



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

LVA03

Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)

in ICES Subdivisions 22-32

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:	Latvia
	Stock:	ICES Subdivisions 22-32
Date	October 2024	
Report Code	LVA03	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Latvia	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Association "Organization of Fishery Producers of Kurzeme"; Sia Venta FM			
Country: Latvia			
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	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	October 2024 – October 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
Stock	ICES Subdivisions 22-32
Fishery Location	FAO27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
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 an EU MAP in place for this stock; there is no management plan in place in the Russian Federation. The stock is managed using target and limit reference points and therefore was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024 and utilised all international catch data, therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that SSB is above the target and limit reference points, therefore C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES Subdivisions 22-32 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 Subdivisions 22-32 under category C, as the stock is managed using target and limit reference points.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). Therefore, the stock PASSES clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion, sprat in ICES Subdivisions 22-32, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</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 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 Subdivisions 22-32	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/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.

Regular stock assessments for this stock are conducted by the ICES Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2024 using an age-based analytical assessment which incorporated catches in the model and forecast. The assessment also used two acoustic surveys, natural mortalities from the multispecies model, and a fixed maturity ogive. Discards and bycatch are considered negligible.

The most recent ICES catch advice states “ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea is applied, catches in 2 025 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 130 195 tonnes and 169 131 tonnes.” (ICES 2024).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

Catches

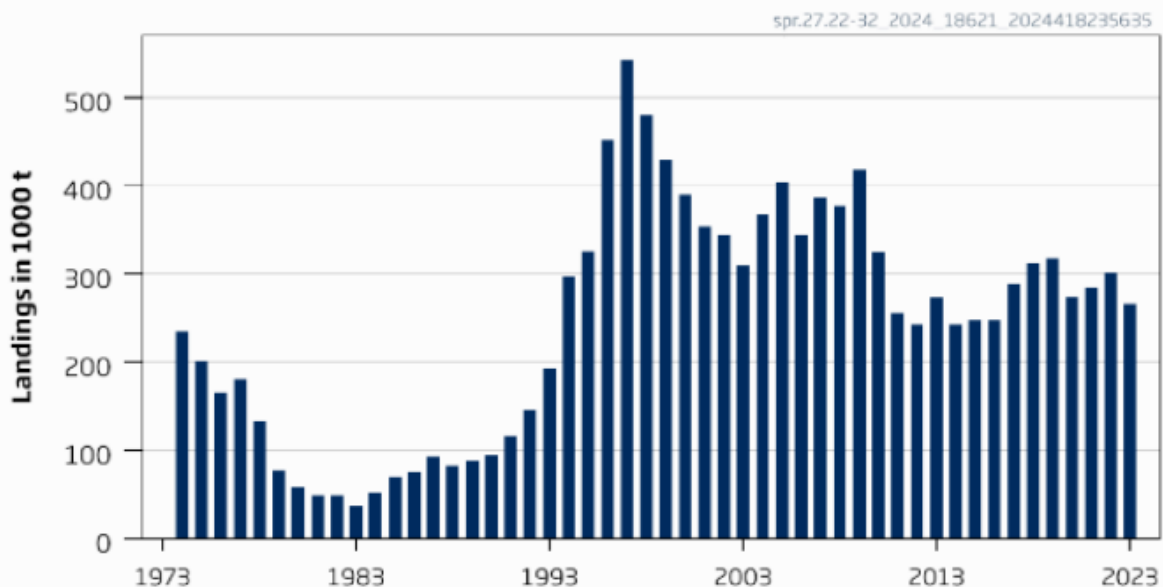


Figure 1. Sprat in ICES Subdivisions 22-32: Catches (ICES 2024)

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.

An indication of current stock status is provided in the annual ICES catch advice. Target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and $MAP MSY B_{trigger}$ are set at 541,000t. Limit reference points B_{lim} and $MAP B_{lim}$ are set at 459,000t. The 2024 stock assessment produced a short-term projection for SSB in 2024 of 692,126t, above the target reference point level.

The 2024 catch advice states, “Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and between F_{pa} and F_{lim} . Spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} ” (ICES 2024).

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

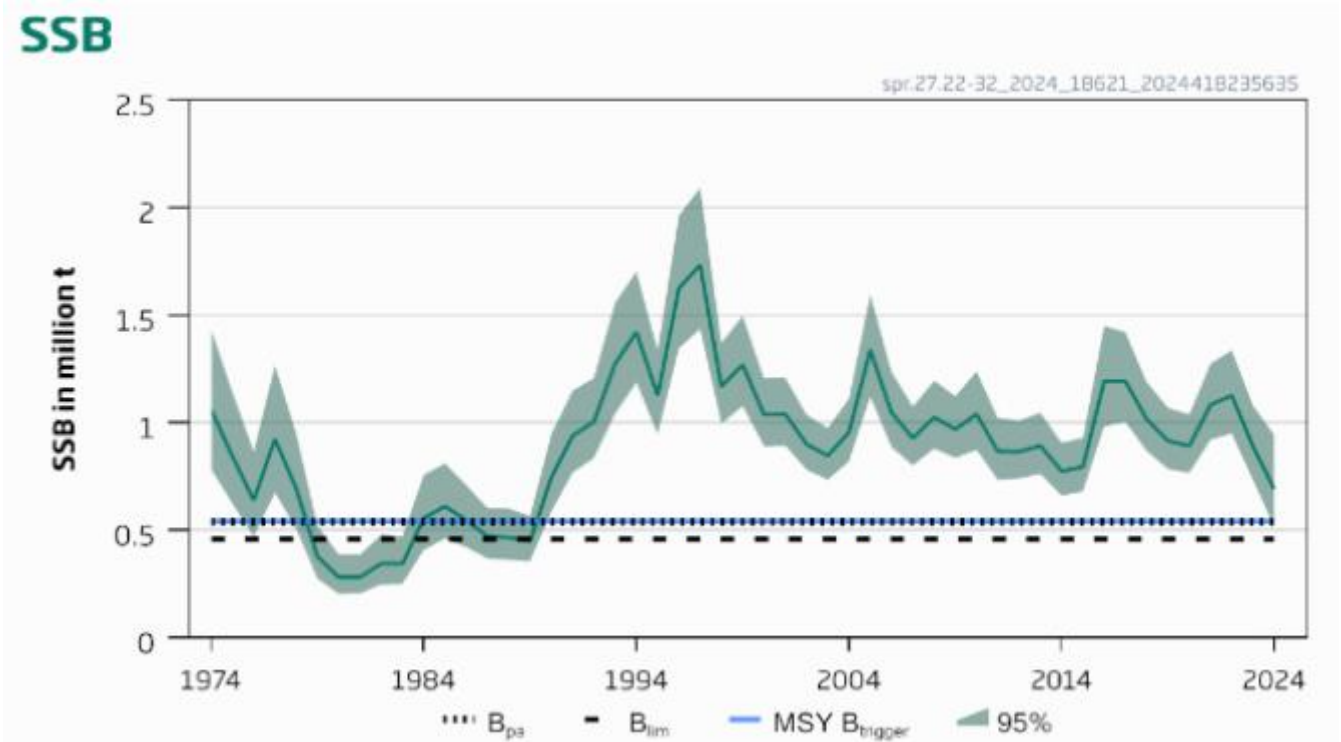


Figure 2. Sprat in ICES Subdivisions 22-32: Estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

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). Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in subdivisions 22–32 (Baltic Sea). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019687.v1>

Links

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