



MarinTrust Standard V2

Whole fish Fishery Assessment

WF38

Denmark Boarfish (*Capros aper*)

in FAO 27, ICES 6-8

(Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name(s):	FF Skagen A/S, Thyborøn		
Country:	Denmark		
Email address:	jh@maring.org	Applicant Code	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	CB Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	3	Initial
Assessment Period		June 2024 – June 2025	
Scope Details			
Management Authority (Country/State)		EU (Denmark)	
Main Species		Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)	
Fishery Location		ICES subareas 6-8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	
Gear Type(s)		Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
Overall Outcome		APPROVED	
Clauses Failed		NONE	
CB Peer Review Evaluation		APPROVED – Agree with the assessor’s determination	
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Group Evaluation		APPROVED – See report in Appendix B	
Recommendation		APPROVED	

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Boarfish pelagic trawl fishery is highly selective and only small quantities of mackerel are bycaught in the fishery in sufficient quantities. Thus, this assessment evaluated boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in ICES subareas 6-8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) and mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters).</p> <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 Marin Trust raw material. Boarfish and mackerel are not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, they are eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust whole fish material.</p> <p>ICES considers the current basis for the advice on boarfish in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) stock to be an interim measure, since estimated values and ratios are used to estimate exploitation status relative to the proxy MSY reference point and no reference points for Fmsy are defined for this stock in terms of absolute values. A benchmark workshop on boarfish (WKBHMB) was held in April 2024 and a new advice is expected to be released at the end of September 2024. Thus, considering the issues with the current reference points, the upcoming results of the benchmark and taken into account that this stock has been categorised as Category B in previous MarinTrust assessments from Ireland and UK, the assessment team decided to evaluate this stock under Category B, table Ba.</p> <p>In the most recent species stock assessment available for boarfish, biomass is above MSY and fishing mortality is below MSY; hence, the Table Ba for boarfish stock should be recommended for approval.</p> <p>The latest mackerel stock assessment in the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters was carried out in 2023, where removals of the species were included in the stock assessment process and the mackerel biomass is above the limit reference point. Therefore, Category C clauses are met.</p> <p>A management strategy proposed by the Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) was evaluated and found to be precautionary. ICES provide advice for this stock following the standard procedures, which in this case corresponds to the management strategy from the PelAC. In relation to management of the fishery, both the management framework and the surveillance, control and enforcement system meet minimum requirements set by the MarinTrust Whole fish Standard.</p> <p>The Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) was established in 2007 and collates and analyses information from across the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent sea areas related to the bycatch of Endangered, threatened or protected species - ETPs species. The current activities of the WGBYC are to lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. ICES regularly publishes ecoregion overviews which set out the main ecosystem considerations for each of the ecoregion conditions, including the state of the ecosystems from Celtic Sea, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay. Recently the European Commission presented a package of measures to improve the sustainability and resilience of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector, which included an Action Plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries. The fishery is not known to have significant negative impacts on ETP species, physical habitat or marine ecosystem.</p> <p>In conclusion, the assessor recommends the approval of boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in ICES subareas 6-8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) for the production of fishmeal and/or fish oil under the current MarinTrust Whole fish Standard v.2.2.</p>

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments

The assessment report is adequate, it provides the information necessary to justify the scores assigned to the different categories.

Full comments are available in Appendix B to this report.

Notes for On-site Auditor

Empty box for notes for on-site auditor.

Table 3 General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	Pass
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	Pass
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	Pass
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	Pass
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	Pass

Table 4 Species- Specific Results

List all Category A and B species. List approximate total percentage (%) of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category B	Boarfish	~99,9%	Pass
Category C	Mackerel	~0.01%	Pass

Table 5 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	IUCN Redlist Category ¹	% of landings	Management	Category
Boarfish	<i>Capros aper</i>	Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)	LC ²	~99.9%	Yes	B
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	LC ³	~0.01%	Yes	C

Species categorisation rationale

The applicant provided catch data for 2022 up to February 2024 of the boarfish fishery and it was possible to verify that about 99.9% of the catches were composed by boarfish (*Capros aper*) and about 0.01% of the catches were mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*). According to WGWISE (2021): “The fishery targets dense shoals of boarfish from September to March. Catches are generally free from bycatch from September to February. From March onward a bycatch of mackerel can be found in the catches and the fishery generally ceases at this time. Information on the bycatch of other species in the boarfish fishery is sparse, though thought to be minimal (...). In 2010, an interim management plan was proposed by Ireland, which included a number of measures to mitigate potential bycatch of other TAC species in the boarfish fishery. A closed season from the 15th March to 31st August was proposed, as anecdotal evidence suggests that mackerel and boarfish are caught in mixed aggregations during this period (...). Finally, if catches of a species covered by a TAC, other than boarfish, amount to more than 5% of the total catch by day by ICES statistical rectangle, then fishing must cease in that rectangle for 5 days.”

ICES considers the current basis for the advice on Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay) stock to be an interim measure, since estimated values and ratios are used to estimate exploitation status relative to the proxy MSY reference point and no reference points for Fmsy are defined for this stock in terms of absolute values (ICES WORKSHOP E ICES ADVICE). The boarfish stock has been involved in a previous SPiCT (stochastic surplus production model in continuous time) benchmark that failed to produce a viable model. Since then, work on the stock has improved the knowledge base and a promising Stock Synthesis model has been developed. [A benchmark workshop on boarfish \(WKBHMB\) was held in April 2024 and a new advice is expected to be released at the end of September 2024.](#) Thus, considering the issues with the current reference points, the upcoming results of the benchmark and taken into account that this stock has been categorised as Category B in previous MarinTrust assessments from Ireland and UK, the assessment team decided to evaluate this stock under Category B, table B(a).

Mackerel is Categorised as C, as its catches composed about 0.01% of the boarfish fishery and there are reference points defined for this stock.

