



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Report Template (Monkfish)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Black-bellied monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) & white monkfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i>) *Monkfish and Anglerfish are common names for the same species and used interchangeably.
	Geographical area:	North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland; Skagerrak
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	<i>L. piscatorius</i> & <i>L. budegassa</i> in FAO 27 ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3a
Date	22 April 2022	
Report Code	BP055	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country:			
Email address: geraldine.fox@pelagia.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.25	Re-approval
Assessment Period	April 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	White monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) & black-bellied monkfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i>)
Stock	<i>L. piscatorius</i> & <i>L. budegassa</i> in FAO 27, ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3a
Fishery Location	North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland; Skagerrak
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK & EU
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Approve
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p><i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i> are managed in the North Sea and Skagerrak as a single stock complex. Neither species is categorised as endangered or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List, and neither species appears in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>The stock complex is managed according to annual advice provided by ICES. Two separate TACs are applied to monkfish in Subarea 4 and Subarea 6. There is no TAC for monkfish in Division 3a. However, the total catch for all three regions combined has been at or below the ICES recommended level since 2017.</p> <p>There are no reference points established for the stock, and catch recommendations are made based on a population index derived from survey data. The 2020 survey data was incomplete, and so the 2021 ICES advice was based on an estimate of the index. The stock complex is not considered to currently be at significant risk of over-exploitation, but the lack of an annual quota for Subarea 3a means that catch could exceed the recommended level in future.</p> <p>Overall it is considered that the stock complex meets the MarinTrust by-product sourcing requirements, but future assessments should pay particular attention to the estimated population size and the total fishery removals relative to ICES recommendations.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the White monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) & the Blackbellied monkfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i>), targeted by EU and UK vessels in FAO 27, ICES 3a, 4, and 6. Both species are managed under the EU Multi-Annual Management Plan (MAP) set out by EU Regulation 2019/472. The UK and EU do not have a shared management plan in place but do set species-specific management plans independently, therefore all the species assessed herein are correctly classified by the auditor as category C species. The C1 scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination, a few minor clarification questions have been raised by the peer reviewer to strengthen the rationale.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to approve this fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-product standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Future assessments should pay particular attention to the estimated population size and the total fishery removals relative to ICES recommendations.</p>

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as a MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Black-bellied monkfish	<i>L. budegassa</i>	ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3a	Yes	C	Data deficient ³	Not listed
White monkfish	<i>L. piscatorius</i>	ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3a	Yes	C	Least Concern ⁴	Not listed

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198609/21911220>

⁴ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198610/21911225>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

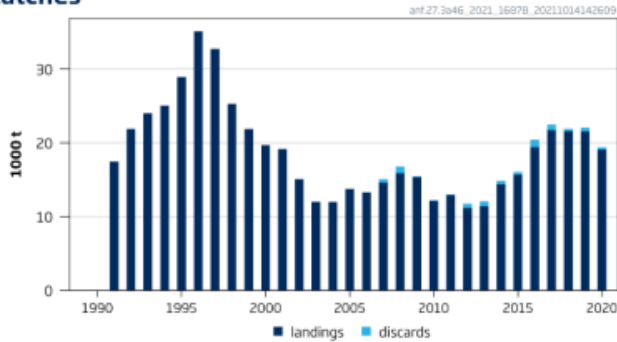
In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

