By-Product assessment report

BP76 – Coomarpes Ltda, Argentina

Document TEM-003 (prev. FISH-1) - Version 3.0
Issued July 2024 – Effective July 2024

Report code	BP76	Date of issue	March 2025

1. Application details		
Applicant	Coomarpes Ltda	
Applicant country	Argentina	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	mt-ca@lrqa.com	
Assessor name	Blanca Gonzalez	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Jose Peiro crespo	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Comments on the assessment	The three byproduct species listed in this report are not considered ETP species according to the Marin Trust definition, fulfilling this requirement for the assessment. All three species require a step 3 assessment evaluation due to Argentina's high-risk flag state. The applicant was requested to provide additional information, and the provided data included the FAO fishing area, which was necessary for the Category C assessment. This allowed all of them to be downgraded to medium risk, approving these byproducts, but they should be source with caution.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 03/2025	Valid until 03/2026

4. By-product assessment outcomes		
By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**MarinTrust approval status**
Hake - *Merluccius hubbsi*	Argentina	Approved source with caution

Brazilian flathead - *Percophis brasiliensis*	Argentina	Approved source with caution
Chub mackerel - *Scomber japonicus/colias*	Argentina	Approved source with caution

Guidance for on-site auditor
For the audit, the auditor will check how the facility manages by-products deemed medium risk. Any by-products downrated from high to medium risk will require additional due diligence checks.

It is important that facilities check all raw materials from and verify their suppliers especially if there is a perceived risk of sourcing from known or suspected IUU fishing activity. This requires checking supplier records or procedures in place to understand how the supplier can ensure there is no IUU in the raw material they provide. For raw materials risk rated medium, additional or more frequent checks may be required until the facility is certain that the raw materials are not from IUU fishing activity.

The audit requirements are covered in clause 2.11.3 of the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the MarinTrust Standard) and associated interpretation guidance.

Approved by-products
- No further checks are required beyond those included in the MarinTrust Standard.

Additional checks of Approved Source with Caution by-products
- Review supplier records or procedures in place.

Additional checks of by-products Approved Source with Caution via Step 3 assessment
- In addition to checks for medium risk Approved Source with Caution by-products, by-products that have had risk downgraded from high to medium at Step 3 (use **Appendix 1** to identify these by-product species), confirm that the relevant traceability information continues to be collected for this by-product. During the audit, a traceability check on any by-products downgraded from high to medium risk shall be included as part of the required traceability checks (Section 4).

Guidance for the applicant/certificate holder
The applicant/certificate holder is responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken to comply with the MarinTrust Standard.
The certificate holder is responsible for communicating any changes to the by-products sourced by submitting a scope extension request through the MarinTrust online Application Portal.

Appendix 1 – assessment outcomes

By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**IUCN Red List** *Select IUCN red list category from dropdown*	**CITES Appendices** *Select CITES appendix status from dropdown*	**Step 2 risk status** *Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk*	**Step 3 required** *Yes / No*	**Step 3 risk Outcome** *Not applicable /Risk downgraded to Medium risk/ Remains High risk*
Hake - *Merluccius hubbsi*	Argentina	Not evaluated	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Brazilian flathead - *Percophis brasiliensis*	Argentina	Not evaluated	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Chub mackerel - *Scomber japonicus/colias*	Argentina	Least Concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk

Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

Step 2 outcomes

Assessor note: Copy and paste from Spreadsheet.

Flag state	Risk rating	Flag score	Port score	General score	Flag State is contracting party or cooperating non-contracting party to all relevant RFMOs	'Carded' under EU Carding system	Flag state party to PSMA	Flag state mandatory vessel tracking for commercial seagoing fleet	WGI Governance rank
Argentina	High	1.1	1.86	2.19	1	1		1	25.94%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		**Argentine hake / merluza - *Merluccius hubbsi***	
Fishing area and stock		**FAO Area 41 – Atlantic Southwest Argentina effective north of 41°S**	
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

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) assesses the hake stock in the Argentine effective north of 41°S area annually. The stock assessment is based on a statistical catch-at-age model, which has been used since 2020. Assessment uses catch data from Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil since 1986, which are the countries that fished this resource in the area; thus, the stock assessment process includes removals of the species. (Figure 1) (Irusta et al. 2024).

