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**IFFO RS**  
Global Standard for Responsible Supply  
of Marine Ingredients

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**Global Standard for  
Responsible Supply  
of Marine Ingredients**  
Fishery Assessment  
Methodology and  
Template Report V2.0



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<b>Fishery Under Assessment</b>	<b>Monkfish <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> / <i>L. budegassa</i> North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat</b>
<b>Date</b>	April 2020
<b>Report Code</b>	2020-70
<b>Assessor</b>	Conor Donnelly
<b>Stock Pass</b>	ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a
<b>Stock Fail</b>	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
<b>Name:</b> Pelagia				
<b>Address:</b>				
<b>Country:</b> UK, Ireland		<b>Zip:</b>		
<b>Tel. No.:</b>		<b>Fax. No.:</b>		
<b>Email address:</b>		<b>Applicant Code:</b>		
<b>Key Contact:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
Certification Body Details				
<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		SAI Global Ltd		
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval</b>	<b>Whole fish/ By-product</b>
Conor Donnelly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Re-approval	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2020			

Scope Details	
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
<b>Main Species</b>	Monkfish <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> / <i>L. budegassa</i>
<b>Stock:</b>	ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a
<b>Fishery Location</b>	North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	Demersal trawls, gillnets, <i>Nephrops</i> trawls.
Outcome of Assessment	

<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	<b>APPROVE</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>APPROVE</b>

### 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 IFFO RS raw material. Monkfish *Lophius piscatorius*, *L. budegassa* do not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor do they appear in CITES appendices; therefore, monkfish is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.

One stock complex forms part of this assessment:

#### **1) North Sea, Rockall and west of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat (ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a)**

The monkfish stock complex is managed under the EU multiannual plan for the Western Waters within the framework of the EU Common Fisheries Policy and so is assessed under Clause C.

Fishery removals of the stock complex are included in the stock assessment process so the stock complex **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point so the stock complex **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore:

1) Monkfish in ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a is **APPROVED** by SAI Global assessors in the assessment area for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

### Peer Review Comments

Overall Peer Review agrees with the conclusions have been made in the report. However, the stock has decreased, the advised catch for 2020 is lower than the 2019 advice, due to the decrease in the stock size indicator and the application of the precautionary buffer.

Therefore, PR recommends Monkfish (*L. piscatorius* and *L. budegassa*) in ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a is approved under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

### Notes for On-site Auditor

## HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

### By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The '% landings' column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

### SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the 'target' or 'main' species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the 'bycatch' or 'minor' species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

**Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).**

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The 'stock' column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The 'management' column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

**TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)****Category A:** Species-specific management regime in place.**Category B:** No species-specific management regime in place.**TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)****Category C:** Species-specific management regime in place.**Category D:** No species-specific management regime in place.

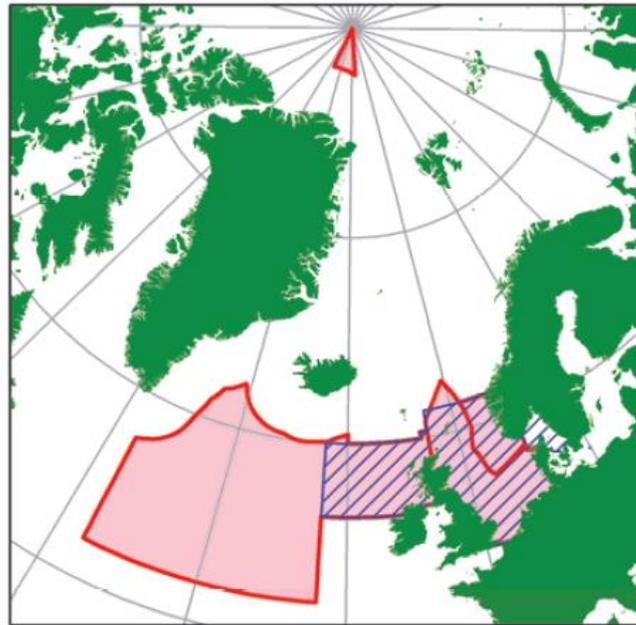
Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Monkfish/ anglerfish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> / <i>L. budegassa</i>	ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a	NA	EU/CFP	C

**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. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		Monkfish <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> / <i>L. budegassa</i>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	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.	<b>PASS</b>
	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.	<b>PASS</b>
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			<b>PASS</b>
<b>C1.1 Evidence</b>			
This assessment covers the monkfish stock complex ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i> ) in the areas outlined in <b>Figure 1</b> below.			



■ TAC/Management area  
▨ Assessment area

**Figure 1.** Management and stock assessment area for the monkfish stock complex in ICES subareas 4 and 6, division 3a (source: Marine Institute, 2019).

Monkfish in this area are assessed and managed as a stock complex. Management is through the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in Western Waters under the framework of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. Scientific advice is provided by ICES. The MAP stipulates that when  $F_{MSY}$  ranges are not available, fishing opportunities should be based on the best available scientific advice. No reference points are defined for the stock complex. This stock is classified by ICES as a category 3 stock which means a trends-based assessment is possible.