Reference

WGWISE (2021). Northeast Atlantic boarfish (*Capros aper*) https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Working_Group_on_Widely_Distributed_Stocks_WGWISE_/18621593?file=33400553

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198557/21910115>

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170354/6764313>

MANAGEMENT

The two clauses in this section (M1, M2) relate to the general management regime applied to the fishery under assessment. The clauses should be completed by providing sufficient evidence to justify awarding each of the requirements a pass or fail rating. A fishery must meet all the minimum requirements in every clause before it can be recommended for approval.

M1	Management Framework – Minimum Requirements	
M1.1	There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.	Pass
M1.2	There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.	Pass
M1.3	Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.	Pass
M1.4	Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.	Pass
M1.5	There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.	Pass
M1.6	The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.	Pass
Clause outcome:		Pass

M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery.

Fisheries in Denmark and other EU countries are managed according to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which was updated through Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013. Individual member states generally incorporate the requirements of the CFP into their national legislation, and are individually responsible for its implementation.

In Denmark, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the administration and regulation of EU fisheries policy, rule-making, control, structural policy, angling, support for business promotion and for environmentally friendly fishing. The Ministry consists of three agencies (Danish Fisheries Agency, Danish Agricultural Agency and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration) and local Centres across the country.

There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery. M.1.1 is met.

M1.2 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is the organisation responsible for assessing this fishery. ICES is an intergovernmental marine science organization, meeting societal needs for impartial evidence on the state and sustainable use of our seas and oceans (ICES 2024). They provide independent management advice for fisheries within their area of competence, collating and analysing data collected by its member states, including Denmark. The ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks conducts an annual stock assessment for boarfish in the Northeast Atlantic and provides fishery management advice including catch recommendations based on the outcomes of the assessment (ICES 2023a).

The primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level within Denmark is the National Institute of Aquatic Resources at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua).

There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and assessing the fishery. M.1.2

M1.3 Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability.

Objective 1 of the CFP, as set out in Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 is to “ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies”.

The Danish Fisheries Agency is responsible for monitoring compliance with EU and national fisheries legislation. The goal of DTU Aqua is: “to address the environmental consequences and interactions of human activities in the aquatic environment and help resolve the longstanding conflict between aquatic resource exploitation and conservation” (DTU Aqua, 2024).

The legislative basis for fishery management in Denmark is set out in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2017 (Miljø-og Fødevareministeriet 2017). The aim of this act is: “§ 1. The purpose of the Act is, through an administration that ensures the protection and recovery of living resources in salt and fresh water as well as the protection of other animal and plant life, to ensure a sustainable basis for commercial fishing and related industries and the possibility of recreational fishing.”

In September 2023, the Danish Fisheries authority launched the Sustainable Management of the Sea and Fisheries Scheme as part of the Danish Sea, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Program 2021-2027 (The Fishing Daily, 2023).

Fishery management organisations are publicly committed to sustainability. M.1.3 is met.

M1.4 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions.

In EU member states fisheries management is generally carried out under the national legislation arising from the implementation and/or transposing of EU regulations, in particular but not limited to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

In Denmark the key legislation implementing the CFP and guiding fisheries management is Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2017, which provisions cover fisheries control including giving powers to fisheries enforcement agencies to implement EU and domestic legislation, also provisions relating to managing impacts on the marine environment, addressing disputes between fishermen, and procedures for prosecuting fishing offences.

Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions. M.1.4 is met.

M1.5 There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making.

The EU receives scientific advice on EU fisheries from its Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). STECF is composed of independent scientists and experts representing a broad range of opinion and is systematically consulted before any proposals are drafted. On biological issues, STECF depends to a great extent on advice from ICES for areas, Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay

The Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC), one of the Advisory Councils for fisheries in the European Union, function as forums for consultation and the drafting of stakeholder-led advice which, in turn, informs pelagic fisheries policy at the EU level and covers all European sea-basins, excluding those in the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

The Danish Fisheries Act provides a statutory basis for stakeholder participation in fisheries management through a Committee on Commercial Fisheries (*Erhervsfikeriudvalget*), which meets several times a year to provide advice to the Governments on fisheries management and legislation.

There is a consultation process through which fishery stakeholders are engaged in decision-making. M.1.5 is met.

M1.6 The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available.

All of the information used to produce this MarinTrust assessment report was freely available online. The fisheries management decision-making process is primarily guided by the ICES advice, the basis for and outcomes of which are made available via the ICES website. Decisions and outcomes at the EU level are published on the EC website and elsewhere.

The decision-making process is transparent, with processes and results publicly available. M.1.6 is met.

References

DTU Aqua 2024. Research. <https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/english/research>

ICES 2024. Who we are? <https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/who-we-are/Pages/Who-we-are.aspx>

ICES 2023a. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. Report.
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.24025482.v1>

Miljø-og Fødevareministeriet 2017. Bekendtgørelse af lov om fiskeri og fiskeopdræt (fiskeriloven). [Executive Order on the Fisheries and Fish Farming Act (Fisheries Act)] <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/den134943.pdf>

The fishing daily 2023. Denmark Launches Sustainable Management of the Sea and Fisheries Scheme.
<https://thefishingdaily.com/latest-news/denmark-launches-sustainable-management-of-the-sea-and-fisheries-scheme/>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2
FAO CCRF	7.2, 7.3.1, 7.4.4, 12.3
GSSI	D.1.01, D.4.01, D2.01, D1.07, D1.04,

M2	Surveillance, Control and Enforcement - Minimum Requirements		
	M2.1	There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.	Pass
	M2.2	There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.	Pass
	M2.3	There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	Pass
	M2.4	Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.	Pass
Clause outcome:			Pass

M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations.

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is a European Union agency whose mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP. EFCA’s primary role is to organise coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities so that the rules of the CFP are respected and applied effectively. In practice, organisational responsibility for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations is carried out by the Member States’ control authorities.

Joint Deployment Plans (JDP’s) are established for fisheries/areas considered a priority by the Commission and the Member States concerned. They can refer either to European Union waters for which a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) has been adopted or to international waters under the competence of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under an International Control and Inspection Scheme.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2017 enables the enforcement agencies in Denmark to implement and enforce EU and domestic legislation and identified the roles and responsibilities of control agencies in Denmark. Following institutional reforms during 2017 the enforcement of fishery regulations is carried out by the Office of Fisheries Control (*Fiskerikontrollkontoret*).

