



RESPONSIBLE  
SUPPLY

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

**IFFO RS Limited**

T: +44 (0) 2030 539 195  
E: Standards@iffors.com  
W: www.iffors.com

Unit C, Printworks | 22 Amelia Street  
London, SE17 3BZ | United Kingdom



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



RESPONSIBLE  
SUPPLY

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



|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Fishery Under Assessment</b> | <b>Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i><br/>North Sea, Eastern English Channel</b> |
| <b>Date</b>                     | February 2020   |
| <b>Assessor</b>                 | Jim Daly  |
| <b>Stock Pass</b>               | ICES Subarea 4; Division 7d   |
| <b>Stock Fail</b>               |   |

|  |                      |                        |  |                               |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Application details and summary of the assessment outcome</b> |                      |                        |  |                               |
| <b>Name: FFSkagen and others</b>                                 |                      |                        |  |                               |
| <b>Address:</b>  |                      |                        |  |                               |
| <b>Country: Denmark</b>  |                      | <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>          |  |                               |
| <b>Certification Body Details</b>                                |                      |                        |  |                               |
| <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> |
| Jim Daly   | Conor Donnelly       | 0.5                    | SURV 2                                   | By-product                    |
| <b>Assessment Period</b>   | 2020                 |                        |  |                               |

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope Details</b>                        |                                     |
| <b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b> | Denmark/EU                          |
| <b>Main Species</b>                         | Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> |
| <b>Stock:</b>                               | ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7d      |
| <b>Fishery Location</b>                     | North Sea, Eastern English Channel  |
| <b>Gear Type(s)</b>                         | All compliant gears                 |
| <b>Outcome of Assessment</b>                |                                     |
| <b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>               | <b>AGREE</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. Whiting does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Whiting is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.

One stock forms part of this assessment:

- 1) Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)

Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

For Whiting in the assessment area, the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass ( $SSB_{2020}$  156,590t) is above Blim (119, 970t); removals are not considered to be negligible therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

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

- 1) Whiting 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

### 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 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Whiting     | <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> | ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7d | N/A           | Denmark/EU | 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.

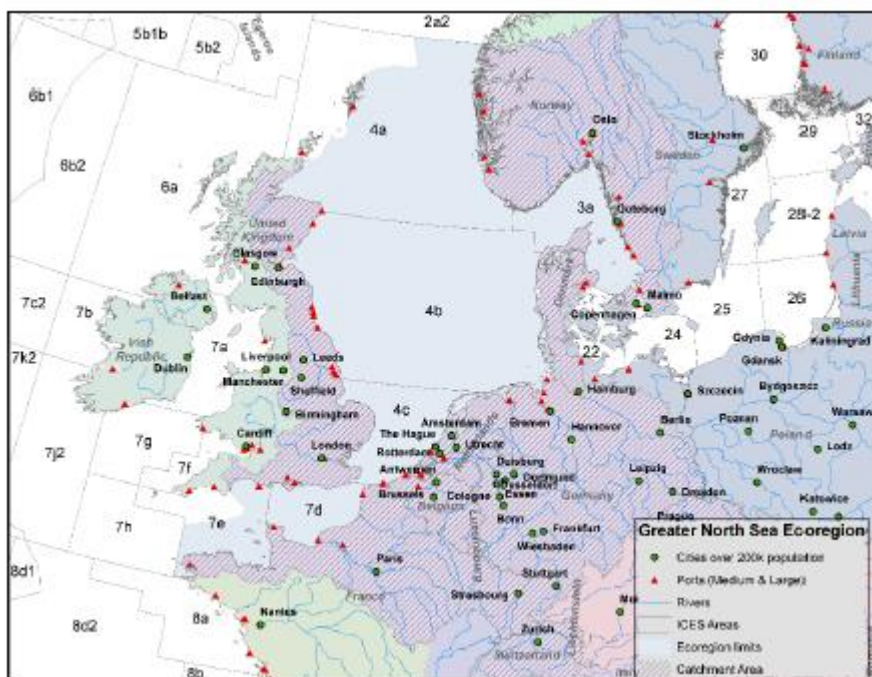
Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

| Species Name |   | Whiting  | <i>Merlangius merlangus</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.   |                             |
|              | 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. |                             |

**Clause outcome:** **PASS**

### C1.1 Evidence

This assessment covers Whiting harvested from ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7d (**Figure 1**):



**Figure 1:** Greater North Sea Ecoregion, including the assessment area (Subarea 4, Division 7d) **R1**

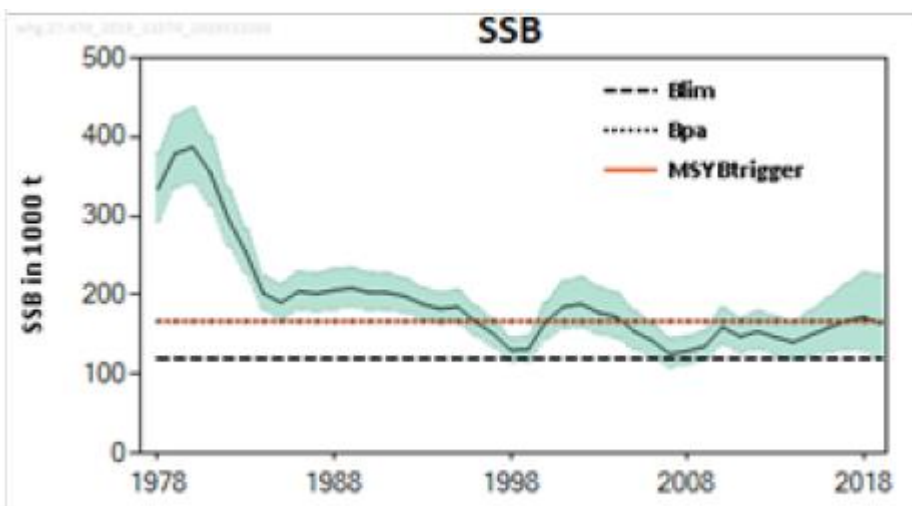
The stock is assessed annually. The assessment is an age-based analytical assessment using catches in the model and forecast. Input data included data from commercial catches and two survey indices. Maturity estimates were derived from the surveys; natural mortality estimates derived from the SMS multispecies model (ICES 2019b).

The proportion of landings sampled with associated discards was 73%. 55% of discards were sampled. No biological samples were available for age allocations from the industrial bycatch, therefore samples of total catches were used; mean weight-at-age was assumed equal to catch weights-at-age. Below minimum size (BMS) landings, where reported to ICES, are included with discards as unwanted catch in the assessment since 2015. This assessment was last benchmarked in 2018 (ICES, 2018a).

## C1.2

### Evidence

Spawning-stock biomass ( $SSB_{2020}$  156,590t) has fluctuated around MSY Btrigger (166, 708t) since the mid-1980s, is just below it and above  $B_{LIM}$  (119, 970t) in 2019:



**Figure 2:** Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals **R2**

An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2018). This plan is not adopted by Norway; thus, it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the EC to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the MAP as a catch option. EU–Norway have requested an evaluation of multiple management strategies, currently under consideration.

### References

**R1** MAP Greater North Sea Ecoregion: ICES Ecosystem Overviews (37pp Dec 2019): [http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/EcosystemOverview\\_GreaterNorthSea\\_2019.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/EcosystemOverview_GreaterNorthSea_2019.pdf)

**R2** ICES (2019) Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel) <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/whg.27.47d.pdf>

**R3** ICES (2019b) Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:7. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5402>

**R4** EU.2018. Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the

North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L. 179. 13 pp. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj>

**R5** ICES 2018a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on North Sea Stocks (WKNSEA 2018), 5–9 February 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2018/ACOM:33. 636 pp.

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*