

MarinTrust RS V2.0



BYPRODUCT FISHERY ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE REPORT

MarinTrust Ltd, Unit C, Printworks, 22 Amelia Street, London, SE17 3BZ, United Kingdom

TABLE 1 APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Atlantic, Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark
	Stock:	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d, (North Sea, eastern English Channel)
Date	March 2021	
Report Code	BP24	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Denmark		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	Géraldine Criquet	0.5	Surveillance
Assessment Period		March 2021	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
Stock	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d, (North Sea, eastern English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Atlantic, Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union through Common Fisheries Policy and Danish Fisheries Agency
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls and seine mesh size \geq 120 mm and Demersal trawls mesh size 70–99 mm
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation
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. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, whiting is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2018). This plan is not adopted by Norway; thus, it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the EC to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the MAP as a catch option. EU–Norway have requested an evaluation of multiple management strategies that are currently under consideration (ICES, 2019a). Therefore, there is a species-specific management plan and the species has been assessed under 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>For whiting in the assessment area, the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim and therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore whiting is APPROVED by assessors in the assessment area for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the North Sea, eastern English Channel whiting stock as category C, the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Therefore, the North Sea, eastern English Channel whiting fishery passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and is therefore North Sea, eastern English Channel whiting is approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for notes

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

Byproduct 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.

Byproduct 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
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d, (North Sea, eastern English Channel)	EU/CFP and Denmark	C	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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 may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

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.	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>The data used for this stock assessment are: commercial catches (international catches, ages from catch sampling by métier, since 1978), two survey indices (IBTS Q1 & Q3; ages 0 to 5; since 1983); time-varying maturity estimated from NS IBTS Q1cdata; time varying natural mortalities from the SMS multispecies model (ICES, 2019b). Discards, BMS landings and bycatch are included.</p> <p>The proportion of landings with associated discards was 73% where 55% of the discards were sampled. No biological samples were available for age allocations from the industrial bycatch; therefore, samples of total catches were used, and mean weight-at-age is assumed equal to catch weights-at-age. Below minimum size (BMS) landings, where reported to ICES, are included with discards as unwanted catch in the assessment since 2015.</p> <p>Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the fishery PASSES clause C1.1</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 spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has decreased since 2010 and is estimated to have been below MSY Btrigger since 2017 and below Blim since 2018. Fishing mortality (F) has generally fluctuated above FMSY throughout the time-series and was below FMSY in 2019. Recruitment has been relatively low since 2010, with the exception of 2013. (Figure 1).</p>			