There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations. M.2.1 is met.

M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken.

To ensure that fishing rules are applied in the same way in all member countries, and to harmonise the way infringements are sanctioned, the EU has established a list of serious infringements of the rules of the common fisheries policy. EU countries must include in their legislation effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, and ensure that the rules are respected. A

maximum sanction of at least five times the value of fishery products obtained is provided for with regard to the committing of the said infringement.

Since 2012, EU countries have been required to have a point system for serious infringements. Under the scheme, National Authorities are obliged to:

- Assess alleged infringements involving vessels registered under its flag, using standard EU definitions;
- Impose a pre-set number of penalty points on vessels involved in serious infringements (points are recorded in the national registry of fisheries offences);
- Suspend the vessel's license for 2, 4, 8 or 12 months when a pre-set number of points have been accumulated in a 3- year period.

In 2023, according to EFCA, 3,208 coordinated inspections were reported within the Western Waters JDP framework (operation area: EU waters of ICES 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9 and 27.10, and of CECAF 34.1), with 195 suspected infringements detected during landing inspections on fishing vessels and 3 suspected infringements detected during transport inspections (JDP-WW-2023).

A framework of sanctions is in place as set out in the CFP legislation and transposed into Danish national law. Sanctions potentially include suspension of fishing licence, fines, confiscation of catch and/or equipment, and imprisonment. These are set out in Chapter 22 of the Fisheries Act (Miljø-og Fødevareministeriet 2017).

There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when laws and regulations are discovered to have been broken. M.2.2 is met.

M2.3 There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.

EU regulations state that serious violations of the CFP should lead to the accumulation of 'points' which, when collected in sufficient quantities, render the individual responsible unable to claim subsidies and may affect the terms of their fishing licence.

The EU Commission has previously criticised Denmark for failing to apply the points rules correctly, in response to which the Danish Fisheries Agency prepared a new administrative basis for the correct administration of the system. In 2021 a total of 427 cases were evaluated to determine whether points should be awarded, and in 15 of those cases this was found to be the appropriate course of action (FA 2022).

In 2022, the Danish Fisheries Agency conducted, among other things, 2,273 vessel inspections and 1,956 inspections of commercial fish landings totalling 3,101 tonnes, according to its annual Report (The Fishing Daily, 2023). Across the entire Danish fishing industry, 383 violations were recorded, and 1,076 sets of illegal fishing gear were confiscated.

Throughout the compilation of this MT assessment report, no evidence was encountered suggesting widespread noncompliance in the fishery, and available evidence suggests a robust and focussed control and enforcement regime is in place.

There is no substantial evidence of widespread non-compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing. M.2.3 is met.

M2.4 Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS.

Danish Fisheries Agency operates a small fleet of enforcement vessels. During at-sea control, the Danish Fisheries Agency's inspection vessels can board fishing vessels using a boarding boat. Landings control involves inspecting the landed catch when fishing vessels have arrived in port. When a fisherman wants to land their catch in Danish ports, they are required to report their

arrival before sailing in. This allows fishery control to receive the vessel upon arrival and conduct a landing inspection. The inspection includes verifying the species and quantity of the catch in the cargo hold and comparing it to the catch recorded in the vessel's logbook (The Daily Report, 2023). Compliance with laws and regulations is also monitored through e-logbooks, landings certificates, sales notes, VMS, designated ports, and inspections throughout the supply chain. Control efforts are targeted using a risk-based model, which ensures that inspections and other enforcement activity is focussed in areas where low levels of compliance have been detected in the past.

Compliance with laws and regulations is actively monitored, through a regime which may include at-sea and portside inspections, observer programmes, and VMS. M.2.4 is met.

References

FA 2022. Om Fiskeristyrelsen Årsrapport (Danish Fisheries Agency annual report) 2021. https://fiskeristyrelsen.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/Fiskeristyrelsen/Erhvervsfiskeri/Kontrol/AArsrapport/AArsrapport_2021.pdf

JDP-WW-2023. 2023 reports of the campaigns in the Western Waters. https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/12M-report_WW_Q4_WEB.pdf

The Fishing Daily 2023. Danish Fisheries Agency Issues Annual Inspections Report 2022 <https://thefishingdaily.com/latest-news/danish-fisheries-agency-issues-annual-inspections-report-2022/>

Miljø-og Fødevarerministeriet 2017. Bekendtgørelse af lov om fiskeri og fiskeopdræt (fiskeriloven). [Executive Order on the Fisheries and Fish Farming Act (Fisheries Act)] <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/den134943.pdf>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.1.3
FAO CCRF	7.7.2
GSSI	D1.09

CATEGORY B SPECIES

Category B species are those which make up greater than 5% of landings in the applicant raw material, but which are not subject to a species-specific research and management regime sufficient to pass all Category A clauses. If there are no Category B species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Category B species are assessed using a risk-based approach. The following process should be completed once for each Category B species.

If there are estimates of biomass (B), fishing mortality (F), and reference points

It is possible for a Category B species to have some biomass and fishing mortality data available. When sufficient information is present, the assessment team should use the following risk matrix to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

TABLE B(A) - F, B AND REFERENCE POINTS ARE AVAILABLE

Biomass is above MSY / target reference point	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
Biomass is below MSY / target reference point, but above limit reference point	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
Biomass is below limit reference point (stock is overfished)	Pass, but re-assess when fishery removals resume	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
Biomass is significantly below limit reference point (Recruitment impaired)	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
	Fishery removals are prohibited	Fishing mortality is below MSY or target reference point	Fishing mortality is around MSY or target reference point, or below the long-term average	Fishing mortality is above the MSY or target reference point, or around the long-term average	Fishing mortality is above the limit reference point or above the long-term average (Stock is subject to overfishing)

If the biomass / fishing pressure risk assessment is not possible

Initially, the resilience of each Category B species to fishing pressure should be estimated using the American Fisheries Society procedure described in Musick, J.A. (1999). This approach is used as the resilience values for many species and stocks have been estimated by FishBase and are already available online. For details of the approach, please refer to Appendix A. Determining the resilience provides a basis for estimating the risk that fishing may pose to the long-term sustainability of the stock. Table B(b) should be used to determine whether the species should be recommended for approval.

