



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

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

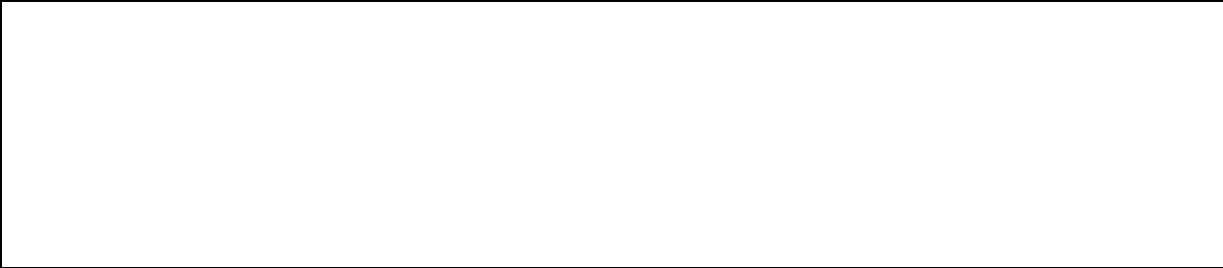
Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 North East Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Whiting in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel)
Date	16 November 2021	
Report Code	BP236	
Assessor	Geraldine Criquet	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Bioceval SAS			
Address:			
Country: France		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
Geraldine Criquet	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	To November 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )
Stock	Whiting in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union / France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture
Gear Type(s)	Otter trawls, seine nets, beam trawls, gillnets, and other gears
Peer Review Evaluation	Agrees with assessor's determination
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

**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 Marin Trust raw material. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, whiting is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel whiting stock is managed through the EU Multiannual plan (MAP) for the Western Waters adopted in 2019 and reference points are defined for the stock, therefore it was assessed under category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process, it <b>PASSES Clause C1.1</b>. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass below the limit reference point. Moreover, removals from the fishery under assessment cannot be considered as negligible, it <b>FAILS Clause C1.2</b>.</p> <p>In accordance with MT guidance, the stock was further assessed as Category D. With an average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 2.25, it <b>PASSES</b> the PSA.</p> <p>Therefore, whiting in ICES in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel) is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>ICES is aware of the multiannual management plan (MAP) which has been adopted by the EU for this stock (EU, 2019) and which ICES considers to be precautionary. There is no agreed shared management plan with UK for this stock, and ICES provides advice according to ICES MSY approach. Catch scenarios consistent with the MAP FMSY ranges are provided. Therefore, there are reference points defined for this stock and it has been correctly classified as category C.</p> <p>Removals are considered in the stock assessment and clauses C1.1 passes however, the biomass is well below Blim reference point and it has failed clause C1.2.</p> <p>As per guidance, the stock has been further assessed under category D. The PSA has passed. Therefore, the peer review agrees that whiting in ICES in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel) is recommended for approval for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products.</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 Redlist 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>
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and western English Channel)	European Union / France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture	C	LC	No

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

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

## CATEGORY C SPECIES

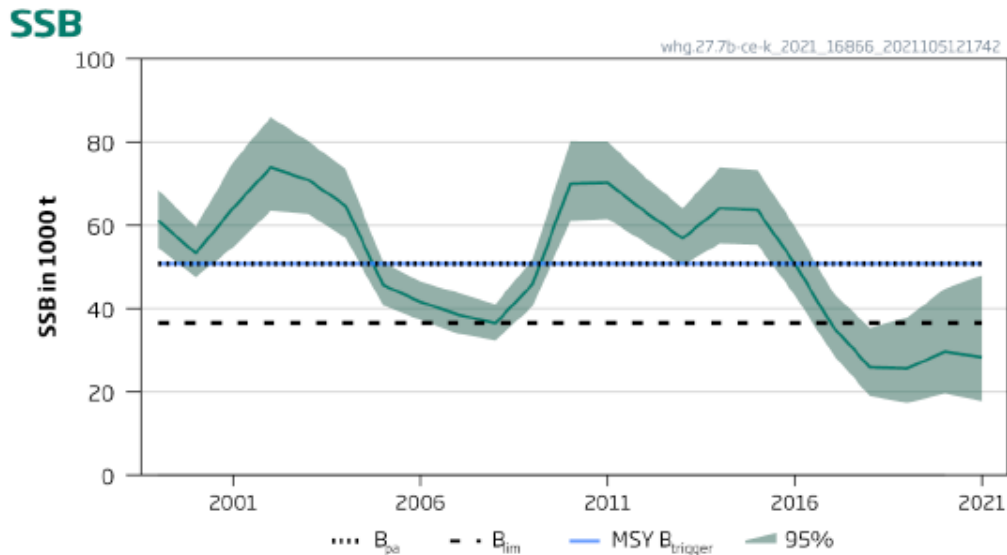
In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

