



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR31

Sprat (Sprattus sprattus)

in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a
Date	December 2024	
Report Code	GBR31	
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): Killybegs (Pelagia), Aberdeen (Pelagia), Lunar FPR Ltd			
Country: UK, Ireland			
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	December 2024 – December 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
Stock	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, UK
Gear Type(s)	Midwater trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

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. Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Sprattus sprattus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>There is no international management plan agreed for this stock; however it is managed relative to reference points using an annual quota, and was therefore assessed under Category C in the first instance.</p> <p>A regular stock assessment is conducted and incorporates all relevant catch data, therefore C1.1 is met. The most recent stock assessment concluded that SSB is below the limit reference point level, therefore C1.2 is not met. As per the MT byproduct assessment guidance, the byproduct was subsequently assessed under Category D.</p> <p>Sprat was awarded a Productivity score of 1.14 and a Susceptibility score of 2.75, leading to a Pass rating on Table D3.</p> <p>Therefore, sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a is APPROVED 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 , sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>The stock does not pass both clauses and is then assessed under Category D.</p> <p>The assessor correctly assigned values and scores on table D1. The given average attribute scores result in a passing score on Table D3.</p> <p>Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a 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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	ICES Subarea 4 and Division 3a	Yes	C / D	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198583/143833310>

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		Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</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.

Sprat in Subarea 4 and Division 3a is subject to regular stock assessment by the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024 using an age-based analytical assessment which incorporated commercial catches, three survey indices, constant maturity based on long-term averages from surveys, and natural mortality rates estimated by the multispecies model. Discards since 2016 are assumed to be negligible.

The 2024 catch advice states that “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 should be no more than 75 321 tonnes.” (ICES 2024).

Total catches are presented in the figure below:

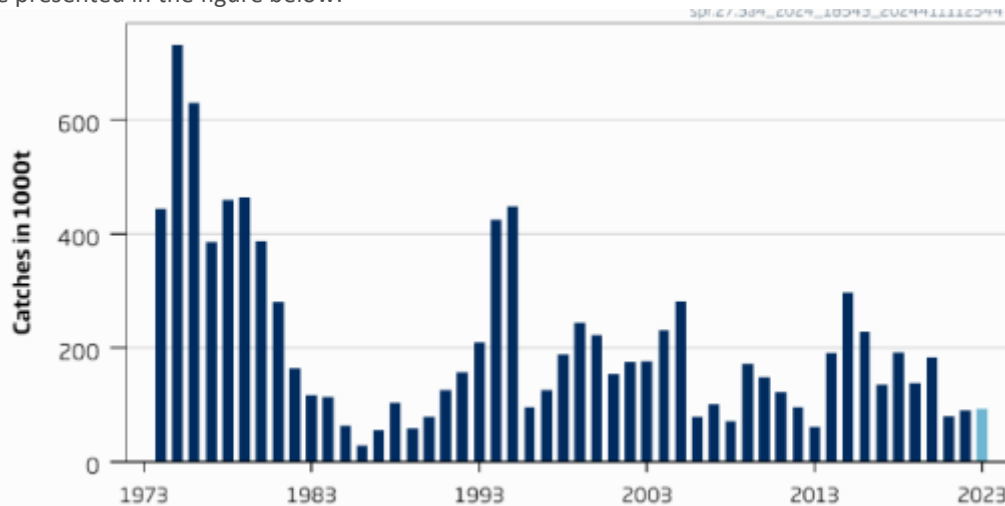


Figure 1. Sprat in Subarea 4 and Division 3a: total catch (ICES 2024)

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 $MSY B_{escapement}$ and B_{pa} have been set at 135,952t. The limit reference point B_{lim} has been set at 107,598t. The advice includes a short-term projection for SSB in 2024 of 83,754t, below the target and limit reference points.

The catch advice also states, “Spawning-stock size is below $MSY B_{escapement}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} . No reference points for fishing pressure have been defined for this stock.” (ICES 2024).