TABLE B(B) - NO REFERENCE POINTS AVAILABLE. B = CURRENT BIOMASS; B_{AV} = LONG-TERM AVERAGE BIOMASS; F = CURRENT FISHING MORTALITY; F_{AV} = LONG-TERM AVERAGE FISHING MORTALITY.

B > B_{av} and F < F_{av}	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
B > B_{av} and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
B = B_{av} and F < F_{av}	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
B = B_{av} and F or F_{av} unknown	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
B > B_{av} and F > F_{av}	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail
B < B_{av}	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
B unknown	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
Resilience	High	Medium	Low	Very Low

Assessment Results

Species Name		Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)
B1	Species Name	Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>)
	Table used (Ba, Bb)	Ba
	Outcome	Pass

Table Ba was used for the stock assessment considering the availability of biomass and fishing mortality data. Biomass is above MSY and fishing mortality is below MSY, the risk matrix indicates that Northeast Atlantic boarfish stock should be recommended for approval.

The ICES working group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) carried out the stock assessment using a Relative abundance based on a Bayesian Schaefer surplus production model, and MSY reference points are estimated from the production model assessment parameter values (ICES 2023a).

In 2023, FMSY ($r/2$) is estimated to be 0.16 and MSY Btrigger ($K/4$) 173kt. Biomass has remained above the MSY trough time (Figure 1), while fishing mortality had some years where it was above the MSY, but since 2015 trend had been decreasing below the MSY (Figure 2). The stock is currently in the green area of the Kobe plot indicating that fishing mortality is below FMSY and the spawning biomass is above SB MSY (Figure 3) [ICES 2023a].

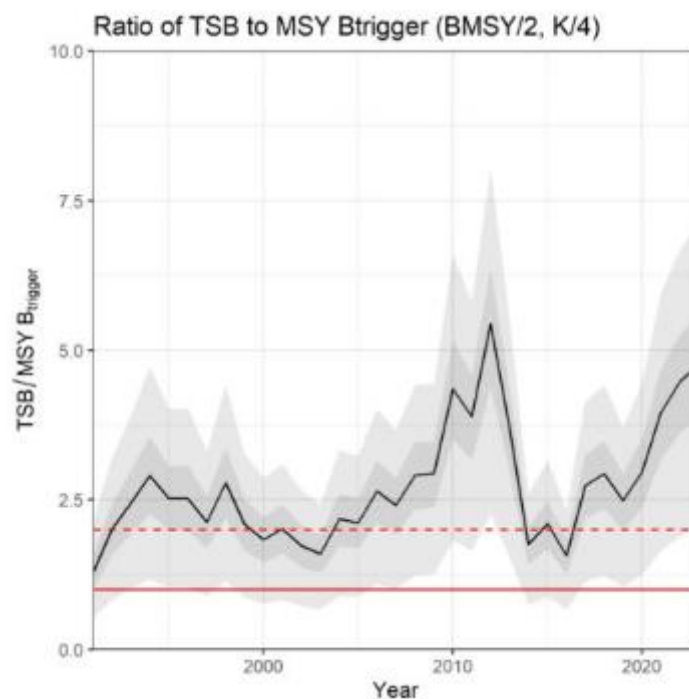


Figure 1. Ration 'B / MSYBtrigger' for Northeast Atlantic boarfish through time. Confidence intervals of 50% (dark grey) and 95% (light grey) are given (ICES 2023 a).

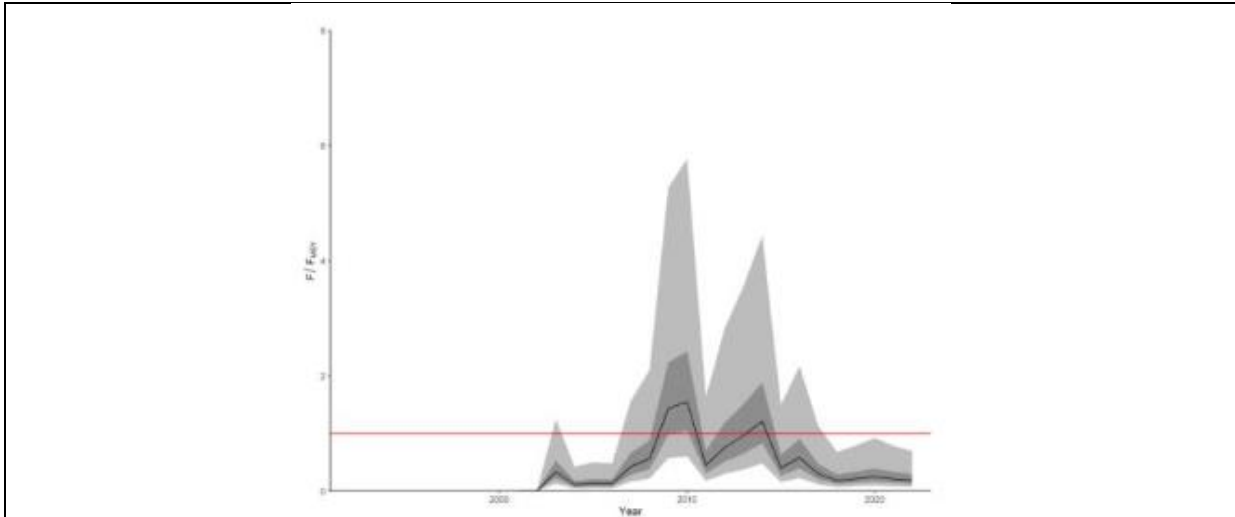


Figure 2. Ration 'F / FMSY' for Northeast Atlantic boarfish through time. Confidence intervals of 50% (dark grey) and 95% (light grey) are given (ICES 2023a).