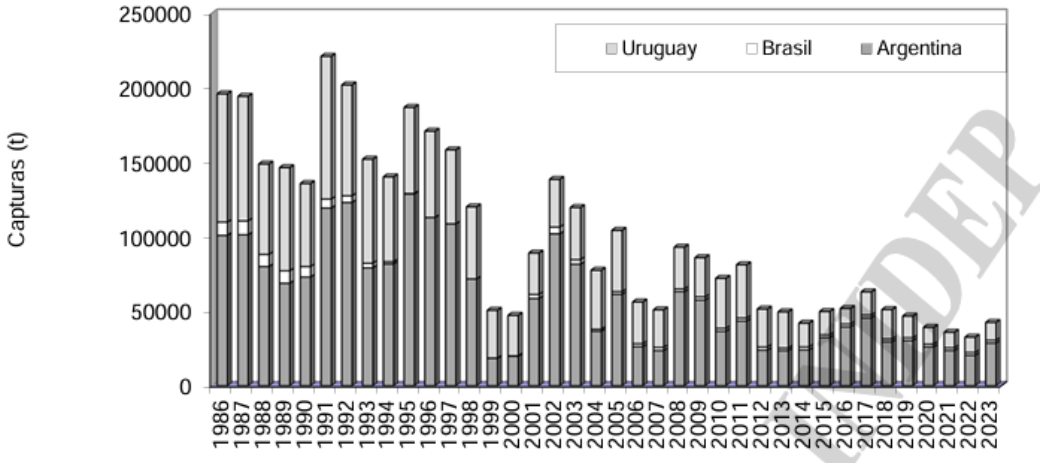

Figure 1. Annual catches of hake by country in the effective north area of 41°S. (Irusta et al. 2024).

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The 2024 effective north hake stock assessment indicates that total biomass is 169,170 t and 161,690 t in the two most representative scenarios from the model (scenario 2 and 3). In both cases, total biomass is above the limit reference point (150,000 t) but below the target reference point (230,000 t). To increase biomass in the medium term, total catches should not exceed 51,885 t during the year 2025 (Irusta et al. 2024).

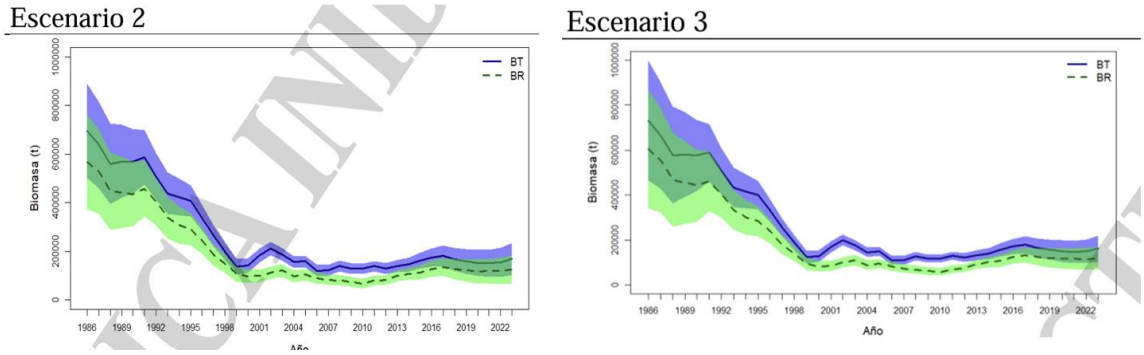

Figure 2. Total and reproductive biomass of scenario 2 and 3 for the period 1986–2023 estimated by the proposed models. Hake effective north of 41° S. (Irusta et al. 2024).

