



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com)

T: +44 2039 780 819

**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Argentine hake, <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 41 Atlantic Southwest
	Country of origin of the product:	Argentina
	Stock:	Bonaerense/North of 41° S
Date	12/10/2021	
Report Code	BP203	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Argentina	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Argentina		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Geraldine Criquet	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	October 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Argentine hake ( <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i> )
Stock	Bonaerense/North of 41° S
Fishery Location	FAO Area 41 Atlantic Southwest
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA)
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation of approval
Recommendation	APPROVED

**Table 2. Assessment Determination**

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices, therefore, Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM), a bilateral entity formed by delegations from Argentina and Uruguay, has among its functions to establish the catch levels for the species that are exploited within the Common Fishing Zone (ZCP) and to distribute this catch among both countries. The Northern stock is distributed also outside the ZCP, within Argentina and Uruguay’s Exclusive Economic Zones. The stock is managed through Total Allowable Catches (TAC), established by the CTMFM for the ZCP, and also by the Federal Fisheries Council (Consejo Federal Pesquero, CFP) in Argentina. The species is subject to a species-specific management regime and therefore it is categorised as Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1.</p> <p>The most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim. Therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>In order to be approved, the stock assessed must achieve a pass in clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) in FAO Area 41 is APPROVED by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified Argentine hake Northern stock as category C, reference points are defined to assess status of the stock relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. The Argentine hake Northern stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the Argentine hake Northern stock should be approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

## 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 an 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Argentine hake	<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>	Bonaerense/North of 41° S	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA)	C	DD	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

## CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

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		
C1	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>	
	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.
	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.
		<b>Clause outcome:</b>
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Data has been compiled from landings of Argentine hake (1990-2016). Catch-at-age evaluations of the stock are carried out annually by Argentina's INIDEP (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero). A mathematical model (APV-XSA) is applied to obtain estimates of recruitment and age-related fishing mortality. A statistical model of catch-at-age on the ADMB platform (ECE) was also applied. Calibration indices used included catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and age-related abundance indices obtained from research cruises</p> <p>Bycatch data from the fleet targeting Patagonian prawns and data from the on-board observer programme (both fleets) were also used. Third Country data (including Uruguay fleet catches) on Argentine hake landings were provided by FAO; discard estimates were also included in order to obtain catch-at-age estimates.</p> <p>Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the fishery <b>PASSES</b> clause C1.1</p>		
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Total and spawning stock biomass (SSB) declined significantly between 1986 and 2014, 75% and 80% respectively. A 50% increase in SSB was observed from 2012 to 2014, due to a reduction in adult and juvenile fishing mortalities, in result of temporal closures and management measures aiming reduction on fishing effort. However, there are no reference points related to fishing mortality, two biological reference points are used by the INIDEP to evaluate the status of the Northern stock of Argentine hake: a lower limit (Blim) defined at 150,000 tonnes, and a precautionary level (Bpa) defined at 230,000 tonnes, based on the stock-recruit relationship (Irusta, 2015).</p> <p>In the last INIDEP report the SSB showed an increasing trend and it is above Blim of 150,000 tonnes. The total Catch allowed for this year has been set at 42,000 tonnes.</p> <p>Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it <b>PASSES</b> clause C1.2.</p>		
<p><b>References</b></p> <p>Informe tecnico oficial IN° 40/2020: "Evaluación del estado del efectivo norte de 41° S de merluza (Merluccius hubbsi) y estimación de Captura Biológicamente Aceptable para 2021."</p>		

Irusta, C.G., 2015. Evaluación del estado del efectivo norte de 41° S de la merluza (*Merluccius hubbsi*) y estimación de la captura biológicamente aceptable para el año 2016. INIDEP Official Technical Report N° 29/2015. 19 November 2015. 33 pp. (In Spanish) <http://www.inidep.edu.ar/publicaciones/catalogo/informes-tecnicos-2015/>  
[https://www.fishsource.org/stock\\_page/1134](https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1134)

**Links**

<b>MARINTRUST Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.3
<b>GSSI</b>	D.3.04, D5.01

## CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>		
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>		<b>Value</b>
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>		<b>Value</b>
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery		
	Distribution		
	Habitat		
	Depth range		
	Selectivity		
	Post-capture mortality		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
<b>References</b>			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

**Note:** Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.



D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4 Species Name			
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
<b>Outcome:</b>			
<b>Evidence</b>			
D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4		
FAO CCRF	7.5.1		
GSSI	D.5.01		