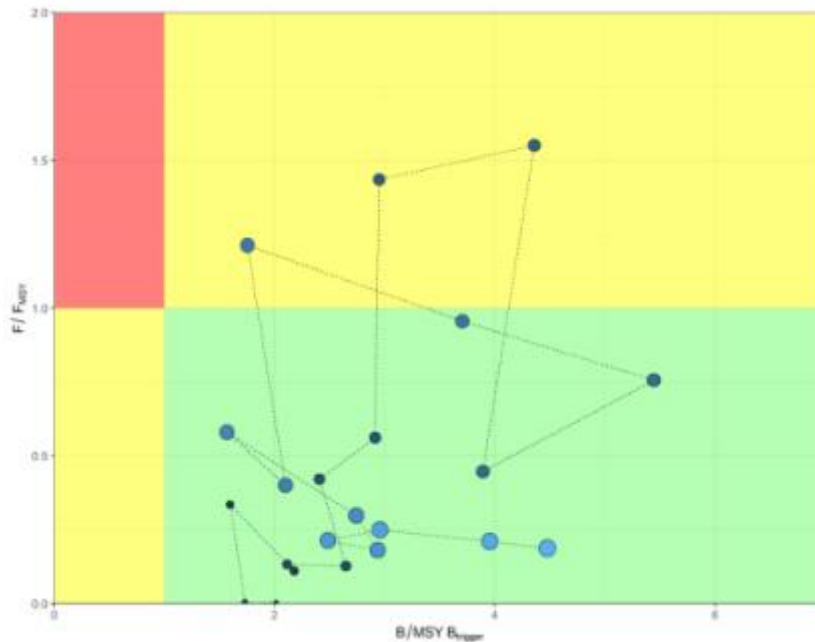


Figure 3. Northeast Atlantic boarfish Kobe plot displaying median estimates only, the small dark blue point represents the first point of the time series and the large light blue point the last one (ICES 2023a).

Considering that in 2023 biomass is above MSY and fishing mortality is below MSY, the risk matrix indicates that Northeast Atlantic boarfish stock should be recommended for approval.

References

ICES 2023a. Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). ICES Scientific Reports. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.24025482.v1>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

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 may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

Species Name		Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</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.

The latest mackerel stock assessment in the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters was published in September 2023 by WGWIDE (ICES 2023b). ICES advised that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 739,386 tonnes. Assessment used an Age-based analytical model (SAM). Input data included: catch data (Figure 4), steel tagging data ([L3182] 1980–2006) and RFID tagging data ([L5543] 2014–2022), and three survey indices: SSB index from the triennial egg survey ([I4189] 1992–2022), abundance indices from the IBTS survey (G1022, G1179, G3239, G4299, G4493, G4748, G4815, G7212 and G9527) (combined Q1 and Q4; age 0, 1998–2020, 2022), and from the IESSNS survey ([A7806] ages 3–11, 2010, 2012–2023). Catches prior to 2000 are given a very low weight in the assessment. Natural mortality (0.15 for all ages and years) is based on tagging studies from the early 1980s. Discarding is known to take place (0.3% of the total catch in weight in 2022) but is only quantified for part of the fisheries; the proportion of the landings covered cannot be calculated. Partial discard estimates are included in the assessment and overall discarding in recent years is assumed negligible.

Catches

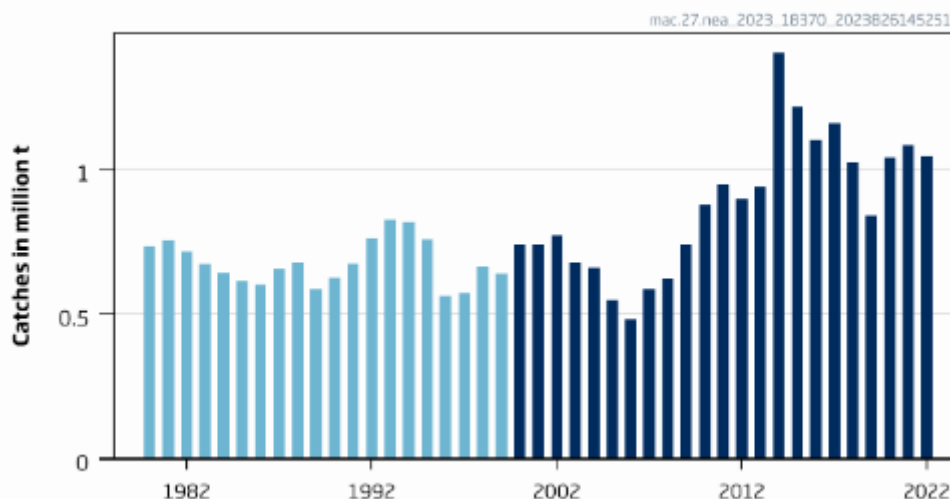


Figure 4. Catches of Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Catches prior to 2000 have been down-weighted in the assessment because of the considerable underreporting suspected to have taken place in this period (ICES 2023b).

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. 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.

According to the latest mackerel stock assessment, fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} but below F_{pa} and F_{lim} ; while spawning-stock size (3,681,064t) is above $MSY B_{trigger}$ (2,580,000t), B_{pa} (2,580,000t), and B_{lim} (2,000,000t) reference points (Figure 5).

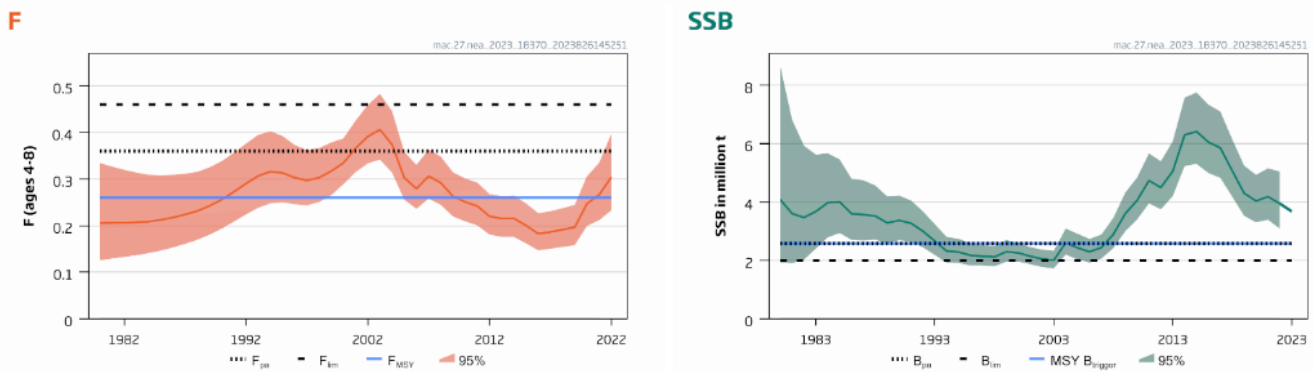


Figure 5. Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Summary of the stock assessment (ICES, 2023).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). C.1.2 is met.