References

Irusta, C.G.; Di Marco, E.J.; Wöhler, O.C. (2024). Evaluación de la abundancia del efectivo norte de 41° S de la merluza (Merluccius hubbsi). Estimación de la CBA para el año 2025 (Informe Técnico Oficial, No. 34). Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP). https://marabierto.inidep.edu.ar/items/0e9e58d3-3459-454e-955c-772ee1be9afa

Species name		**Argentine hake / merluza - *Merluccius hubbsi***	
Fishing area and stock		**FAO Area 41 – Atlantic Southwest Argentina effective south of 41°S**	
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

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) assesses the hake stock south of 41°S annually. The stock assessment is based on a statistical catch-at-age model (ECE). Assessment uses catch data reported from landings in Argentina, including discards and bycatch in the shrimp fishery; thus, the stock assessment process includes removals of the species. (Figure 1) (Santos et al. 2024).

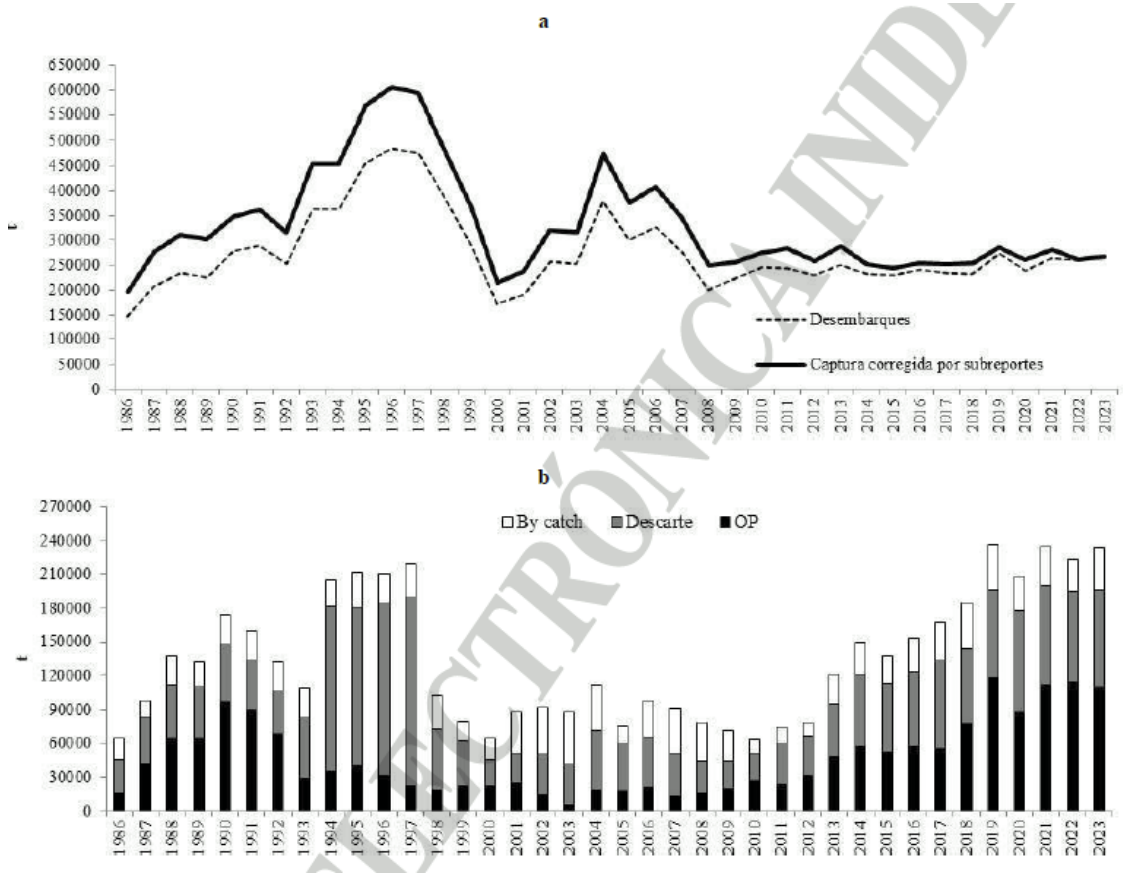

Figure 1. Estimated total hake catch south of 41°S (1986 - 2023): a. catch reported by Argentina (Landings), then corrected for misreporting (Corrected Catch), and b. sources of discards in the hake fishery (Discards) and in the shrimp fishery (Bycatch), and catch reported by other countries (OP). (Santos et al. 2024).