Estimated SSB relative to reference points is shown in Figure 2 below.

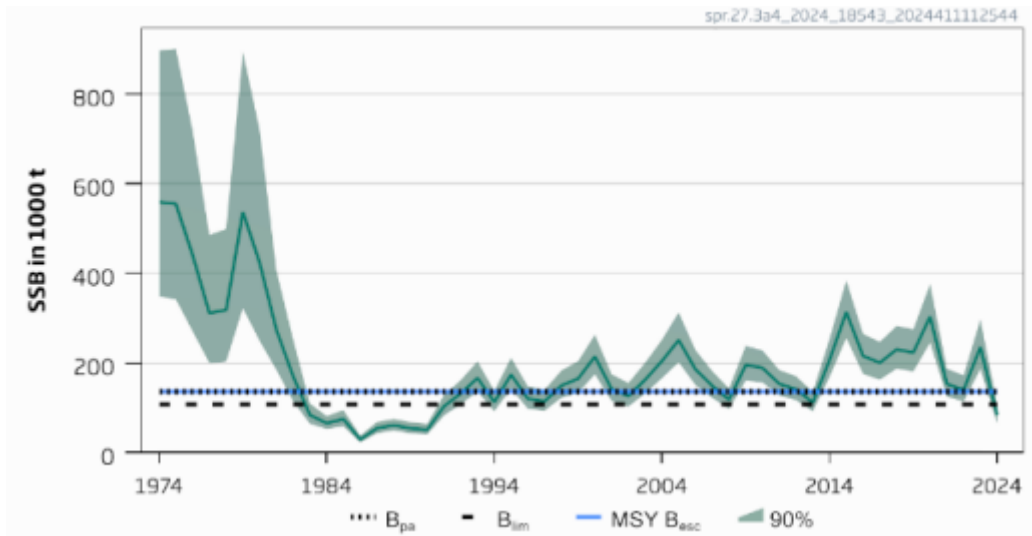


Figure 2. Sprat in Subarea 4 and Division 3a: estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass below the limit reference point (or proxy) and it FAILS clause C1.2. As per MT guidance, the stock will be assessed under Category D hereinafter.

References

ICES (2024). Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in Division 3.a and Subarea 4 (Skagerrak, Kattegat, and North Sea). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019690.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.

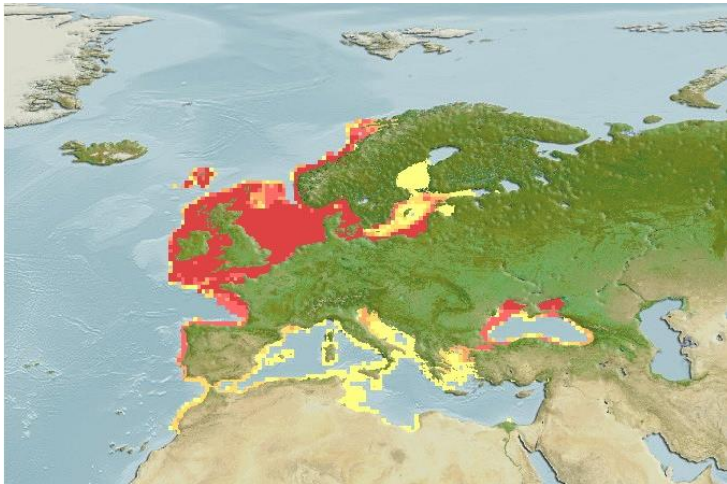
D1	Species Name	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	1.5 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	5.2 years	1
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	20,135	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	16cm	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	8.5cm	1
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	3.0	2
	Average Productivity Score		1.14
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Availability (area overlap)	10-30% overlap	2
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Targeted	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Retained	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		2.75
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	Compliance rating		PASS
	<p>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></p>		
			
<p>Sprat, natural distribution, from FishBase: https://fishbase.se/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1357&AT=sprat</p>			
References			
Fishbase, sprat: https://fishbase.se/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=1357&AT=sprat			
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	