



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR04 Haddock in ICES Division 7a

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)
	Geographical area:	ICES Division 7a
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Haddock in the Irish Sea
Date	March 2024	
Report Code	GBR04	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	March 2024 – March 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)
Stock	Haddock in the Irish Sea
Fishery Location	ICES Division 7a
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU & UK
Gear Type(s)	All gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Maintain approval

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Haddock has been assessed by the IUCN and categorised as a species of Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Haddock in the Irish Sea is managed relative to target and limit reference points, and as such was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Haddock in the Irish Sea is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023, incorporated all fishery removals including discards and bycatch, and concluded that stock biomass is currently substantially larger than the target and limit reference point levels. Therefore, this byproduct continues to meet the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment is the Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) caught with all gears in ICES division 7a (Irish Sea), FAO area 27. The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The species is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed under category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment conducted by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE) in 2023 indicated that that SSB is substantially larger than the target and limit reference point level ($MSY_{B_{trigger}}$, B_{pa} and B_{lim}). Therefore, it passes category C.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the Haddock caught with all gears in ICES division 7a under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Irish Sea	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/13045/45097487>

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.

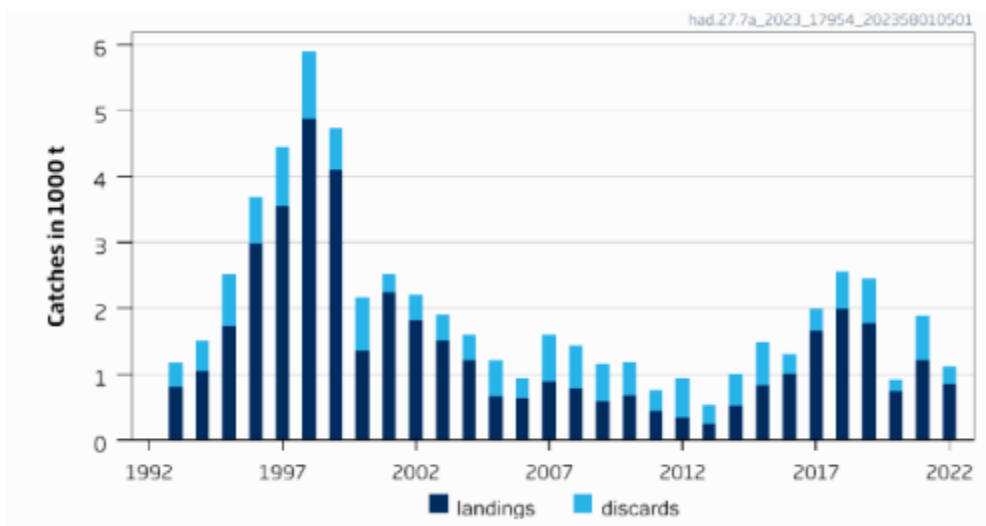
Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		Haddock	
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.

Haddock in the Irish Sea is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2023 using an Age-Structured Assessment Programme (ASAP) which utilised catches in the model and forecast. Discards and bycatch were also included. The catch advice notes a number of potential sources of uncertainty, but concludes that “this has minimal impact on the perception of stock status” (ICES 2023).

Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process, and C1.1 is met.



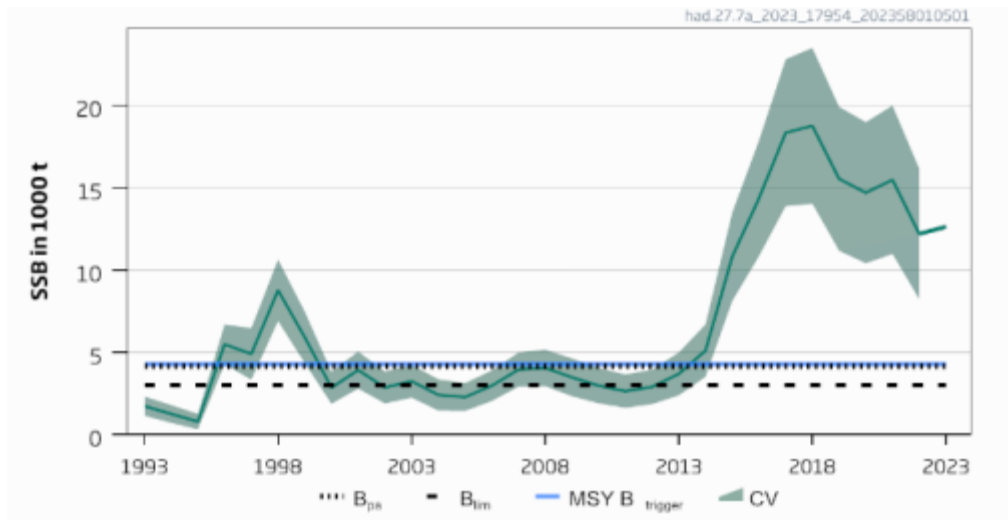
Haddock in Division 7a, landings and discards (ICES 2023)

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 annual catch advice provides an indication of the status of the haddock stock relative to reference points. Target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} and $MAP MSY B_{trigger}$ have been established for the stock and set at 4,281t. Limit reference points B_{lim} and

MAP B_{lim} have been set at 2,994t. The 2023 catch advice included an SSB forecast for 2024 of 9,888t, substantially above the target reference point level. Additionally, the advice noted that “spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} ” (ICES 2023).

Biomass is considered, according to the most recent stock assessment, to be substantially greater than the target and limit reference point levels, and C1.2 is met.



Haddock in Division 7a, Spawning Stock Biomass relative to current reference points (ICES 2023)

References

ICES (2023). Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840801.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	n/a	
	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) <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	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	n/a
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	