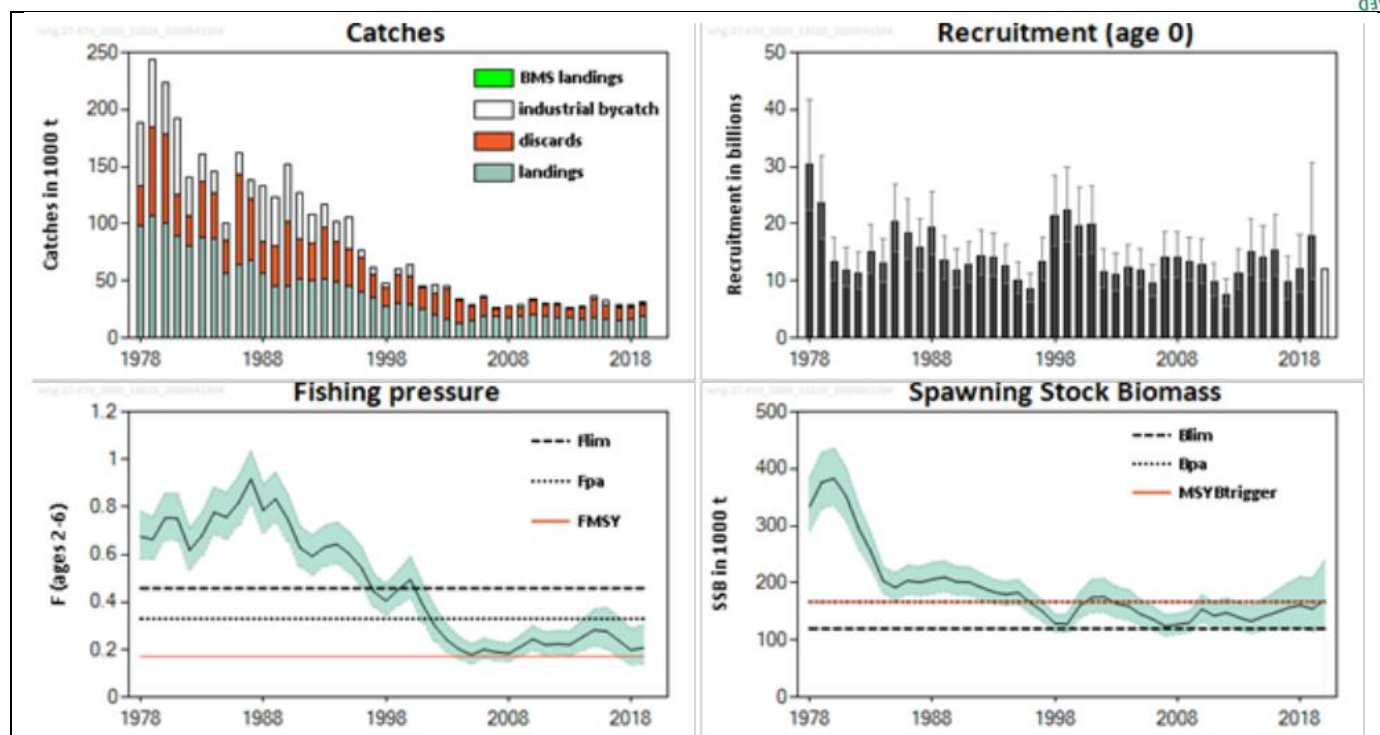


Figure 1. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas (Fishing pressure [F], Spawning- stock biomass [B]) and error bars (Recruitment) indicate 95% confidence intervals. Assumed recruitment is unshaded. Landings below minimum conservation reference size (BMS) as officially reported. Source: ICES 2020

Consequently, looking at the ICES 2020 stock assessment, that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY, but below Fpa and Flim; spawning-stock size is below MSY Btrigger and Bpa, but above Blim. The second version of the stock assessment posted on January 2021 has shown the same stock status and ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it **PASSES** clause C1.2.

References

EU.2018. Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L. 179. 13 pp. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj>.

ICES. 2018b. Advice basis. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2018. ICES Advice 2018, Book 1, Section 1.2. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4503>.

ICES. 2019a. EU and Norway request concerning the long-term management strategy of cod, saithe, and whiting, and of North Sea autumn-spawning herring. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sr.2019.06, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4895>.

ICES. 2019. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, whg.27.47d, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4878>

ICES. 2020. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, whg.27.47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5935>. Version 2 January 2021

Nedreaas, K., Florin, A., Cook, R., Fernandes, P. & Lorance, 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>.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix B: From MARINTRUST Standard V2.0 Annex 2: Fish By-product Assessment Methodology

Definition of a Fish By-product

A by-product is a useful and marketable product that is not the primary product being produced. A marketable by-product is from a process that can technically not be avoided. This includes materials that may be traditionally defined as waste such as industrial scrap that is subsequently used as a raw material in a different manufacturing process.

"Fish By-products" refers to commodities that are manufactured from fish, including shellfish, and crustaceans in a form that is different than conventional foods and which are intended for human consumption (either directly or as a food ingredient). Fish By-products include, but are not limited to:

- By-products derived from fish, including fish cartilage, fish oils, and fish proteins; and
- By-products derived from the carapaces of crustaceans; but do not include marine plants or marine plant products.

(Canadian Food Inspection Agency Definition)

In addition, a whole fish which is rejected on an intrinsic quality ground e.g. does not meet the specification for human consumption due to physical damage or the quality is substandard. These whole fish shall in these cases be classified as a by-product from the human consumption fishery, and can be used for marine ingredients production.

A whole catch of fish that is rejected by a fish processing factory on economic grounds is not considered to be a fish by-product. This fish can only be used for marine ingredients production if the fishery has been assessed and approved under the requirements of the IFFO Responsible Sourcing Standard.

Why utilise Fish By-products?

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

General Principles Article 6

6.7 The harvesting, handling, processing and distribution of fish and fishery products should be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Responsible fish utilisation Article 11.1

11.1.8 States should encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to reduce post-harvest losses and waste.

Benefits of Including Fish By-Products in the MARINTRUST Standard:

1. Improved fish resource utilisation
2. Reduction in waste for nutritional value
3. 35% of fish by-products are currently used to make quality fishmeal and oil
4. Excellent Economic return
5. Better compliance with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

What Fish By-products cannot be used?

1. IUCN

Fishery By-products shall Not be taken from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for certain categories;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the vulnerable category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body prior to it being included in the scope of this standard.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

The Fish By-product material from these species will be acceptable for use in the scope of this standard;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the following category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance prior to it being included in the scope of this standard;

- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

The fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body will review the following areas:

Stock Assessment

- From a recognised Institution
- Fisheries are recognised as legal
- Fisheries do not contradict scientific opinion

2. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

In addition the Fish By-products shall not come from fisheries that do not comply with the following criteria;

1. Fisheries should prohibit dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices.
2. Fishery material shall not be from IUU fishing activity nor sourced from vessels officially listed as engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

Sources of Information

1. Food Standards Agency
2. Canadian Food Inspection Agency
3. DEFRA
4. GAA Feed mill BAP standard gfi
5. EU Commission
6. IUCN