes C 1.1.</p> <p>SSB is above <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math> and therefore C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Atlantic Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic is APPROVED as byproduct under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-product standard.</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 C. The most recent stock assessment was adequate to meet the requirements of C1.1, and biomass is currently estimated to be above the target reference point level, meeting the requirements of C1.2. Overall, the peer reviewer agrees that this stock should be approved as a source of byproduct raw material for MarinTrust certified facilities.</p>
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 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	ICES subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	Yes	C	Least concern <sup>3</sup>	Not listed

<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/170354/170089639>

## 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		Mackerel	
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.**

ICES Working Group conducts the stock assessment of Atlantic Mackerel and publishes advice regularly. The most recent advice was in 2023. The assessment is done using age based analytical model and considers fishery removals. Partial discard estimates are included in the assessment and overall discarding in the recent years is assumed to be negligible. The assessment uses catch data and three survey indices.

### Catches

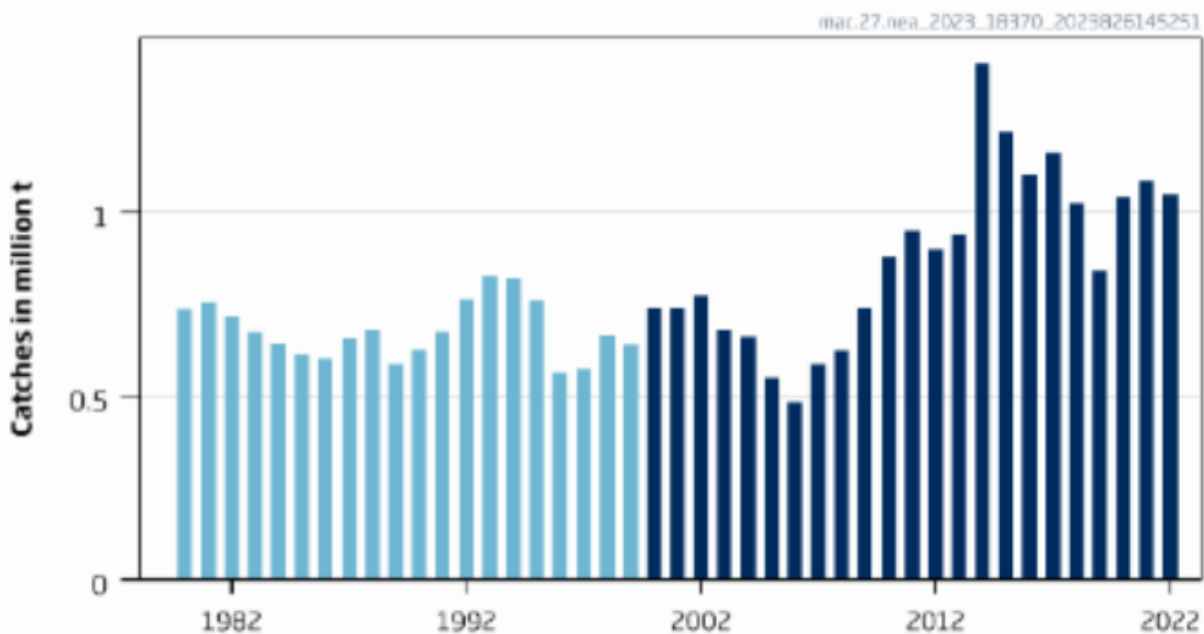


Figure 1: Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic, estimated total catches 1980 – 2022 (all spawning components) (ICES 2023).

In 2023, ICES has reviewed the most recent evidence regarding mackerel stock structure and concluded that NEA mackerel is a single stock with no separate spawning components, rejecting the former perception that NEA mackerel was composed of three stock components. Thus, stock assessment was done assuming a single stock and ICES claims that this has no impact on the stock assessment and catch advice.

No major concerns are raised on the stock status and C 1.1 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.

The current stock status relative to target and limit reference points is given by the ICES catch advice. The target reference points MSY  $B_{trigger}$  and  $B_{pa}$  have been set at 2,580,000t. The limit reference point  $B_{lim}$  has been set at 2,000,000t. The 2023 stock assessment projected SSB at spawning time in 2022 would be 3681064 t, substantially larger than the target reference point. The catch advice concludes, “spawning-stock size is about MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ ” (ICES 2022).

## SSB

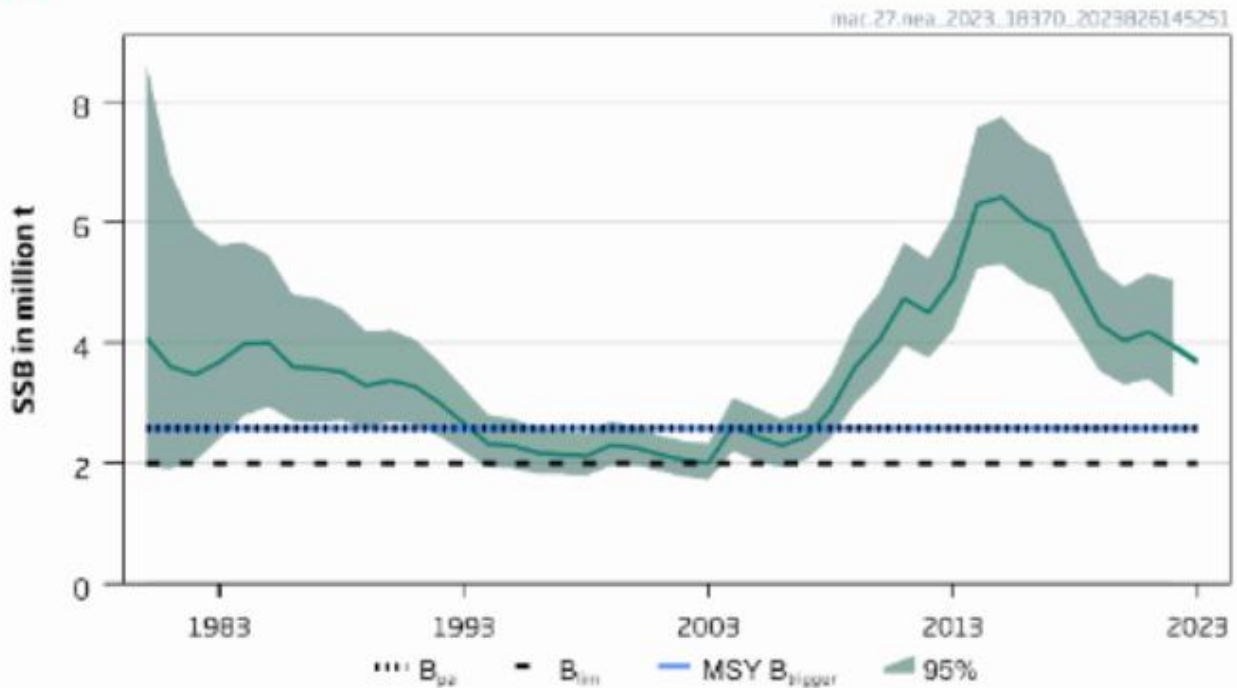


Figure 2: Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic, estimated SSB relative to current target and limit reference points (ICES 2023)  
SSB is estimated to be above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.

### References

ICES. 2023. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14 and division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, mac.27.nea, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856533>

### 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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	<b>NA</b>	
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b> <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	<b>References</b>		
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			
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
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.		
<b>Outcome:</b>			
<b>Evidence</b>			
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.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	