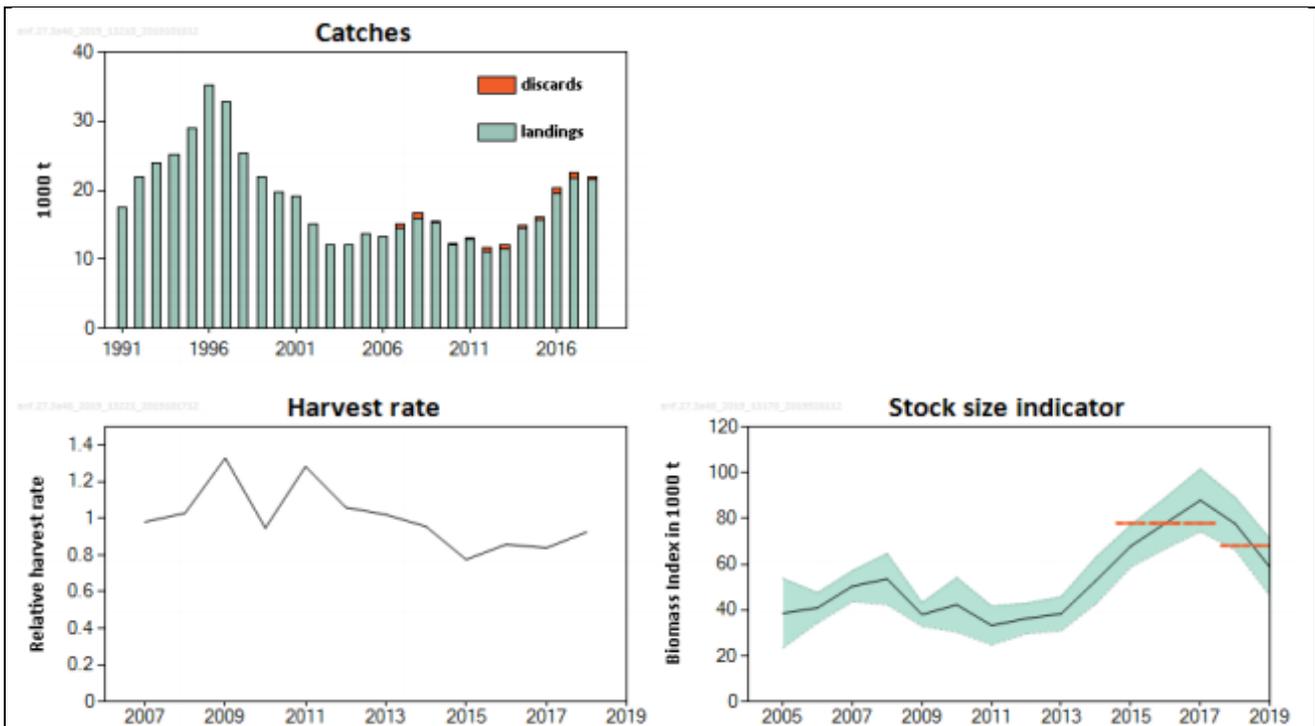
The two TACs in this area do not match the stock complex unit. One TAC area covers Subarea 4 and Division 2.a (EC); the second covers Division 5.b (EC) and subareas 6, 12, and 14. There is no TAC for Division 3.a. As a result of this mismatch, there is a potential for catches to exceed advice. However, official landings from area 3.a are also included in the assessment.

The Scottish-Irish Anglerfish and Megrin Industry-Science Survey in Subarea 6 and Division 4.a (SIAMISS-Q2) is used as the index of stock development in the assessment together with international catch information. The advice is based on the ratio of the mean of the last two index values (Index A) and the mean of the three preceding values (Index B), multiplied by the recent advised catch.

Consequently, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process so the stock complex **PASSES** clause C1.1.

**C1.2  
Evidence**

The stock size indicator increased from 2011 to a high value in 2017 and has been decreasing since then. The harvest rate has increased since 2015. See **Figure 2** below.



**Figure 2.** Anglerfish in subareas 4 and 6 and in Division 3.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Top: ICES landings and discards in thousand tonnes (estimates available since 2007). Bottom left: Relative harvest rate (total catch/stock size indicator; normalized to the average harvest rate). Bottom right: Stock biomass (thousands tonnes) from the SIAMISS-Q2 survey. The dashed horizontal lines indicate the average of the most recent two years and the previous three years. The shaded area represents the 95% confidence interval (source: ICES, 2019).

The assessment was undertaken by ICES as follows:

The index of stock development is estimated to have decreased by less than 20% and thus the uncertainty cap was not applied. The precautionary buffer has not previously been applied for this stock. However, as the stock size indicator has declined in recent years and the stock status relative to reference points is unknown, the precautionary buffer was applied in this assessment. The discard rate in 2018 was 1.5% of the total catch.

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 22,056 tonnes. The advised catch for 2020 is lower than the 2019 advice, due to the decrease in the stock size indicator and the application of the precautionary buffer.

No limit reference point or proxy are identified and although the stock has decreased recently from the high value reached in 2017 it is above the long-term average. Consequently, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) so the stock complex **PASSES** clause C1.2.

## References

ICES, 2019. Anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*, *Lophius piscatorius*) in subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, anf.27.3a46. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4778..>

Marine Institute, 2019. The Stock Book 2019. Annual Review of Fish Stocks in 2019 with Management Advice for 2020. Marine Institute, Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland.

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*