



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

### NOR18

### Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)

### in ICES 3.c.22 – d.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:	Norway
	Stock:	ICES 3.c.22 – d.32
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	NOR18	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Norway	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Scanbio Ingredients AS, Pelagia Karlsund Protein AS			
Country: Norway			
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	June 2024 – June 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Sprat ( <i>Sprattus sprattus</i> )
Stock	ICES 3.c.22 – d.32
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, Russian Federation
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

**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>This sprat stock is managed by the EU via a Multiannual Plan (MAP) which is considered by ICES to be precautionary. The Russian Federation also participates in the fishery but does not have a management plan in place for the stock.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024, using all international catch data and assuming negligible bycatch or discards of sprat, therefore C1.1 is met. The 2024 stock assessment concluded that stock biomass is above the limit reference point level, meaning that C1.2 is met.</p> <p>Therefore, sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES 3.c.22 – d.32 is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 3.c.22 – d.32 under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass above limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in ICES 3.c.22 – d.32 is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	ICES 3.c.22 – d.32	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<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/198583/45077260>

## 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 Subdivisions 22-32 is subject to annual stock assessment by the ICES Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024 using an age-based analytical assessment model which utilised catches in the model and forecast. The assessment also incorporated two acoustic surveys, natural mortalities from the multispecies model, and fixed maturity ogive data. Discards and bycatch are considered negligible.

The 2024 catch advice states, "ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea is applied, catches in 2025 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 130 195 tonnes and 169 131 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to FMSY (164 947 tonnes) can only be taken under conditions specified in the plan, whilst the entire range is considered precautionary when applying ICES advice rule" (ICES 2024).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

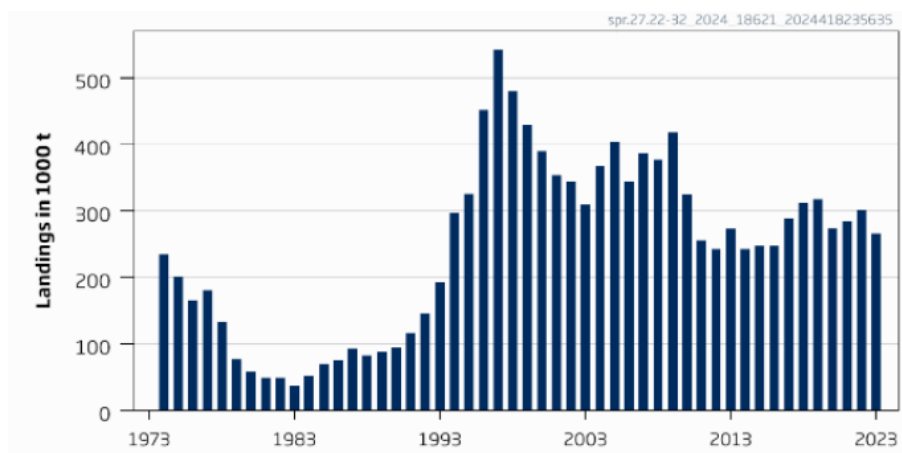


Figure 1. Sprat in Subdivisions 22-32, landings in 1,000t (ICES 2024)

**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 status of the stock relative to established reference points is summarised in the annual ICES catch advice. The target reference points  $MSY B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$  and  $MAP MSY B_{trigger}$  have been set at 541,000t. The limit reference points  $B_{lim}$  and  $MAP B_{lim}$  have been set at 459,000t. The 2024 catch advice included a short-term forecast for SSB in 2024 of 692,126t.

The 2024 catch advice states that “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). See diagram below for estimated SSB over time.

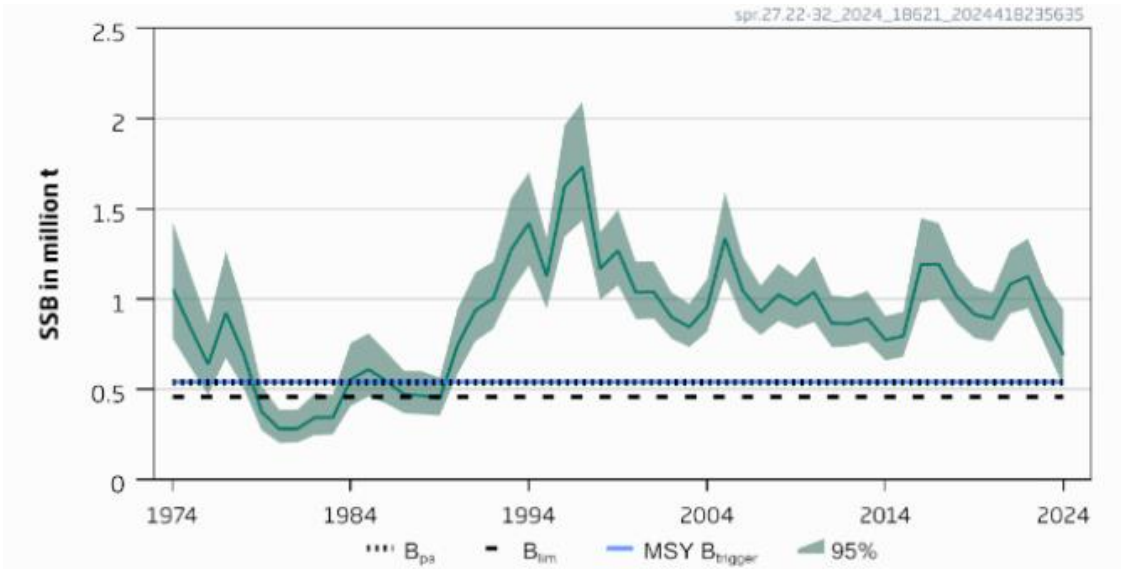


Figure 2. Sprat in Subdivisions 22-32, estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

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