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		Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )																																																																																									
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.	Yes																																																																																								
	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.	No																																																																																								
			Clause outcome: FAIL																																																																																								
<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>The stock assessment type is an age-based analytical assessment and input data include commercial catches (age composition of landings and discards) and maturity date from observer data. Catches are presented in Figure 1. Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process, it <b>PASSES Clause C1.1</b></p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catches</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Figure 1: Whiting Catches (in 1000 t)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Landings</th> <th>Discards</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2000</td><td>20</td><td>5</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>15</td><td>5</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>13</td><td>10</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>13</td><td>8</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>12</td><td>18</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>12</td><td>14</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>10</td><td>5</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>10</td><td>4</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>11</td><td>5</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>12</td><td>4</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>13</td><td>7</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>15</td><td>8</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>12</td><td>3</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Year	Landings	Discards	Total	2000	20	5	25	2001	15	5	20	2002	13	10	23	2003	13	8	21	2004	12	18	30	2005	12	14	26	2006	10	5	15	2007	9	9	18	2008	6	4	10	2009	6	5	11	2010	9	6	15	2011	10	4	14	2012	11	5	16	2013	12	4	16	2014	13	5	18	2015	13	7	20	2016	15	8	23	2017	12	3	15	2018	9	2	11	2019	7	1	8	2020	6	1	7
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<p><b>Figure 1.</b> Whiting in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k. Catches. Discard estimates are available since 2003; prior to 2003, discards have been reconstructed from incomplete sampling data. ICES 2021</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>The spawning-stock size is below <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math> and <math>B_{lim}</math> (Figure 2). Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass below the limit reference point.</p>																																																																																											

Landings by France were 4,731 t and 3,596 t in 2019 and 2020, respectively. France landings in the last 2 years accounted for 72% and 61% of whiting total landings in ICES Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k. Therefore, landings from the fishery under assessment cannot be considered as negligible, **preventing the fishery from meeting C.1.2.**

In accordance with MT guidance, the stock was further assessed as Category D.



**Figure 2.** Whiting in Divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k Summary of the stock assessment. Spawning stock biomass. ICES 2021

**References**

ICES. 2021. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in divisions 7.b-c and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, whg.27.7b-ce-k, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7888>. <https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2021/2021/whg.27.7b-ce-k.pdf>

Nedreaas, K., Florin, A., Cook, R., Fernandes, P. & Lorange, P. 2014. *Merlangius merlangus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014: e.T198585A45097610. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-3.RLTS.T198585A45097610.en>. Downloaded on 16 November 2021.

**Links**

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	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>	<i>Whiting, Merlangius merlangus</i>	
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Average age at maturity (years)	3	2
	Average maximum age (years)	20	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>10,000	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	91.5	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	27.8	1
	Reproductive strategy	Spawn in batch, broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		<b>1.71</b>
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery	Not scored	N/A
	Distribution	Limited range in the region	2
	Habitat	Benthopelagic	1
	Depth range	30-100 m	1
	Selectivity	Species > 2 times mesh size	3
	Post-capture mortality	Mostly dead	3
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		<b>2.25</b>
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		<b>PASS</b>
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		<b>PASS</b>
<b>References</b>			
Fishbase – Whiting, <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> <a href="https://www.fishbase.de/summary/Merlangius-merlangus.html">https://www.fishbase.de/summary/Merlangius-merlangus.html</a>			
<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.

<b>D3</b>		<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
		<b>1 - 1.75</b>	<b>1.76 - 2.24</b>	<b>2.25 - 3</b>
<b>Average Productivity Score</b>	<b>1 - 1.75</b>	PASS	PASS	PASS
	<b>1.76 - 2.24</b>	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	<b>2.25 - 3</b>	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4