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The 2024 effective south hake stock assessment indicates that total biomass is 1,144,900 t and a reproductive biomass of 708,060 t, which is above the target reference point set at 600,000 t of

reproductive biomass. It is suggested that total catches should not exceed 339,000 t during 2025 with bycatch values below 35,000 t (Santos et al. 2024).

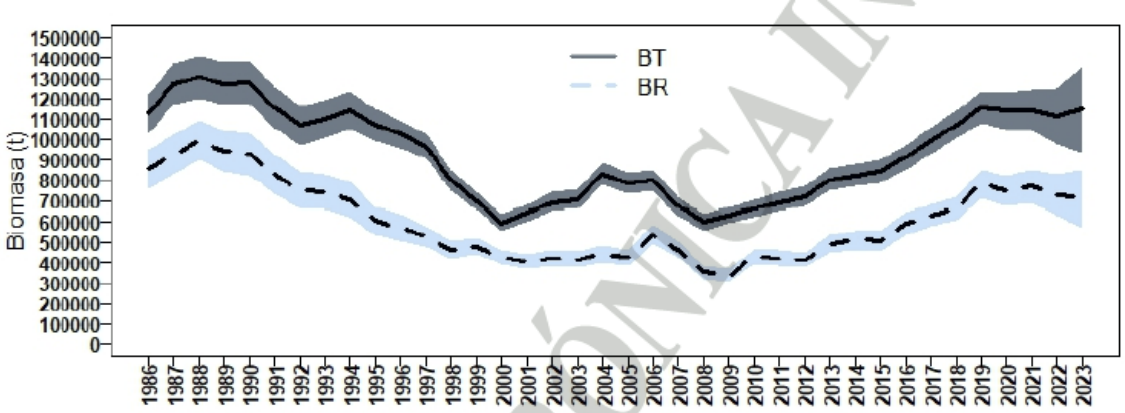

Figure 2. Total biomass (BT) and reproductive biomass (BR) (and confidence intervals) of hake estimated by the ECE model at the beginning of each year. (Santos et al. 2024)

References

Santos, B.A.; Villarino, M.F.; Pedernera, M.F.; Suby, A. (2024). Evaluación del estado de explotación del efectivo sur de 41º s de merluza (Merluccius hubbsi) y estimaciónde la captura biológicamente aceptable para 2025 (Informe Técnico Oficial, No. 32). Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP). https://marabierto.inidep.edu.ar/items/604d35e3-7ca0-41dc-953a-5fa698d3410d

Species name		**Brazilian flathead - *Percophis brasiliensis***	
Fishing area and stock		**FAO Area 41 – Atlantic Southwest**	
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

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) published the last stock assessment for the Brazilian flathead 39°S north stock in 2024. The stock assessment was carried out using an age-structured integrated model, which used annual landings declared in fishing reports by the Argentine commercial fleet in the area of the Río de la Plata (RdP), ZCPAU and adjacent jurisdictional waters north of 39° S in the period 1934-2022. Thus, the stock assessment process includes removals of the species. (Figure 1) (Rico et al. 2024).