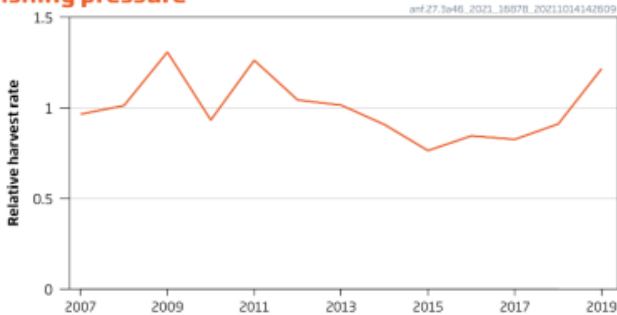
Species Name		<i>L. piscatorius</i> & <i>L. budegassa</i> in ICES Subareas 4 and 6, Division 3a	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities 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: Pass
<p>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.</p> <p>Scientific advice for monkfish in ICES Subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3a, considers them as a single stock complex comprising of both <i>L. piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>. The ICES catch advice provides a single recommended total for monkfish in these areas. Two TACs encompass monkfish in these areas: one covering in Subarea 4 and Division 2a; and one covering Subareas 6, 12 and 14 and Division 5b. The former TAC is set by the UK, the latter by the EU. Neither TAC covers monkfish in Division 3a. The total of the two TACs is broadly in line with the total catch recommended by ICES, and actual catch has been at or below the ICES-recommended level since 2017 (ICES 2021a).</p> <p>Monkfish landings are recorded by the relevant fishery authorities in all three regions covered by this assessment. Biomass reference points have not been defined for the combined stock and ICES produces recommendations for total catch across all three regions based on the precautionary approach.</p> <p>The fishery is managed according to an EU Multi-Annual Management Plan (MAP) set out by EU Regulation 2019/472, which ICES considers to be precautionary. There is no shared management plan between the EU and UK for the stock (ICES 2021b).</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process, the results of which inform management decisions and management measures.</p>			
<p>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.</p> <p>There is no limit reference point or proxy established for the stock. The most recent stock assessment was conducted in the absence of survey data, but the survey stock size indicator value was estimated to have decreased by more than 20%. Catch advice for 2022 was 20% lower than the advice for 2021. Fishing pressure has increased in recent years and the absence of a TAC in Division 3a or a shared management plan between the EU and UK introduces additional risk to the health of the stock.</p> <p>The MAP sets out safeguards to be implemented in the event of a stock falling below MSY Btrigger, stating that “all appropriate remedial measures shall be adopted to ensure the rapid return of the stock...to levels above those capable of producing MSY”. The MAP also sets out the safeguards to be implemented in the event of a stock falling below Blim, stating that “further remedial measures shall be taken”, and that these measures may include “suspending the targeted fishery for the stock”. For stocks with no established reference points – such as the monkfish stock complex – the MAP stipulates that fishing opportunities should be based on the best available advice. In practice this means following the ICES advice, which itself is based on the precautionary approach.</p> <p>On balance, it is considered that there is not yet any evidence to suggest that the stock is in poor shape, as the ICES advice is that the fishery remain open. There is also clear evidence that fishing pressure is reduced as the estimated stock size decreases, as the TAC fluctuates in line with the ICES advice. However, future assessments of this by-product stock should pay particular</p>			

attention to the outcomes of stock assessments conducted with full survey data to determine whether the estimated decrease in stock size index has continued.

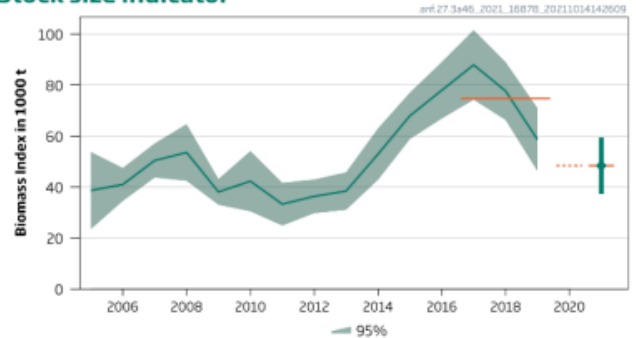
Catches



Fishing pressure



Stock size indicator



Monkfish in subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3a. Summary of the stock assessment. ICES landings and discards (estimates available since 2007). Relative harvest rate (total catch/stock-size indicator; normalized to the average harvest rate); 2020 value missing in the absence of a survey. Stock biomass from the SIAMISS-Q2 survey. The horizontal orange lines indicate the average of the most recent two years (with 2020 not available and hence excluded from the average) and the previous three years (ICES 2021a).

References

ICES 2021a. 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, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7723>

ICES 2021b. Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE) scientific report, Volume 3 Issue 56, 2021. 1505pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8139>

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, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019R0472>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01