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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients

Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0

Fishery Under Assessment	**Whiting Subarea 4, Division 7.d, and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, eastern English Channel)**
Date	June 2020
Report Code	2020-90
Assessor	Vito Romito
Stock Pass	**PASS**
Stock Fail	

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

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU CFP
Main Species	Whiting
Stock:	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d (North Sea, eastern English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO 27
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl, seine and other gear
Outcome of Assessment	

Peer Review Evaluation	**APPROVE**
Recommendation	**APPROVE**

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 (*Merlangius merlangus*) 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 in ICES 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) is above Blim 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 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
Removals of the species are not negligible but are considered into the stock assessment. However, the stock has been fluctuating around BMSY is well above Blim in the last 2019 stock assessment report. Therefore, the fishery 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
Whiting	*Merlangius merlangus*	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d, (North Sea, eastern English Channel)	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			
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:			**See above**

C1.1

Evidence

This assessment covers whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel) from the areas outlined in **Figure 1** below.

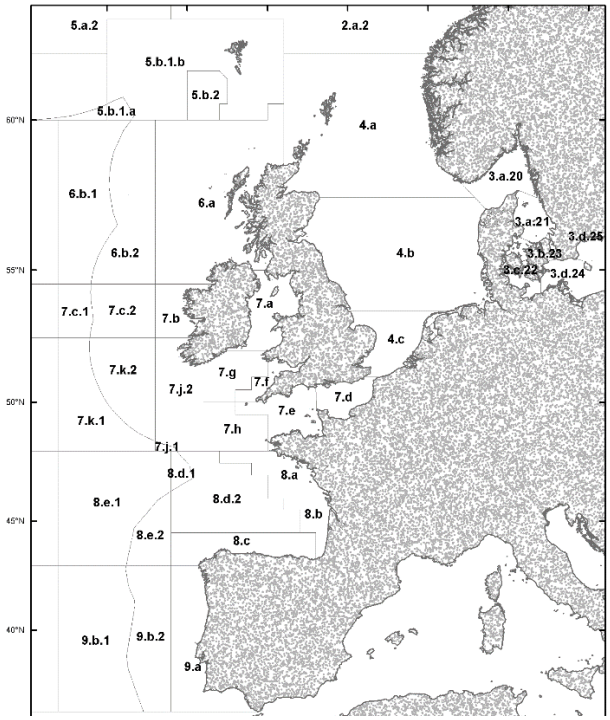

Figure 1. ICES Statistical Areas in European Waters
(Source: https://www.ices.dk/data/maps/Pages/default.aspx)

The stock is assessed through an age-based analytical assessment (SAM; ICES, 2019) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Assessment input data include: commercial catches (international catches, ages from catch sampling by métier, since 1978), two survey indices (IBTS Q1 & Q3; ages 0 to 5; since 1983); time-varying maturity estimated from NS IBTS Q1 data; time varying natural mortalities from the SMS multispecies model (ICES, 2019) (ICES Advice, 2019).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. **C1.1. passes.**

C1.2

Evidence

Fishing mortality (F) has been above F_{MSY} throughout the time-series, apart from 2005. Recruitment (R) has been fluctuating without trend, but the last two year classes are below average. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has fluctuated around MSY Btrigger since the mid-1980s and is just below it in 2019, as shown below.

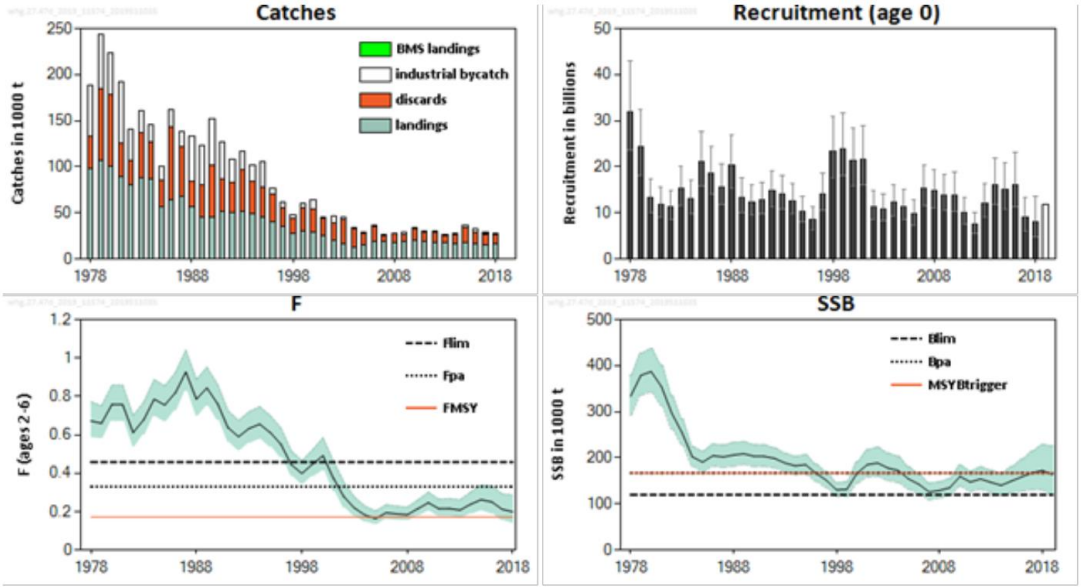

Figure 2. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas (F, SSB) and error bars (R) indicate 95% confidence intervals. Assumed recruitment is unshaded (ICES Advice, 2019).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (Blim). **C1.2. passes.**

References

CITES. 2020. CITES Appendices I, II and III valid from 26 November 2019. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. https://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php Accessed 03 June 2020.

Di Natale, A., Molinari, A., Őztűrk, B. & Srour, A. 2011. Merlangius merlangus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2011: e.T198585A9041576. Downloaded on 03 June 2020.

ICES. 2019. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, whg.27.47d, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4878
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2