



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, GBR26- *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* - Megrin - FAO 27, ICES 4.a, 6.a

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> - Megrin
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES 4.a, 6.a
	Country of origin of the product:	UK (Flag country: UK and Ireland)
	Stock:	FAO 27, ICES 4.a, 6.a
Date	22/08/2024	
Report Code	GBR26	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK (Flag country: UK and Ireland)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Aberdeen (Pelagia), Lunar FPR Ltd			
Country: Scotland			
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	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	August 2024- August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> - Megrin
Stock	ICES 4.a, 6.a
Fishery Location	FAO 27,
Management Authority (Country/ State)	United Kingdom
Gear Type(s)	Finfish trawls, Nephrops trawls, other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>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.</p> <p>Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) was assessed as a category C species considering that a European Union. ICES is aware of the multiannual management plan (MAP) that has been adopted by the EU for this stock (EU, 2019). There is no agreed shared management plan between the EU and the UK for this stock, and ICES provides advice according to ICES MSY approach and precautionary considerations. Catch scenarios consistent with the MAP FMSY ranges are provided.</p> <p>The last assessment for Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland) was published on June 28th, 2024. Results indicates that fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim.</p> <p>Therefore, Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>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.</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
Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	ICES 4.a, 6.a. northern North Sea and West of Scotland	European Union Common Fisheries Policy and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)	C	Least Concern	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		Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland)	
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.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) uses catches data as input for the stock assessment process. Commercial sampling of landings and discards are considered in the assessment. Further, six survey indices: SIAMISS-Q2 [G3745], IAMISS-Q2 [G1794], Sco-IBTS-Q1 [G1022], Sco-IBTS-Q3 [G2829], Sco-WIBTS-Q1 [G1179], and Sco-WIBTS-Q4 [G4299] are included. Discards and bycatch have been included in the assessment. Discard estimates since 2013 are based on observed discards. Discard estimates prior to 2013 were reconstructed using limited sampling information.

Catches

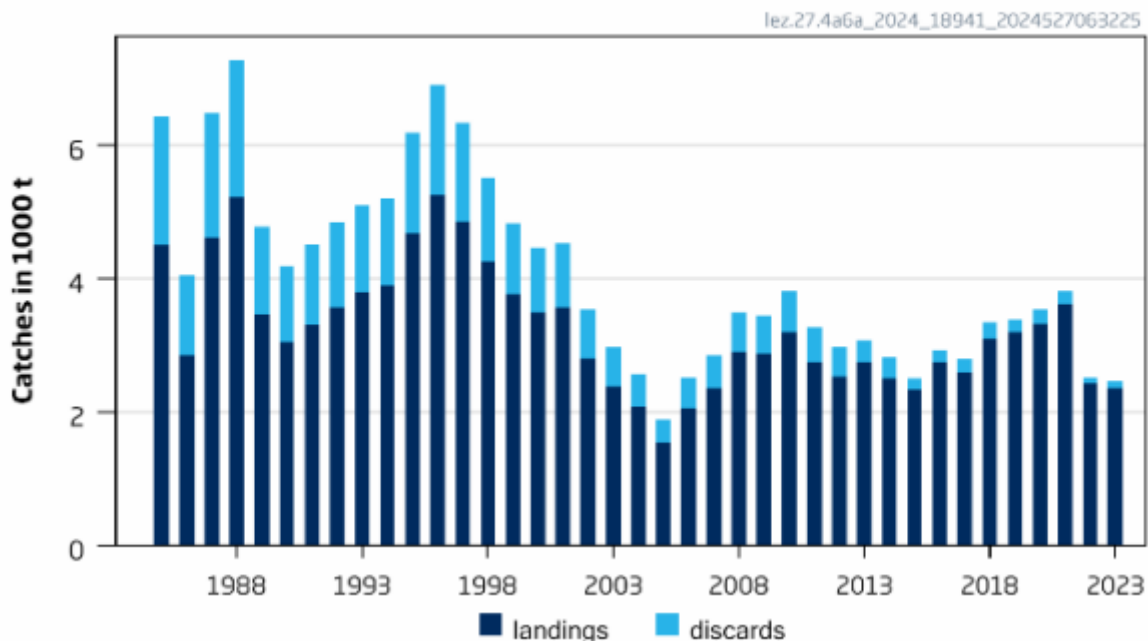


Figure 1. Catches data set of Megrim in divisions 4.a and 6.a. Source: ICES 2024.

The proportion of the two species in the survey should continue to be monitored and landings should be recorded and split by species to potentially move to an assessment by species as data become available but for this assessment year 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.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, and spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim

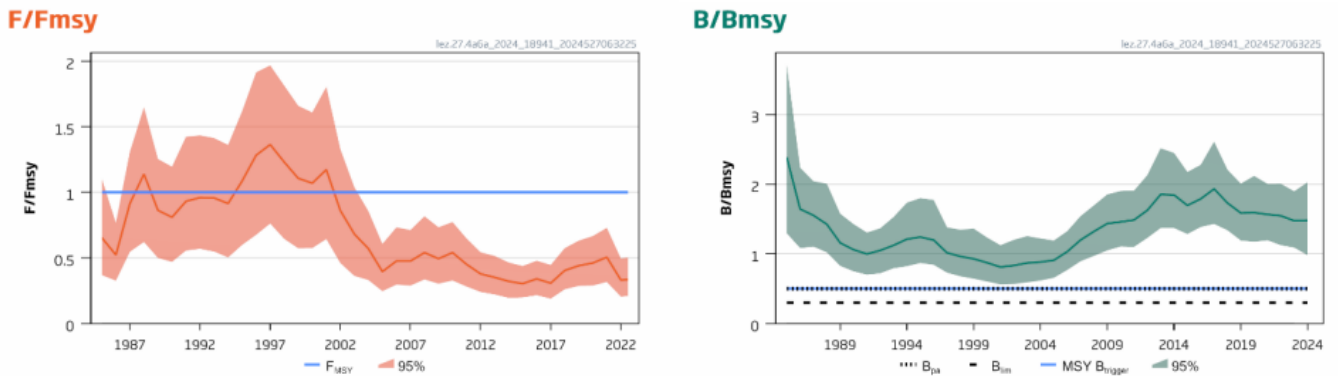


Figure 2. Megrim in divisions 4.a and 6.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Source: ICES 2024

The Sco-IBTS-Q1 was shortened in 2022, and data from that year were not used in the assessment. The model was shown to not be sensitive to this adjustment. Although the assessment posted on June 2024 showed the stock in a good shape and ICES advises catches in 2025 should be no more than 7,550 tonnes.

Therefore, C1.2 is met.

References

ICES. 2024. Megrim (*Lepidorhombus spp.*) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2024. ICES Advice 2024, lez.27.4a6a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019324>

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)		
	<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			
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	