MarinTrust RS V2.0

BYPRODUCT FISHERY ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE REPORT

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TABLE 1 APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Fishery Under Assessment	**Species:**	Argentine hake *Merluccius hubbsi*
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 41 Atlantic Southeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Argentine
	Stock:	Bonaerense/North of 41º S
Date	February 2021	
Report Code	183-2020	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Argentine	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Argentine		**Zip:**	
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**	
Email address:		**Applicant Code:**	
Key Contact:		**Title:**	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body: Global Trust Certification			
Assessor	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval**
Virginia Polonio	Géraldine Criquet	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	February 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*)
Stock	Bonaerense/North of 41º S
Fishery Location	FAO Area 41 Atlantic Southeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA)
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Assessment Determination
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 MarinTrust raw material. Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices, therefore, Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material. The Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM), a bilateral entity formed by delegations from Argentina and Uruguay, has among its functions to establish the catch levels for the species that are exploited within the Common Fishing Zone (ZCP) and to distribute this catch among both countries. The Northern stock is distributed also outside the ZCP, within Argentina and Uruguay's Exclusive Economic Zones. The stock is managed through Total Allowable Catches (TAC), established by the CTMFM for the ZCP, and also by the Federal Fisheries Council (Consejo Federal Pesquero, CFP) in Argentina. The species is subject to a species-specific management regime and therefore it is categorised as Category C. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1. The most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim. Therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2. In order to be approved, the stock assessed must achieve a pass in clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) in FAO Area 87 is **APPROVED** by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standard.
Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified Northern Argentine hake stock as category C, the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point. The Northern Argentine hake passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and is therefore approved.
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 Redlist Category

Byproduct 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.

Byproduct 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]
Argentine hake	*Merluccius hubbsi*	Bonaerense/North of 41º S	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA)	C	DD	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it 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		**Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*)**	
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.

Data has been compiled from landings of Argentine hake (1990-2016). Catch-at-age evaluations of the stock are carried out annually by Argentina's INIDEP (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero). A mathematical model (APV-XSA) is applied to obtain estimates of recruitment and age-related fishing mortality. A statistical model of catch-at-age on the ADMB platform (ECE) was also applied. Calibration indices used included catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and age-related abundance indices obtained from research cruises

Bycatch data from the fleet targeting Patagonian prawns and data from the on-board observer programme (both fleets) were also used. Third Country data (including Uruguay fleet catches) on Argentine hake landings were provided by FAO; discard estimates were also included in order to obtain catch-at-age estimates.

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the fishery **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.

Total and spawning stock biomass (SSB) declined significantly between 1986 and 2014, 75% and 80% respectively. A 50% increase in SSB was observed from 2012 to 2014, due to a reduction in adult and juvenile fishing mortalities, in result of temporal closures and management measures aiming reduction on fishing effort. However, there are no reference points related to fishing mortality, two biological reference points are used by the INIDEP to evaluate the status of the Northern stock of Argentine hake: a lower limit (Blim) defined at 150,000 tonnes, and a precautionary level (Bpa) defined at 230,000 tonnes, based on the stock-recruit relationship (Irusta, 2015).

In the last INIDEP report the SSB showed and increasing trends and it was above Blim of 150,000 tonnes. The total Catch allowed for this year has been stet at 42,000 tonnes.

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

Informe tecnico official IN° 40/2020: "Evaluación del estado del efectivo norte de 41° S de merluza (Merluccius hubbsi) y estimación de Captura Biológicamente Aceptable para 2021."

Irusta, C.G., 2015. Evaluación del estado del efectivo norte de 41° S de la merluza (Merluccius hubbsi) y estimación de la captura biológicamente aceptable para el año 2016. INIDEP Official Technical Report N° 29/2015. 19 November 2015. 33 pp. (In Spanish) http://www.inidep.edu.ar/publicaciones/catalogo/informes-tecnicos-2015/

https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1134

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

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 B: From MARINTRUST Standard V2.0 Annex 2: Fish By-product Assessment Methodology

Definition of a Fish By-product

A by-product is a useful and marketable product that is not the primary product being produced. A marketable by-product is from a process that can technically not be avoided. This includes materials that may be traditionally defined as waste such as industrial scrap that is subsequently used as a raw material in a different manufacturing process.

"Fish By-products" refers to commodities that are manufactured from fish, including shellfish, and crustaceans in a form that is different than conventional foods and which are intended for human consumption (either directly or as a food ingredient). Fish By-products include, but are not limited to:

- By-products derived from fish, including fish cartilage, fish oils, and fish proteins; and
- By-products derived from the carapaces of crustaceans; but do not include marine plants or marine plant products.

(Canadian Food Inspection Agency Definition)

In addition, a whole fish which is rejected on an intrinsic quality ground e.g. does not meet the specification for human consumption due to physical damage or the quality is substandard. These whole fish shall in these cases be classified as a by-product from the human consumption fishery, and can be used for marine ingredients production.

A whole catch of fish that is rejected by a fish processing factory on economic grounds is not considered to be a fish by-product. This fish can only be used for marine ingredients production if the fishery has been assessed and approved under the requirements of the IFFO Responsible Sourcing Standard.

Why utilise Fish By-products?

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

General Principles Article 6

6.7 The harvesting, handling, processing and distribution of fish and fishery products should be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Responsible fish utilisation Article 11.1

11.1.8 States should encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to reduce post-harvest losses and waste.

Benefits of Including Fish By-Products in the MARINTRUST Standard:

1. Improved fish resource utilisation

2. Reduction in waste for nutritional value

3. 35% of fish by-products are currently used to make quality fishmeal and oil

4. Excellent Economic return

5. Better compliance with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

What Fish By-products cannot be used?

1. IUCN

Fishery By-products shall Not be taken from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for certain categories;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the vulnerable category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body prior to it being included in the scope of this standard.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

The Fish By-product material from these species will be acceptable for use in the scope of this standard;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the following category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance prior to it being included in the scope of this standard;

- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

The fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body will review the following areas:

Stock Assessment

- From a recognised Institution
- Fisheries are recognised as legal
- Fisheries do not contradict scientific opinion

2. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

In addition the Fish By-products shall not come from fisheries that do not comply with the following criteria;

1. Fisheries should prohibit dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices.

2. Fishery material shall not be from IUU fishing activity nor sourced from vessels officially listed as engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

Sources of Information

1. Food Standards Agency
2. Canadian Food Inspection Agency
3. DEFRA

4. GAA Feed mill BAP standard gfio
5. EU Commission
6. IUCN