References

ICES 2023b. Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856533.v1>

Links

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

FURTHER IMPACTS

The three clauses in this section relate to impacts the fishery may have in other areas. A fishery must meet the minimum requirements of all three clauses before it can be recommended for approval.

F1	Impacts on ETP Species - Minimum Requirements		
	F1.1	Interactions with ETP species are recorded.	Pass
	F1.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.	Pass
	F1.3	If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.	Pass
		Clause outcome:	Pass
F1.1 Interactions with ETP species are recorded.			
<p>ICES obtains data on protected, endangered, and threatened species (ETPs) bycatch through an annual data call. These data are most commonly linked to at-sea observations carried out for the purposes of fisheries monitoring in accordance with the EU Data Collection Framework Regulation 2017/1004 (DCF).</p> <p>The Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) was established in 2007 and collates and analyses information from across the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent sea areas related to the bycatch of ETPs species, including marine mammals, seabirds, turtles and sensitive fish species in commercial fishing operations.</p> <p>Denmark combines the use of computer vision, camera technology, and video processing for real-time monitoring of (by)catches both during the fishing and on-board handling phases. Some of this technology is used to monitor any interactions between ETPs and fisheries (ICES 2023c).</p> <p>Interactions with ETP species are recorded. F.1.1 is met.</p>			
F1.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species.			
<p>ICES WGBYC requested 2022 ETPS bycatch data from dedicated (e.g. pilot projects or dedicated monitoring programmes) and non-dedicated/multi-purpose (e.g. DCF) monitoring programmes to non-EU and EU Member States. This data was compiled for the areas in ICES 6-8 in the Table 6 below. Interactions with ETPS by pelagic trawl was low. Most of incidents were with Teleosts.</p>			

Table 6. Reported fishing and monitoring days (only for those metiers that reported bycatch) and number of bycaught specimens and incidents in 2022 provided through the ICES WGBYC 2023 data call by ecoregion for all reported species (ICES 2023c).

Ecoregion	ICES Area /GFCM GSA	Metier L3	Fishing Effort (das)	Monitoring Method	Total Observed Effort (das)	Monitoring Coverage (%)	Taxa	Species	No. Specimens	Incidents
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	27.8.d.2	Pelagic trawls	456.34	SO	26.00	5.698	Mammals	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	2	1
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	27.8.a	Pelagic trawls	3355.71	SO	104.26	3.107	Mammals	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	2	1
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	27.8.a	Pelagic trawls	3355.71	SO	104.26	3.107	Teleostei	<i>Mola mola</i>	4	2
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	27.8.d.2	Pelagic trawls	456.34	SO	26.00	5.698	Teleostei	<i>Brama brama</i>	1	1
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Elasmobranchii	<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	3	3
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Holocephali	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	2	2
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Elasmobranchii	<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>	3	3
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Teleostei	<i>Conger conger</i>	3	3
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Teleostei	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	1	1
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Elasmobranchii	<i>Deania calceus</i>	8	6
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Elasmobranchii	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	17	6
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Teleostei	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	39	13
Celtic Seas	27.6.a	Pelagic trawls	1618.76	SO	37.00	2.286	Elasmobranchii	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	1	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.c.2	Pelagic trawls	326.59	SO	5.00	1.531	Elasmobranchii	<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	1	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.h	Pelagic trawls	276.43	SO	16.00	5.788	Teleostei	<i>Brama brama</i>	4	2
Celtic Seas	27.7.h	Pelagic trawls	276.43	SO	16.00	5.788	Teleostei	<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>	4	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.h	Pelagic trawls	276.43	SO	16.00	5.788	Elasmobranchii	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	1	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.h	Pelagic trawls	276.43	SO	16.00	5.788	Teleostei	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	50	3
Celtic Seas	27.7.h	Pelagic trawls	276.43	SO	16.00	5.788	Teleostei	<i>Mola mola</i>	8	2
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Teleostei	<i>Brama brama</i>	22	6
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Holocephali	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	11	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Mammals	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	2	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Elasmobranchii	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	2	1
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Teleostei	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	1082	26
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Teleostei	<i>Mola mola</i>	41	12
Celtic Seas	27.7.j.2	Pelagic trawls	1798.32	SO	66.67	3.707	Teleostei	<i>Zeus faber</i>	5	1
Greater North Sea	27.7.d	Pelagic trawls	3097.82	SO	29.89	0.965	Teleostei	<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>	3	2
Greater North Sea	27.7.d	Pelagic trawls	3097.82	SO	29.89	0.965	Teleostei	<i>Zeus faber</i>	14	4

There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative effect on ETP species. F.1.2 is met.

F1.3 If the fishery is known to interact with ETP species, measures are in place to minimise mortality.

There are many other obligations to monitor and introduce measures to reduce protected species bycatch within legislation specific to fisheries and the Common Fisheries Policy. Member states have obligations under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’). The Technical Measures Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1241) also sets out measures for protecting habitats including regional measures under Article 15 and powers to introduce real-time closures and moving-on provisions. Robust data pertaining to fishing effort and bycatch monitoring data are required by Member States to assess the impact of bycatch and work towards meeting the various legislative requirements and commitments (ICES 2023c).

Results and technological advancements such as in-trawl camera systems and automated, camera based catch profiling systems from the SMARTFISH, TECHNOFISH, AUTOCATCH projects in Denmark will be used in upcoming projects to monitor and mitigate ETP species bycatches (ICES, 2023c).