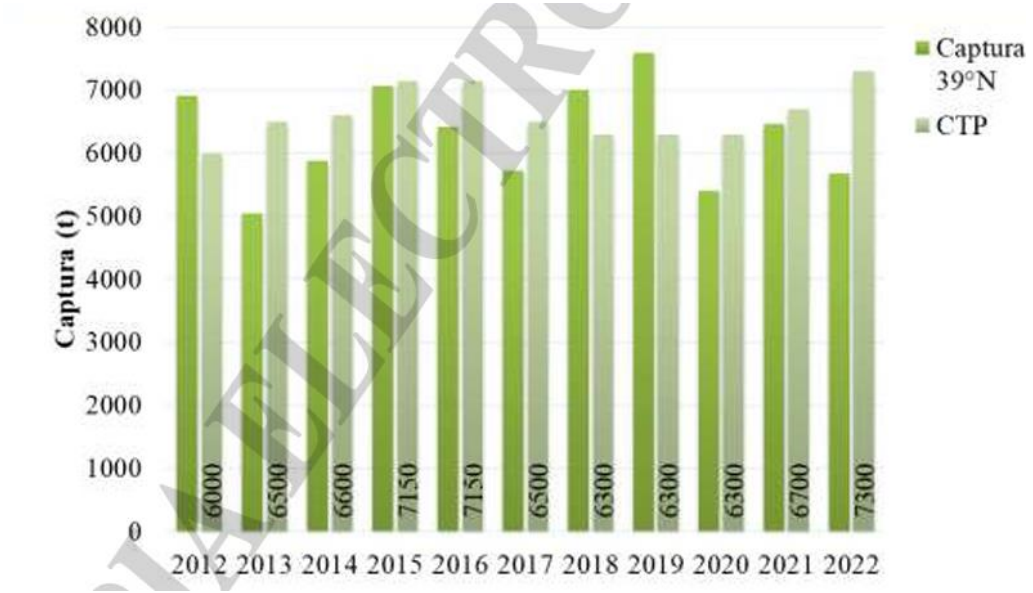

Figure 1. Landings of Brazilian flathead catch in the north of 39°S and Total Allowable Catches (CTPs) established in area.. (Rico et al. 2024).

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.

Clause is met considering that:

The last stock assessment report indicates that the stock is in a state of underexploitation, given that the reproductive biomass (RB) ranged from 48% to 53% of Virgin Reproductive Biomass (VRB), indicating that the resource is above the Target Reference Point (40% VR), suggesting that the stock was not overexploited in 2022 (Figure 2). A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 7,500 t was established for the administrative period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024. (Rico et al. 2024).

