



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Report Template (Black-bellied monkfish)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Kate Morris	Species:	Black-bellied Monkfish, <i>Lophius budegassa</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	BP057	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK	
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:			
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	Black-bellied Monkfish, <i>Lophius budegassa</i>
Stock	Black-bellied Monkfish, <i>Lophius budegassa</i> in FAO 27, 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 budegassa</i> (black-bellied monkfish) is managed in the Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay as part of a stock complex alongside <i>L. piscatorius</i> (white monkfish). Black-bellied monkfish is categorised as Data-Deficient 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 black-bellied anglerfish, conducted in 2021, indicates that the size of the stock is likely increasing and fishing mortality is considerably below the F_{MSY} proxy indicator.</p> <p>As there are currently effective management measures in place for the fishery, and there is good evidence that the stock biomass is currently at an appropriate level, 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 black-bellied monkfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i>), targeted by EU and UK vessels in FAO 27, ICES 7, 8a-b and d. Black-bellied 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 black-bellied 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 / black-bellied anglerfish	<i>L. budegassa</i>	ICES Subarea 7 & Divisions 8a-b, 8d	Yes	C	Data Deficient ³	Not listed

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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

CATEGORY C SPECIES

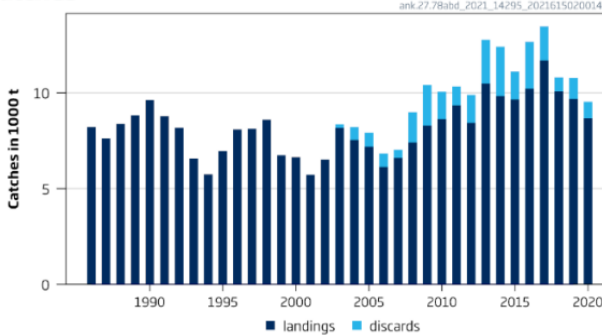
In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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.

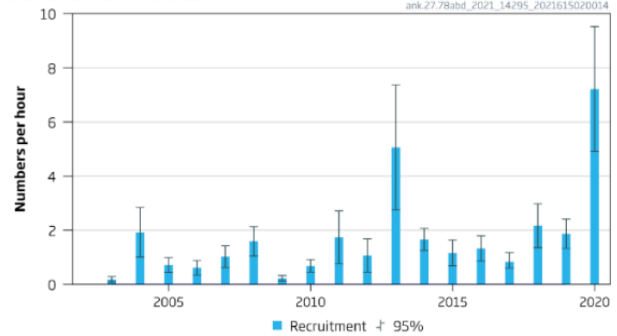
Species Name		<i>L. budegassa</i> in ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b, 8d	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	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. budegassa</i> (black-bellied monkfish) is managed in ICES Subarea 7 and Divisions 8a-b, 8d as part of a stock complex also incorporating <i>L. piscatorius</i> (white monkfish). While a single TAC is set by the UK and EU 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 black-bellied monkfish alone have been at or below the ICES recommended level every year since 2018 (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 anglerfish in the EU is 500g.</p> <p>There is good evidence that the current MAP represents an effective management approach for black-bellied 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 black-bellied monkfish were published by ICES in June 2021 (ICES 2021a). There are no biomass reference points for the stock, but a proxy reference point for fishing mortality has been established (set at $F_{MSY} = 1$, and therefore F is expressed as a proportion of the target fishing mortality). The relative fishing mortality in 2021 was estimated to be around half of the MSY level, and the biomass index established using survey data suggests that population size has increased substantially in recent years. ICES notes that although the stock size is unknown, the stock index has shown a consistent increase over the past 10 years (ICES 2021a).</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”. For stocks with no established reference points – such as the black-bellied monkfish – 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>			

Although there are no explicit limit reference points established for this stock, there is evidence that the stock size is increasing and the stock is in good shape. There is also evidence that fishing mortality is below the MSY level. For these reasons it is considered very unlikely that the stock is currently at significant risk of over-exploitation.

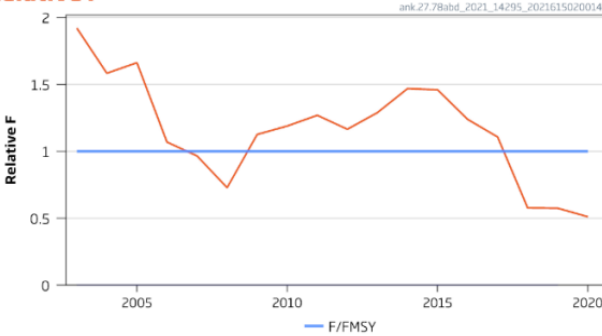
Catches



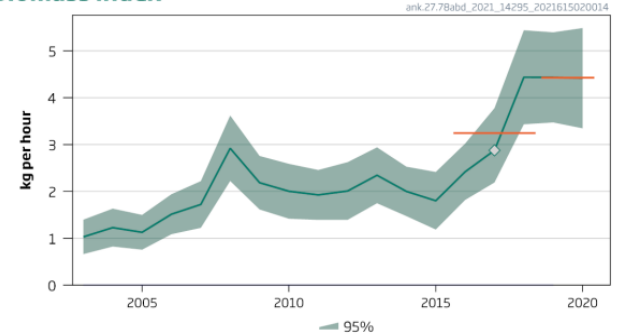
Recruitment index



Relative F



Biomass index



Black-bellied monkfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b and 8.d. Summary of the stock assessment. The 2017 point in the biomass index was modelled due to a large gap in the survey coverage. The short orange horizontal lines represent the mean biomass index in the most recent two years (2019–2020) and the preceding three years (2016–2018) (ICES 2021a).

References

ICES 2021a. Black-bellied anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*) 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.7724>

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