



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 7a
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	Whiting in ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea)
Date	December 2020	
Report Code	BP320	
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 7.a (Irish Sea)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Atlantic Northeast, ICES Division 7.a (Irish Sea)
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 7.a (Irish Sea) is eligible for approval for use as MARIN TRUST by-product raw material.</p> <p>Whiting in ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea) is subject to specific management and reference points are available to assess the stock status relative to. Therefore, the stock is categorized 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 stock size is extremely low with the spawning stock biomass being well below B_{lim} since the mid-1990s. Therefore, the stock cannot be considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Landings by France have significantly decreased to reach a low level at <0.5 t since 2013, representing 0.1% of total landings in 2017. There were no landings from France in 2018. No discards are recorded for France.</p> <p>The assessor determines that removals from the stock by France can be considered as negligible, in line with the ICES zero catches advice. Therefore, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>In order to be approved, the stock under assessment must pass both Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Whiting in ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea) passes both Clauses C1.1 and C1.2, and therefore is APPROVED by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v.2.0 by-product Standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in in the Western Waters and adjacent waters (EU, 2019) takes bycatch of this species into account therefore the species has been correctly categorised as Category C.</p> <p>Fisheries removals are considered in the stock advice, however zero catches are advised there are still catches of the species as discards of the nephrops fisheries in the area.</p> <p>The stock is well below biomass reference points, however, catches from France have been very low over the years, <0.5t. Therefore, the species it passes Clause C1.1 and C1.2 and consequently, and therefore is APPROVED by the assessor for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v.2.0 by-product 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 7.a (Irish Sea)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy and France DPMA	C	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <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.	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.

Landings and discards are included in the stock assessment process. Figure 1 present the catches of whiting in ICES Division 7.a for the 1980-2019 period.

Therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

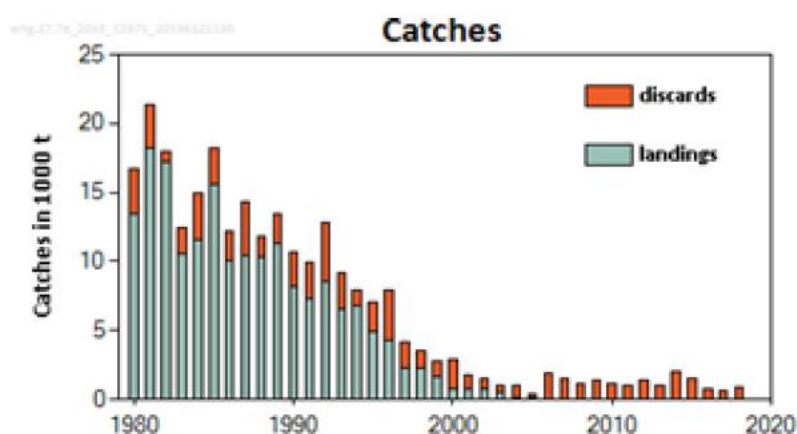


Figure 1. Whiting in Division 7a. Landings and discards. Source ICES 2020

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 most recent ICES advice was published in June 2020. The stock size is extremely low with the spawning stock biomass being well below B_{lim} since the mid-1990s (Figure 2). Therefore, the stock cannot be considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point.

Although the fishing mortality has significantly declined since 2015, it remains above F_{MSY} and F_{lim} in 2018 (Table 1). ICES advises zero catches since 2001. The majority of whiting are bycaught in *Nephrops*-directed trawls, finfish-directed trawls and other gears. Landings by France have significantly decreased to reach a low level at <0.5 t since 2013, representing 0.1% of total landings in 2017. There were no landings from France in 2018. No discards are recorded for France.

Therefore, removals from the stock by France can be considered as negligible.

Therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

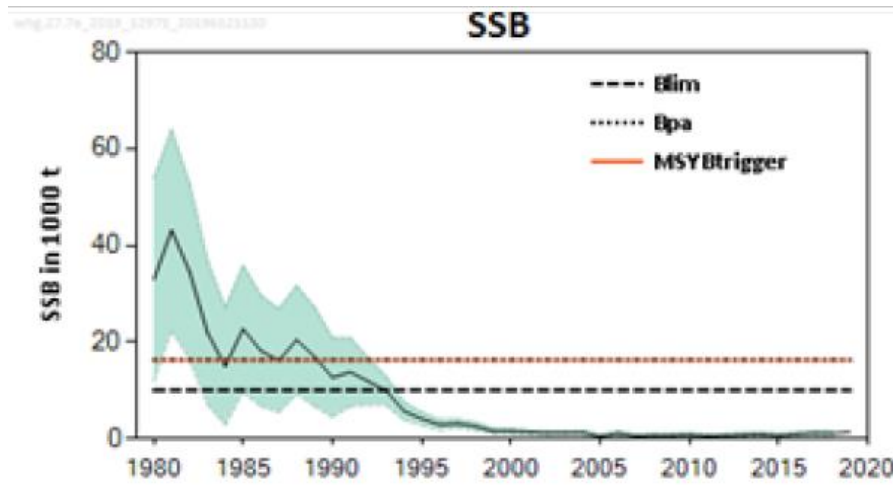


Figure 2. Whiting in Division 7a. Summary of the stock assessment with the state of the stock relative to the biomass reference points. Source ICES 2020

Table 1. Whiting in Division 7a. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points. Source ICES 2020

	Fishing pressure			Stock size			
		2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2019
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	✘	✘	✘ Above	MSY	✘	✘ Below trigger
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	✘	✘	✘ Harvested unsustainably	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	✘	✘ Reduced reproductive capacity
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	B_{MGT}	—	—

References

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>.

ICES. 2019. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, whg.27.7a, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.522>.
<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/whg.27.7a.pdf>.

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.

D1	Species Name		
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	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		
	Average Productivity Score		
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery		
	Distribution		
	Habitat		
	Depth range		
	Selectivity		
	Post-capture mortality		
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
References			
<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			
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	