The fishery is not known to interact with many ETP species, but measures are in place to minimise mortality. F.1.3 is met.

References

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. <https://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701>

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009L0147>

ICES. 2023c. Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). ICES Scientific Reports. 5:111. 334 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.24659484>

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R1241>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.1
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D4.04, D.3.08

F2 Impacts on Habitats - Minimum Requirements			
F2	F2.1	Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.	Pass
	F2.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.	Pass
	F2.3	If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.	Pass
Clause outcome:			Pass

F2.1 Potential habitat interactions are considered in the management decision-making process.

Boarfish fishery uses pelagic trawls which are designed to target fish in the mid- and surface water; therefore, they do not come into contact with the seabed and it is consider a fishing gear that do not generate any impact in the habitat (Seafish 2023). Taking into account the lack of interaction of the pelagic trawl with any kind of habitat, boarfish fishery using this gear does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to any habitat types, and a management strategy is not required, **Thus, F.2.1 is met.**

F2.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats.

The fishery is conducted only with pelagic trawls which do not impact physical habitats.

There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on physical habitats, F.2.2 is met.

F2.3 If the fishery is known to interact with physical habitats, there are measures in place to minimise and mitigate negative impacts.

Habitats are provided protection through the Natura 2000 network established under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (2009/147/EC;92/43/EEC) and the corresponding national legislation (Natura 2000 in Denmark, National Order No. 1048/2013). Nevertheless, the fishery is known not to interact with physical habitats, this clause is not applicable, such that **F2.3 is met.**

References

Danish Fisheries Agency, Natura 2000 and fisheries: regional processes. <https://fiskeristyrelsen.dk/english/commercialfisheries/natura-2000-and-fisheries-regional-processes/#c83659>

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009L0147>

Seafish 2023. Pelagic trawl. <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/fishing-gear-database/gear/pelagic-trawl/>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.2
FAO CCRF	6.8
GSSI	D.2.07, D.6.07, D3.09

F3 Ecosystem Impacts - Minimum Requirements		
F3.1	The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.	Pass
F3.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	Pass
F3.3	If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.	Pass
Clause outcome:		Pass
<p>F3.1 The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process.</p> <p>The current activities of the WGBYC are to lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. ICES regularly publishes ecoregion overviews which set out the main ecosystem considerations for each of the ecoregion conditions, including the state of the ecosystems from Celtic Sea, English Channel and Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Recently the European Commission presented a package of measures to improve the sustainability and resilience of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector, which included an Action Plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (EC, 2023).</p> <p>The broader ecosystem within which the fishery occurs is considered during the management decision-making process. F.3.1 is met.</p> <p>F3.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Boarfish are zooplanktivorous, primarily consuming copepods, mysid shrimps, euphausiids, and hyperiid amphipods (Santos and Borges, 2001; Fock et al., 2002; Lopes et al., 2006). Despite their well-armoured bodies, boarfish are preyed upon by various larger fish species and birds. Around the Azores, Portugal, boarfish are a significant part of the diet for species such as sharks, rays, eels, tunas, blackspot seabream, shearwaters, and terns (Clarke et al., 1995; Morato et al., 1999, 2001, 2003; Arrizabalaga et al., 2008; Granadeiro et al., 1998, 2002; Ceia et al., 2015). This prevalence in predator diets may be due to a scarcity of other food sources in the region (Nolan, 2014). Off the coast of Portugal, predators of boarfish include hake, mackerel, eels, monkfish, catsharks, and gulls (Santos and Borges, 2001; Cabral and Murta, 2002; Alonso et al., 2015). In contrast, no studies in Irish waters of the Northeast Atlantic have identified boarfish as a significant prey species. Research on the diets of conger eels, tope sharks, thornback rays, and hake in this region did not find any boarfish in their stomachs (Nolan, 2014). Given their frequency in the diets of marine and bird life in the Azores, boarfish appear to be an important component of the marine ecosystem in that region but there is no indication that it occupies a critical role in the ecosystem.</p> <p>There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem. F.3.2 is met.</p> <p>F3.3 If one or more of the species identified during species categorisation plays a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals.</p> <p>Mackerel plays a key role in the marine ecosystem; however, catches of the species in the boarfish fishery are small relative to the directed fishery for mackerel, and the important role of the species in the ecosystem is considered in the setting of mackerel TACs. The boarfish management plan proposal states that closed seasons shall operate from 31st March to 31st August given that herring and mackerel are present in these areas and may be caught with boarfish. In addition, boarfish TAC has been relatively consistent since 2018 fluctuating around 20,000t, and actual catch has fallen short of the TAC every year since 2015 (ICES 2022).</p> <p>For species/stocks identified during species categorisation that play a key role in the marine ecosystem, additional precaution is included in recommendations relating to the total permissible fishery removals of those species/stocks such that F3.3 is met.</p>		

References

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Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.3.3
FAO CCRF	7.2.2 (d)
GSSI	D.2.09, D3.10, D.6.09

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix A - Determining Resilience Ratings

The assessment of Category B species described in this assessment report template utilises a resilience rating system suggested by the American Fisheries Society. This approach was chosen because it is also used by FishBase, and so the resilience ratings for many thousands of species are freely available online. As described by FishBase, the following is the process used to arrive at the resilience ratings:

“The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has suggested values for several biological parameters that allow classification of a fish population or species into categories of high, medium, low and very low resilience or productivity (Musick 1999). If no reliable estimate of r_m (see below) is available, the assignment is to the lowest category for which any of the available parameters fits. For each of these categories, AFS has suggested thresholds for decline over the longer of 10 years or three generations. If an observed decline measured in biomass or numbers of mature individuals exceeds the indicated threshold value, the population or species is considered vulnerable to extinction unless explicitly shown otherwise. If one sex strongly limits the reproductive capacity of the species or population, then only the decline in the limiting sex should be considered. We decided to restrict the automatic assignment of resilience categories in the Key Facts page to values of K , t_m and t_{max} and those records of fecundity estimates that referred to minimum number of eggs or pups per female per year, assuming that these were equivalent to average fecundity at first maturity (Musick 1999). Note that many small fishes may spawn several times per year (we exclude these for the time being) and large live bearers such as the coelacanth may have gestation periods of more than one year (we corrected fecundity estimates for those cases reported in the literature). Also, we excluded resilience estimates based on r_m (see below) as we are not yet confident with the reliability of the current method for estimating r_m . If users have independent r_m or fecundity estimates, they can refer to Table 1 for using this information.”

