



By-Product assessment report

BP083

Agustiner SA, Argentina

Document TEM-003 (prev. FISH-1) - Version 3.1

Issued April 2025 – Effective April 2025

Report code	BP083	Date of issue	September 2026
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1. Application details		
Applicant	Agustiner SA, Argentina	
Applicant country	Argentina	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	fisheries-ca@lrqa.com	
Assessor name	Jim Missen	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Ayana Sabu	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.6	
Comments on the assessment	Argentine hake is considered within this re-approval assessment and is listed as Not Evaluated by the IUCN and not included in any CITES appendix. Thus, is eligible for approval as a MarinTrust by-product. The species is sourced from Argentina, a high-risk flag state and therefore requires a Step 3 assessment. Following passing the Category C assessment, the fishery was downgraded to medium-risk; therefore, this by-product is approved but should be sourced with caution.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 09/2026	Valid until 09/2027
4. Assessment cycle	Re-Approval	

5. By-product assessment outcomes			
By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Areas <i>Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species</i>	MarinTrust approval status

Argentine hake/ merluza (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)	Argentina	FAO Area 41, Atlantic Southwest	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

Step 2 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List <i>Select IUCN red list category from dropdown</i>	CITES Appendices <i>Select CITES appendix status from dropdown</i>	Step 2 risk status <i>Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk</i>	Step 3 required <i>Yes / No</i>
Argentine hake/ merluza (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)	Argentina	Not Evaluated	Not listed	High risk	Yes

Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Area	Stock name <i>(If applicable e.g. Eastern Pacific stock)</i>	Category C Assessment Outcome <i>Pass/Fail</i>	Traceability information <i>Path 1 – Yes OR Path 2 – Yes/No OR MT Approved Whole Fish</i>	Step 3 Risk Outcome <i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk/ Remains High Risk</i>
Argentine hake/merluza (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)	Argentina	FAO Area 41, Atlantic Southwest	Argentina, South 41°S	Pass	Path 2 - Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: N/A						

Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

Step 2 outcomes

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

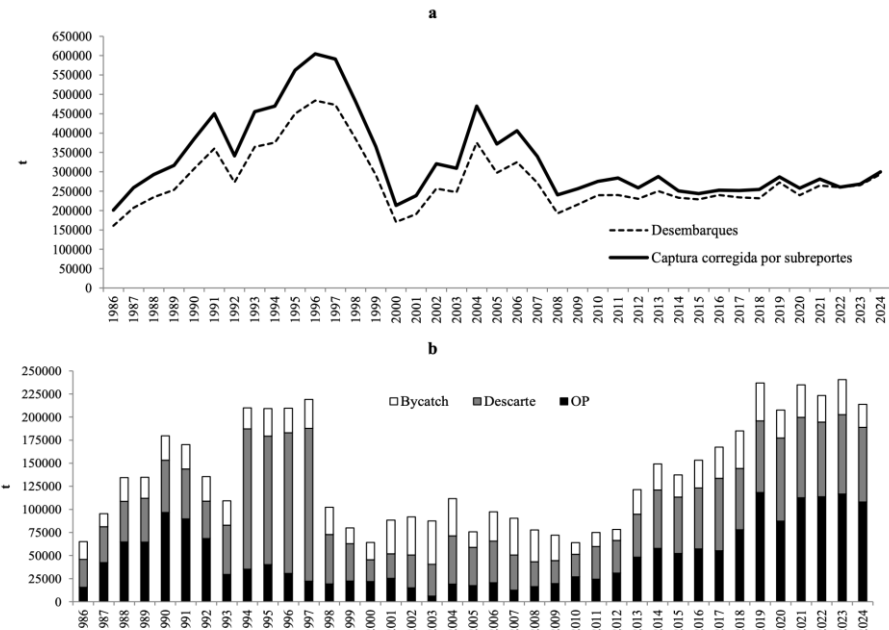
Species name		Argentine hake/ merluza (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)
Fishing area and stock		FAO Area 41, Atlantic Southwest Argentina, South 41°S
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements	
C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, 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. The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) annually assesses the Argentine hake stock in the area south of 41° S. The assessment collates official landing statistics and age-disaggregated catch estimates for the period from 1986 to 2024, alongside preliminary 2025 data on targeted fishing, discards, and bycatch in the shrimp fishery¹. It also accounts for catches by foreign fleets operating outside the Exclusive Economic Zone and by vessels illegally licensed in the Malvinas Islands south of 48° S, based on FAO statistics (Figure 1). As a result, total catch estimates for 2024 were 513,858 tonnes with statistical age-structured catch model was used to estimate stock size, recruitment, and fishing mortality rates¹.		
 a Y-axis: t (tonnes), 0 to 650,000. X-axis: 1986 to 2024. Legend: --- Desembarques, — Captura corregida por subreportes. b Y-axis: t (tonnes), 0 to 250,000. X-axis: 1986 to 2024. Legend: □ Bycatch, ■ Descarte, ■ OP.		

