



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 Atlantic Northeast, ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Whiting in ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)
Date	December 2020	
Report Code	BP319	
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:			
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	Initial
Assessment Period	April 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting, <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>
Stock	Whiting in ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Atlantic Northeast, ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy and France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture (DPMA)
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
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 MARIN TRUST raw material. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) is not listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor it is listed in CITES appendices; therefore, whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in the ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) is eligible for approval for use as MARIN TRUST by-product raw material.</p> <p>Whiting in ICES Division 3.a. are caught as bycatch in bottom trawls targeted other species. Although there is a catch advice issued by ICES, there are no reference points (or proxies) defined for this stock. Therefore, the stock is categorized as Category D. The fishery was thus assessed using the risk-based Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) as per Marin Trust v 2.0 procedures for Category D species.</p> <p>With an average productivity score of 1.57 and an average susceptibility score of 2.75, the fishery passes Table D3.</p> <p>Therefore whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) is APPROVED in the assessment area by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MARIN TRUST v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The species has not reference points defined to evaluate the stock status then correctly it has been assessed under category D.</p> <p>The species has passed the PSA and therefore it is approved is APPROVED in the assessment area by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MARIN TRUST v 2.0 by-products standard.</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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting in ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy and France DPMA	D	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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

D1	Species Name	Whiting, (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	3-4 years	2
	Average maximum age (years)	20 years	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>10,000	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	41.3 cm	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	28-30 cm	1
	Reproductive strategy	Open water/substratum egg scatterers	1
	Mean trophic level	Feed on shrimps, crabs, mollusks, small fish, polychaetes and cephalopods – 4.4	3
	Average Productivity Score		1.57
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery	Not scored	Not scored
	Distribution	Stock in 3.a – limited range in the region	2
	Habitat	Mainly on mud and gravel bottoms but also on sand and rock	3
	Depth range	Not scored	Not scored
	Selectivity	>2 times mesh size	3
	Post-capture mortality	Most dead retained	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		2.75
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	Compliance rating		PASS
References			
Nedreaas, K., Florin, A., Cook, R., Fernandes, P. & Lorance, P. 2014. <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> . <i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2014: e.T198585A45097610. https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-3.RLTS.T198585A45097610.en .			
ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort for whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat). Published 30 June 2020. https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2020/2020/whg.27.3a.pdf			
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) - Fishbase https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Merlangius-merlangus.html			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

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			
Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
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.		
Outcome:			
Evidence			
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.			
References			
Links			
MARINTRUST Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	