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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>	European hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> Northern stock
<b>Date</b>	January 2020
<b>Assessor</b>	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
<b>Name:</b> FF Skagen				
<b>Address:</b>				
<b>Country:</b> Denmark		<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	Vito Romito	0.5	SURV 2	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2020			

Scope Details		
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	EU/Common Fisheries Policy	
<b>Main Species</b>	European hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	
<b>Stock:</b>	Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d (Northern stock)	
<b>Fishery Location</b>	Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay	
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	Trawl, gillnet, longline, and mixed gears	
Outcome of Assessment		
<b>Overall Outcomes:</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Clause(s) failed</b>
1   European Hake (Northern Stock)	PASS	NONE
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	PASS	
<b>Recommendations</b>	APPROVE	

### Assessment Determination

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. European hake *Merluccius merluccius* does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN'S Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, European hake *Merluccius Merluccius* is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS raw material.

One stock forms part of this assessment:

- 1) Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d (Northern stock)

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

For European hake *Merluccius merluccius* the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim; removals are not considered to be negligible therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

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

- 1) European hake *Merluccius merluccius* is **APPROVED** in the assessment area by SAI Global assessors for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the 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
European hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Northern Stock	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.

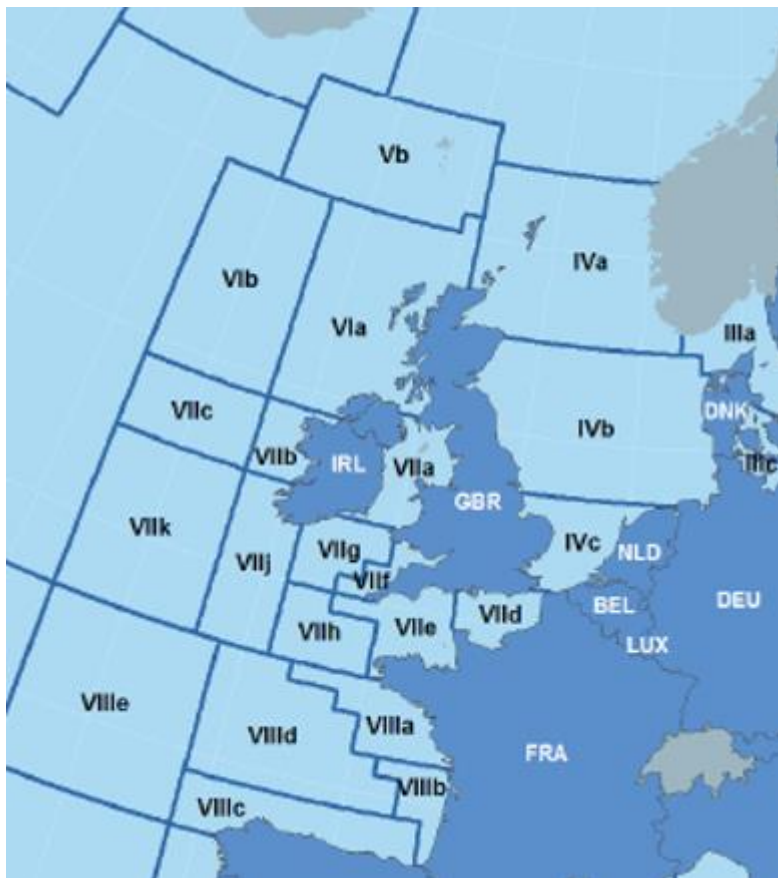
Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		European hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	
C1	<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>See above</b>

### C1.1:

#### Evidence

This assessment covers the Northern Stock Area as outlined in **Figure 1** below:



**Figure 1:** Assessment area Hake Northern Stock R1

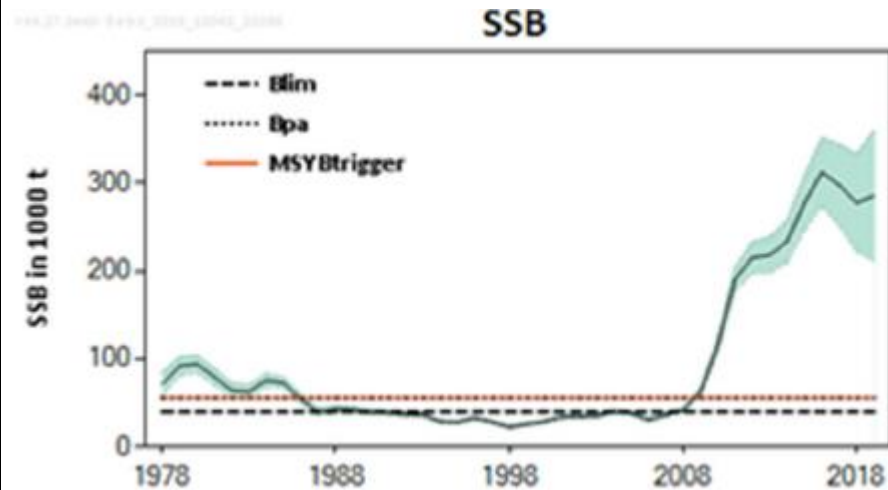
Input data for the latest assessment (Sept 2019) was derived from commercial landings and four survey indices (FR-EVHOE-WIBTS-Q4, SP-PORC-WIBTS-Q3, IE-IGFS-WIBTS-Q4 and RESSGASC). Natural mortality was assumed to be 0.4. All observed discards are included in the assessment. Data series from most fleets are available.

The stock assessment was last benchmarked in 2014. An inter benchmark took place in 2019 (**R3**). The current assessment is a length-based model that uses landings and discards in both assessment and forecast.

## C1.2

### Evidence

ICES assess that spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim:



**Figure 2:** Hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock. Plots show 95% confidence intervals (shaded area). **R2**

**Table 1:** State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points **R2**

	Fishing pressure			Stock size				
		2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2019	
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY}$	✓	✓	✓	Appropriate	$B_{trigger}$	✓	Above trigger
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}$ , $F_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	$B_{pa}$ , $B_{lim}$	✓	Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	—	—	—	Not applicable	$B_{MGT}$	—	Not applicable

SSB (2020) is calculated at 276,565t; current  $B_{lim}$  (Precautionary Approach) is 40,000t (**Figure 2**).

### References

**R1** Selected sub-areas and Divisions FAO fishing areas:

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/fishing\\_areas\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/fishing_areas_en.pdf)

**R2** ICES (Sept 2019 9p) 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://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/hke.27.3a46-8abd.pdf>

**R3** 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>

<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>
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