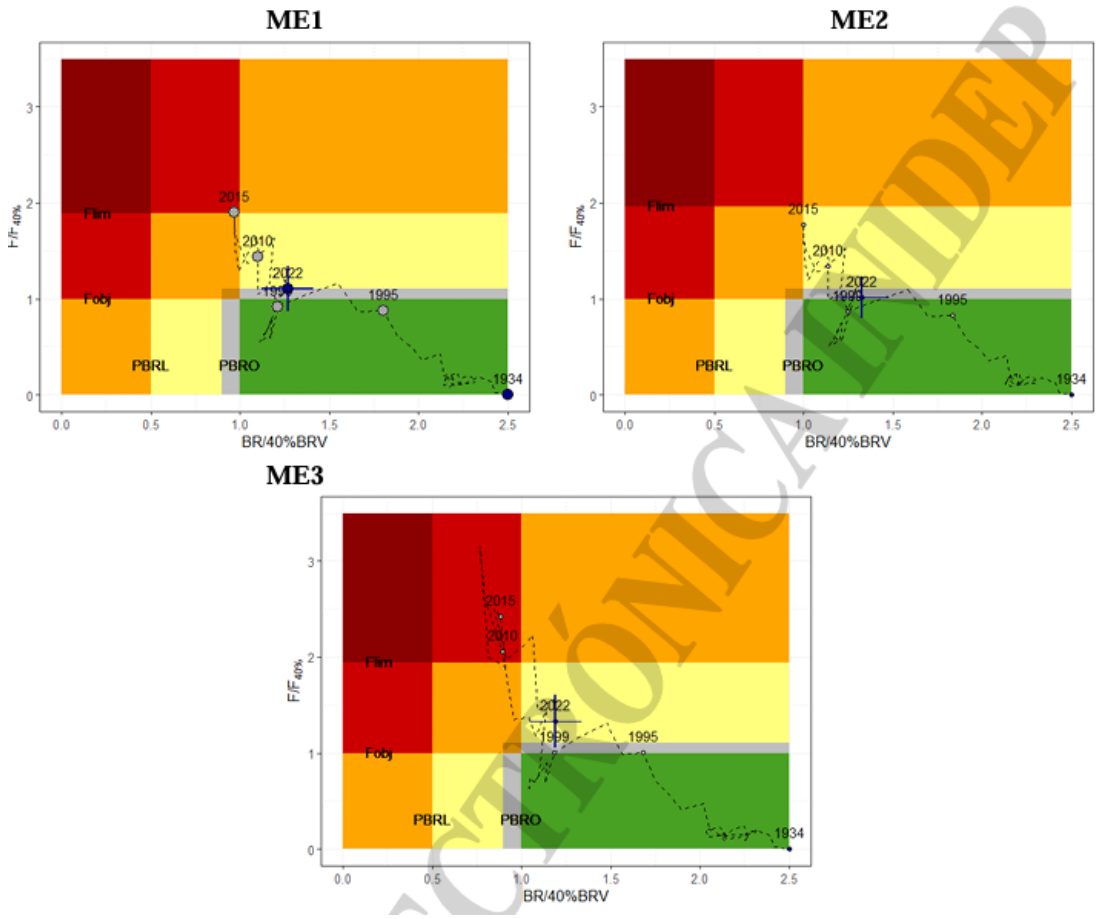

Figure 2. Kobe plots of each implemented model, where the population in 2022 is not in a situation of overexploitation, since the relationship between the current reproductive biomass and the target reference point (BRactual/BRPBRO) is greater than 1. The blue dots correspond to the population status at the start and end of the period, and the dotted lines correspond to the trajectory of the population status over the entire period. The associated 95% confidence interval is incorporated in the final year of diagnosis. (Rico et al. 2024).

References

Rico, M.R.; Rodriguez, J.S. (2024). Análisis de la pesquería y evaluación de stock de pez palo en el área del Río de la Plata, Zona Común de Pesca Argentino-Uruguaya y aguas jurisdiccionales adyacentes al norte de los 39°S. Período: 1934-2022 (Informe Técnico Oficial, No. 27). Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP). https://marabierto.inidep.edu.ar/items/a94a7a59-0b59-4571-beaf-d45767a3934b

Species name		Chub mackerel - *Scomber japonicus/colias*	
Fishing area and stock		FAO Area 41 – Atlantic Southwest	
C 1	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

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.

The clause is met considering that:

The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) published the last stock assessment for the chub mackerel 39°S south stock in 2024. The stock assessment was carried out using an production with age structure (MPEE) model using nominal catches of mackerel during the period 1991 – 2023,; thus, the stock assessment process includes removals of the species. (Figure 1) (Buratti et al. 2024).

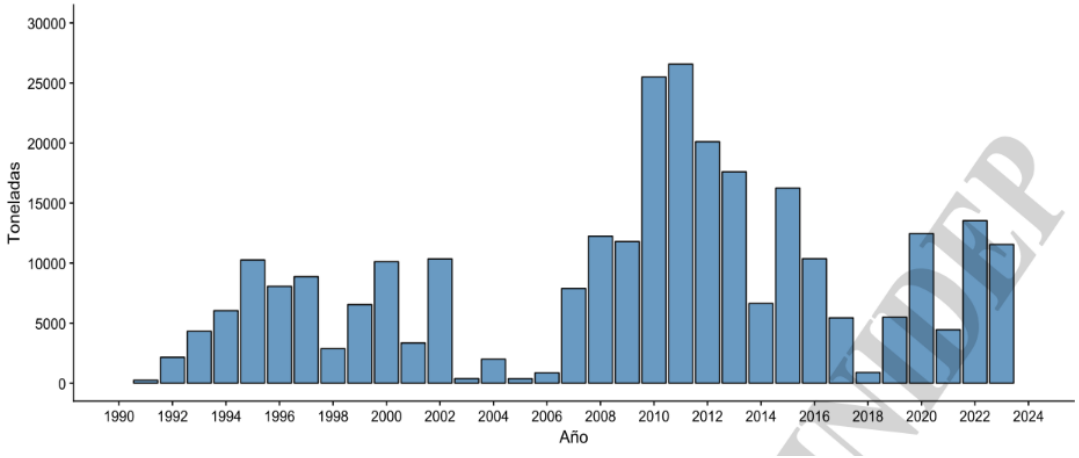

Figure 1. Landings (t) of mackerel from the southern stock in the period 1991-2023. (Buratti et al. 2024).

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.