Figure 1. Estimated total hake catch south of 41°S (1986 to 2024). a) catch declared by Argentina, subsequently adjusted for misreporting. b) sources of discards in the hake fishery and the shrimp fishery bycatch, as well as catch declared by other countries¹.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.1.

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 2025 INIDEP assessment indicates that the total biomass of the stock is 1,208,400 tonnes, with a reproductive biomass of 777,260 tonnes (Figure 2)¹. This is well above the current biological reference point of 600,000 tonnes of reproductive biomass; however, this reference point is subject to change following the proposed revision (Figure 3). The assessment indicates that total catches should not exceed 370,000 tonnes in 2026¹.

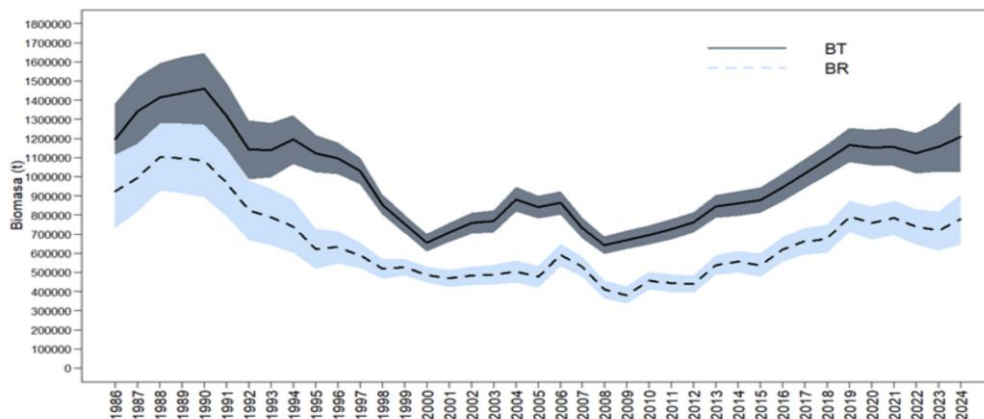


Figure 2. Total biomass (BT) and reproductive biomass (BR) of common hake estimated by the ECE model at the beginning of each year¹.

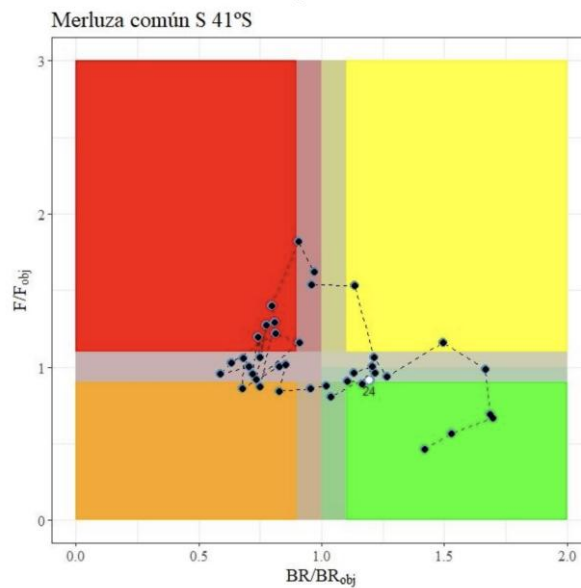


Figure 3. Kobe plot showing the exploitation status trajectory of the southern hake stock based on data from 1986 to 2024, according to the current biological reference points¹.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. Santos, B.A., Pedernera, M, F., Suby, A. (2025). Assessment of the exploitation status of the southern hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) stock south of 41°S and estimation of the biologically acceptable catch for 2026. INIDEP Official Technical Report No. 047/42, pp. <https://fisheryprogress.org/system/files/INIDEP%20Official%20Technical%20Report%20No%2004742%20pp%202025.pdf>

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name		Argentine hake/ merluza (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>)		
Path 1		Yes ☐ No ☒		
Confirm all KDEs are provided		Yes ☐ No ☐		
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Argentina	2.25 (medium risk)	1.86 (low risk)	Downgraded to medium risk