Parameter	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Threshold	0.99	0.95	0.85	0.70
r_{max} (1/year)	> 0.5	0.16 - 0.50	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
K (1/year)	> 0.3	0.16 - 0.30	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
Fecundity (1/year)	> 10,000	100 - 1000	10 - 100	< 10
t_m (years)	< 1	2 - 4	5 - 10	> 10
t_{max} (years)	1 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 30	> 30

[Taken from the FishBase manual, “Estimation of Life-History Key Facts”, <http://www.fishbase.us/manual/English/key%20facts.htm#resilience>]

Appendix B - MarinTrust Fishery Assessment Peer Review Template

This section comprises a summary of the fishery being assessed against version 2 of the MarinTrust Standard.

Fishery under assessment	Boarfish Denmark FAO 27 ICES 6-8
Management authority (Country/State)	EU/Denmark
Main species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) 2. Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
Fishery location	FAO 27, ICES 6-8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)
Gear type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Overall recommendation. (Approve/ Fail)	Approve

Summary: in this section, provide any additional information about the fishery that the reviewers feel is significant to their decision.

Although in some sections, the information provided is succinct, I think it is adequate to support the scores given.

General Comments on the Draft Report provided to the peer reviewer

OK

Summary of Peer Review Outcomes

Peer reviewers should review the fishery assessment report with the primary objective of answering the key questions listed in the table below. Where the situation is more complicated, reviewers may instead answer “See Notes”.

	YES	NO	See Notes
A – Fishery Assessment			
1. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?	X		
2. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?	X		
3. Are the scores in the following sections accurate (i.e. do the scores reflect the evidence provided)?			
Section M - Management	X		
Category A Species			NA
Category B Species	X		
Category C Species	X		
Category D Species			NA
Section F – Further Impacts	X		

Detailed Peer Review Justification

Peer reviewers should provide support for their answers in the boxes provided, by referring to specific scoring issues and any relevant documentation as appropriate.

Detailed justifications are only required where answers given are one of the ‘No’ options. In other (Yes) cases, either confirm ‘scoring agreed’ or identify any places where weak rationales could be strengthened (without any implications for the scores).

Boxes may be extended if more space is required.

1. Is the scoring of the fishery consistent with the MarinTrust standard, and clearly based on the evidence presented in the assessment report?
The assessment report is adequate, it provides the information necessary to justify the scores assigned to the different categories.
Certification body response
OK

2. Has the fishery assessment been fully completed, using the recognised MARINTRUST fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance?
Yes, the MarinTrust fishery assessment methodology and associated guidance has been adequately and clearly applied to this assessment.
Certification body response
OK

3. Does the Species Categorisation section of the report reflect the best current understanding of the catch composition of the fishery?

Yes. The information provided explains clearly the data used in order to identify the main species. Only boarfish and mackerel (which represents a very low percentage of the catch) are assessed. Only category B and C identified. The explanation given by the assessor for assessing boarfish as a category B species seems to be correct.

Certification body response

OK

3M. Are the scores in “Section M – Management” clearly justified?

Yes, the information is adequate. Only minor comments.

M1.5 I understand that the exact role of the Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) could also be explained in this section.

M2.2. The number of inspections indicated in this section, refer to the specific area of the assessment of to the entire EU?

Certification body response

M1.5 Perfect, I have added there: “The Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC), one of the Advisory Councils for fisheries in the European Union, function as forums for consultation and the drafting of stakeholder-led advice which, in turn, informs pelagic fisheries policy at the EU level and covers all European sea-basins, excluding those in the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Sea”

M2.2 That is a good point, it was within the whole JDB framework. I have added specific information for the area now: In 2023, according to EFCA, 3,208 coordinated inspections were reported within the Western Waters JDP framework (operation area: EU waters of ICES 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9 and 27.10, and of CECAF 34.1), with 195 suspected infringements detected during landing inspections on fishing vessels and 3 suspected infringements detected during transport inspections ([JDP-WW-2023](#)).

3A. Are the “Category A Species” scores clearly justified?

No Category A species identified in the catch.

Certification body response

OK

3B. Are the “Category B Species” scores clearly justified?

Yes. The information provided is adequate to support the score. Biomass is above MSY and fishing mortality is below MSY. So, it meets the requirements.

Just a comment about that, I didn’t know that ICES was starting to use Kobe plots. Well, although they are not my favourite, I think they are easy to understand.

Certification body response

OK

3C. Are the “Category C Species” scores clearly justified?

Atlantic mackerel is identified in the catch and assessed under category C. Information provided is adequate to support the score. The stock is over the Blimit.

Certification body response

OK

3D. Are the “Category D Species” scores clearly justified?

No category D species identified in the catch.

Certification body response

OK

3F. Are the scores in “Section F – Further Impacts” clearly justified?

Yes, scores clearly justified. Only minor comments:

F1.2 Any idea if any of the reported incidents refer to this particular fishery?

F1.3 The sentence “*The Technical Measures Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1241) also sets out technical measures*” sound repetitive, please correct it (if necessary).

F3.1 Response quite general, it would be interesting to know if the reference points set by ICES for the stock take any consideration of the role of the species in the ecosystem.

Certification body response

F.1.2 No, it is not specified in the report.

F.1.3 OK, I edited it.

F.3.1 It does not, but there is a new benchmark being produced this year.

Optional: General comments on the Peer Review Draft Report

Certification body response

Glossary

Non-target: Species for which the gear is not specifically set, although they may have immediate commercial value and be a desirable component of the catch. OECD (1996), Synthesis report for the study on the economic aspects of the management of marine living resources. AGR/FI(96)12

Target: In the context of fishery certification, the target catch is the catch of stock under consideration by the unit of certification – i.e. the fish that are being assessed for certification and ecolabelling. (GSSI)