The Clause is met considering that:

The last stock assessment report indicates that the stock is in a state of underexploitation, given that the reproductive biomass (RB) is 40% above the target reference point and 25% above the limit reference point (Figure 2). A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 21,000 t was suggested for 2024. (Buratti et al. 2024).

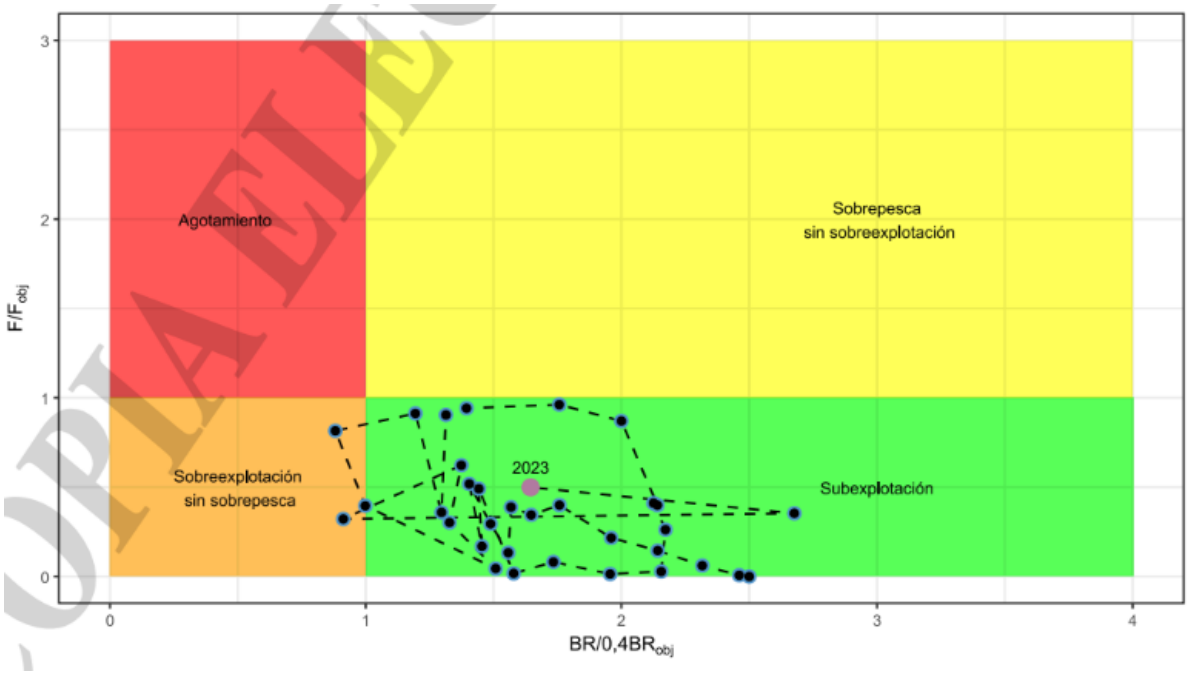

Figure 2. Kobe plot showing the trajectory of the southern mackerel stock relative to the Target Biological Reference Point. The pink circle indicates the last year considered in the stock assessment. (Buratti et al. 2024).

References

Buratti, C.; Orlando, P.; Garciarena, D.; Spath, C.; Buratti, G.; Parietti, M. (2024). Diagnóstico del estado del stock de la caballa (Scomber colias) al sur de 39o S y recomendación de captura biológicamente aceptable para el año 2024 (Informe Técnico Oficial, No. 024). Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP). https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qEkMrYU0YqB2n6CujsdrDkfxuKS7uDGH/view

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Assessor note: Duplicate for each species/stock.

Species name	Argentine hake / merluza - *Merluccius hubbsi* Argentina effective north of 41°S			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	Argentina	Medium risk	Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Argentine hake / merluza - *Merluccius hubbsi* Argentina effective south of 41°S			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	Argentina	Medium risk	Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Brazilian flathead - *Percophis brasiliensis*			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	Argentina	Medium risk	Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Chub mackerel - *Scomber japonicus/colias*
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*

Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Argentina	Medium risk	Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk