



RESPONSIBLE  
SUPPLY

**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>Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> Northeast Atlantic</b>
<b>Date</b>	February 2020
<b>Assessor</b>	Jim Daly
<b>Stock Pass</b>	ICES 4a-c,6a,7abd-h, j
<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>
Jim Daly	Conor Donnelly	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>	Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>
<b>Stock:</b>	ICES 4a-c,6a,7abd-h, j
<b>Fishery Location</b>	Northeast Atlantic
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	All compliant gears
Outcome of Assessment	
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</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. Hake does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Hake is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.

One stock forms part of this assessment:

- 1) ICES 4a-c,6a,7abd-h, j Northern Stock

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

For Hake in the assessment area the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass ( $SSB_{2020}$  276,565t) is above Blim (40,000t) and 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) Hake 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.

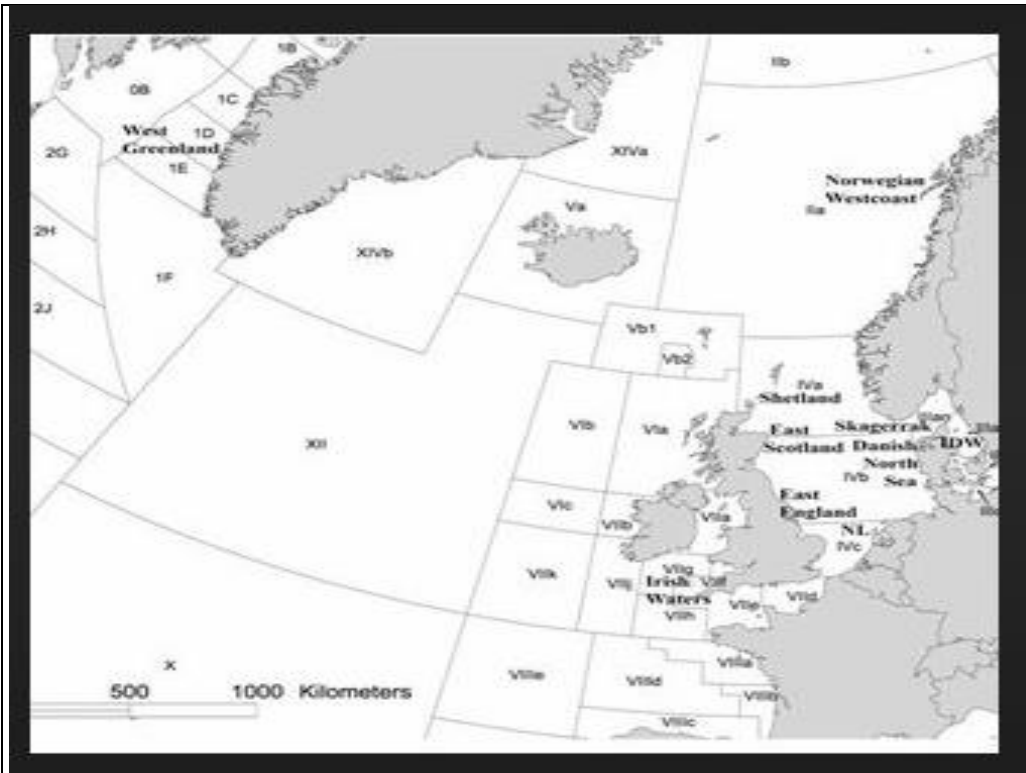
Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	ICES 4a-c,6a,7abd-h, j	N/A	EU/CFP	C

## 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.

<b>Species Name</b>		<b>Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i></b>
<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 HAKE harvested from the area outlined in <b>Figure 1:</b>		



**Figure 1:** R1 Map of the Hake assessment area ICES 4a-c,6a,7abd-h, j **R1**

The annual stock assessment is derived from a length-based model, using landings and discards in both assessment and forecast. Input data is derived from commercial landings; four survey indices, maturity and mortality data.

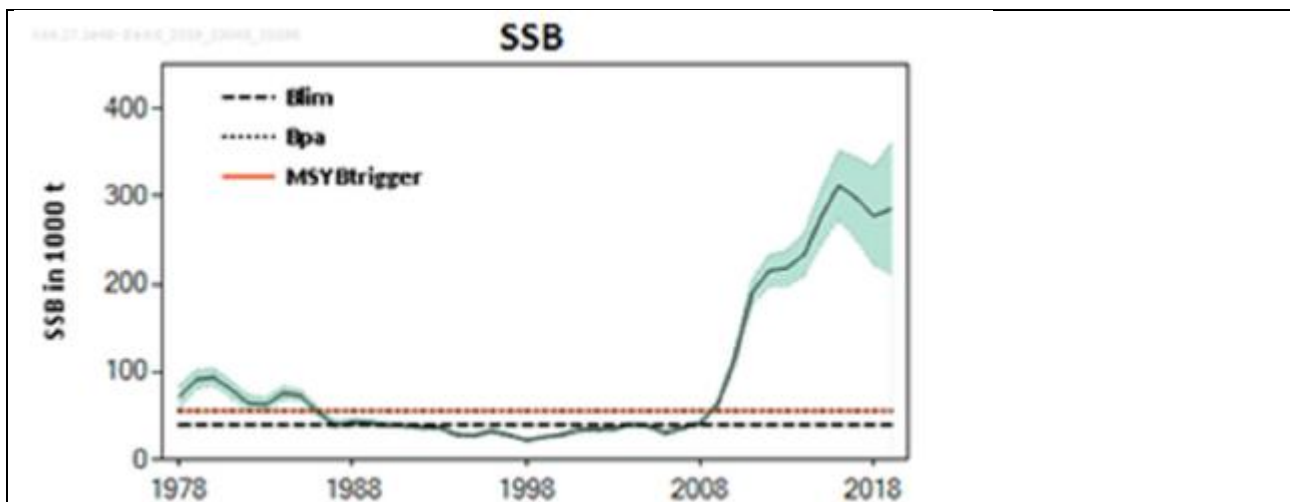
Discards and bycatch data from most fleets are available. All observed discards are included in the assessment (ICES, 2019a, 2019b). The stock was last benchmarked in 2014 (ICES, 2014). An Inter benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2019 (ICES, 2019a).

The Working group responsible for the assessments is WGBIE: Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion. The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2019). This plan is not adopted by Norway; thus, it was not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the MAP as a catch option.

## **C1.2**

### **Evidence**

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially since 2006. In 2016 it reached the maximum in the time series, since then has declined slightly (**Figure 2**):



**Figure 2:** Hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, Divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d. Plot shows 95% confidence intervals (shaded area). **R2**

ICES assess that Spawning-stock size (SSB<sub>2020</sub> 276,565t) is above Blim (40,000t). An inter benchmark exercise resulted in the inclusion of discard estimates which were missing for some of the fleets. The assessment is now based on total catch estimates. Reference points were revised as a result (ICES 2019a).

## References

- R1** MAP Ruzzante, D. et al Conservation genetics of harbour porpoises, *Phocoena phocoena*, in eastern and central North Atlantic Conservation Genetics 2(4):309-324 · December 2001  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FA%3A1012534212853>
- R2** ICES Advice (2019) Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/hke.27.3a46-8abd.pdf>
- R3** ICES. 2014. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Southern Megrin and Hake (WKSOUTH), 3-7 February 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:40. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5347>
- R4** ICES. 2019a. Inter-benchmark of Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in subareas 4, 6, and 7 and divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay) (IB-Phake). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:4. 28 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4707>
- R5** ICES. 2019b. Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:31. 692 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5299>
- Martin, I. 1991. A preliminary analysis of some biological aspects of hake (*Merluccius merluccius* L. 1758) in the Bay of Biscay. ICES CM 1991/G:54. 31 pp. [http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/CM%20Documents/1991/G/1991\\_G54.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/CM%20Documents/1991/G/1991_G54.pdf)
- R6** EU. 2019. Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj>

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*