



MarinTrust Standard V2

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

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	White Monkfish, <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> *Monkfish and Anglerfish are common names for the same species and used interchangeably.
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b and 8d
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Celtic Seas & Bay of Biscay
Date	22 April 2022	
Report Code	BP056	
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>
Stock	White Monkfish, <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> in ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b and 8d
Fishery Location	Celtic Seas & Bay of Biscay
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> (white monkfish) is managed in the Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay as part of a stock complex alongside <i>L. budegassa</i> (Black-bellied monkfish). White monkfish is categorised as a species of Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, and does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>The stock complex is managed largely following annual advice provided by ICES. A single TAC is applied across both species, meaning that over-exploitation of one or the other is possible even when the ICES advice is followed. However, both species are subjected to individual stock assessments and the most recent for white monkfish, conducted in 2021, suggests the stock is in good shape. Biomass is currently estimated to be substantially above both the limit and target reference points, and fishing recent mortality was slightly below the target level.</p> <p>As there are currently effective management measures in place for the fishery, and there is strong evidence that the stock biomass is currently above the limit reference point, it is considered that this by-product meets the MarinTrust sourcing requirements.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the White monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>), targeted by EU and UK vessels in FAO 27, ICES 7, 8a-b and d. White monkfish 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 White monkfish is 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>There is nothing to highlight to the onsite auditor at this stage.</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
Monkfish / white anglerfish	<i>L. piscatorius</i>	ICES Subarea 7 & Divisions 8a-b, 8d	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	Not listed

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198610/21911225>

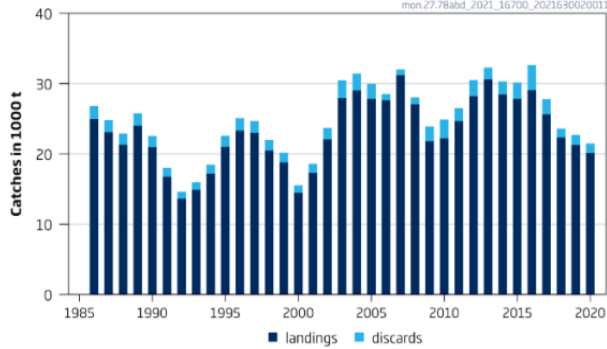
CATEGORY C SPECIES

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.

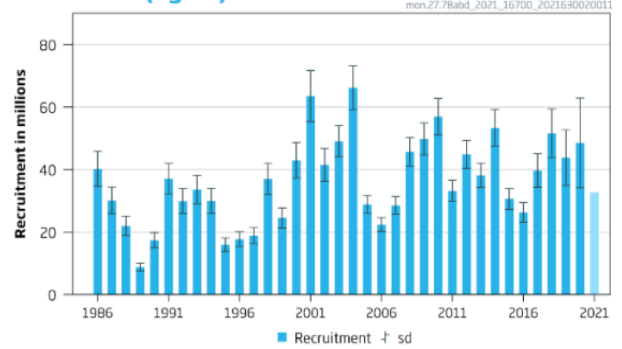
Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		<i>L. piscatorius</i> in ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b, 8d	
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><i>L. piscatorius</i> (white monkfish) is managed in ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b, 8d as part of a stock complex also incorporating <i>L. budegassa</i>. While a single, combined TAC is set by the EU and UK for both species, ICES provides annual advice separately for each, including catch recommendations. All landings are recorded and discards are estimated via sampling. ICES notes, in relation to estimates of total fishery removals, that “the diagnostics for the [stock] assessment were deemed acceptable” (ICES, 2021a). Despite the combined TAC, estimated catch totals for white monkfish alone indicate that the total catch of this species has been at or below the ICES recommendation for white monkfish every year since 2017 (ICES 2021a).</p> <p>ICES notes that the use of a combined TAC – set roughly at the combined total of the advice for both white and black-bellied monkfish – prevents the control of the exploitation rate of each species and may lead to over-exploitation of either species.</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). There is no minimum landing size but the minimum sale weight for monkfish in the EU is 500g.</p> <p>There is good evidence that the current MAP represents an effective management approach for white anglerfish, and fishery removals are clearly incorporated into the stock assessment process.</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>The outcomes of the most recent stock assessment for white monkfish were published by ICES in June 2021 (ICES 2021a). Target and limit reference points are established for both biomass and fishing mortality and used by the EU MAP. $F_{lim} = 0.53$ and $F_{MSY} = 0.28$; the 2021 stock assessment estimated $F_{(2021)} = 0.25$, below the MSY level. In the MAP, $B_{lim} = 16,032t$ and $MSY B_{trigger}$ (Below which management measures will be implemented to allow the stock to recover) = 22,278t; the 2021 stock assessment estimated $SSB = 70,972t$. The stock is therefore estimated to be in very healthy shape relative to the reference points.</p> <p>The MAP sets out safeguards to be implemented in the event of a stock falling below $MSY B_{trigger}$, 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 B_{lim}, stating that “further remedial measures shall be taken”, and that these measures may include “suspending the targeted fishery for the stock”.</p> <p>There is strong evidence that the biomass of the stock is currently above the limit reference point, and therefore the by-product passes this requirement.</p>			

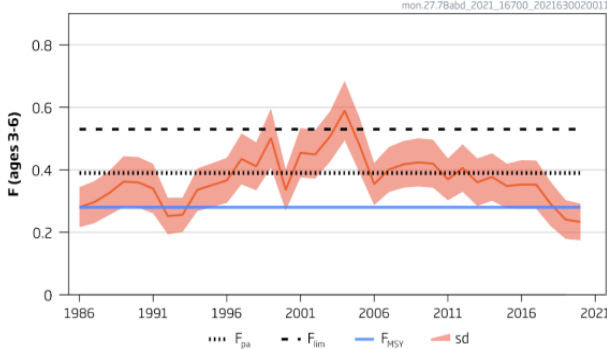
Catches



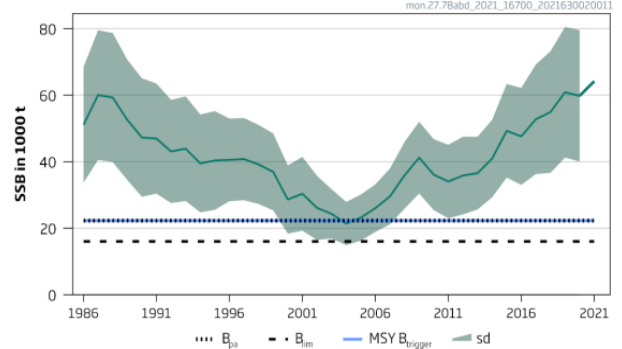
Recruitment (age 0)



F



SSB



White monkfish in Subarea 7 and in divisions 8.a–b and 8.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Discard observations are available only since 2003. Assumed recruitment values for 2021 are shaded in a lighter colour (ICES 2021a)

References

ICES 2021a. White anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius*) in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b and 8.d (Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7792>

ICES 2021b. Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE) scientific report, Volume 3, Issue 48. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8212>

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