



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

*Blue whiting (Micromesistius poutassou)  
in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14  
(Northeast Atlantic and adjacent  
waters)*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	EU, Russian Federation, Iceland, Faroese, Greenland and U.K. (Flag countries)
	Stock:	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> ) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Date	April 2022	
Report Code	BP_GBR06	
Assessor	Vito Romito	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	EU, Russian Federation, Iceland, Faroese, Greenland and U.K. (Flag countries)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia			
Country: UK & Ireland			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vito Romito	Ivan Mateo	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To April 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> )
Stock	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> ) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Fishery Location	Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU CFP (primarily) and management organisations from Russian Federation, Iceland, Faroese, Greenland and U.K.
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl (main) and other gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with Assessor assessment
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. Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway in 2016 (Anon, 2016). ICES has evaluated the strategy and found it to be precautionary (ICES, 2016a). ICES advised in 2021 that when the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway is applied, catches in 2022 should be no more than 752 736 tonnes.</p> <p>The stock is assessed by ICES and therefore assessed as a Category C here. Catches are accounted in the stock assessment model. Fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and Fpa but below Flim; spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. Accordingly, this stock is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 Standard for by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) 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. Therefore, blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and therefore blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) is 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 a 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>
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	EU CFP (primarily) and management organisations from Russian Federation, Iceland, Faroese, Greenland and U.K.	C	LC	No

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

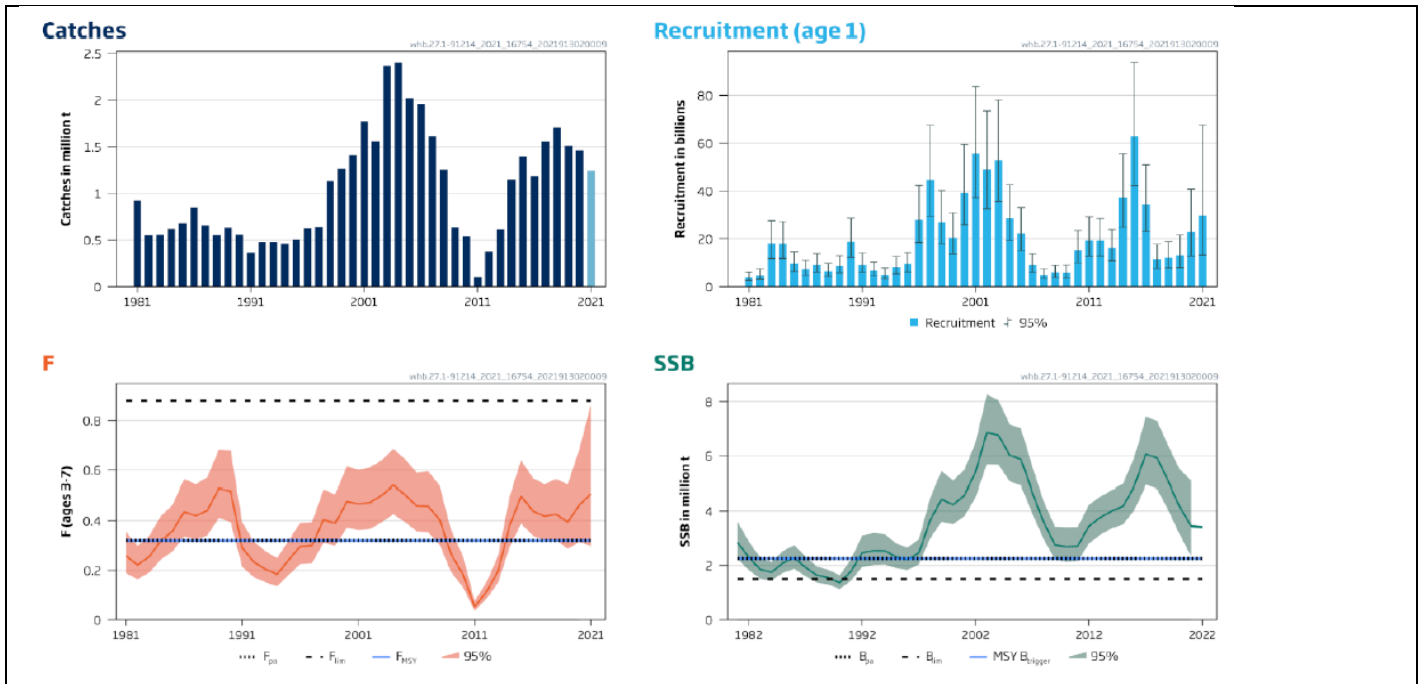
<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

## CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a 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 should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		Blue whiting	
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><b>C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.</b></p> <p>The age-based analytical assessment (SAM; ICES, 2021a) employed for this stock uses catches in the model and the forecast. Input data includes: commercial catches, preliminary estimate of catch-at-age in the year (Q1–Q2) in which the assessment is carried out, one survey index (International Blue Whiting Spawning Stock Survey (A1142 [IBWSS]) ages 1–8, 2004–2021, excluding 2010 and 2020); fixed maturity estimated in 1994 by combining maturity ogives from the southern and northern areas; natural mortality fixed at 0.2, derived in the 1980s from age compositions before the targeted fishery started. Discard data since 2014 have been included in the assessment.</p> <p><b>The stock passes C1.1.</b></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).</b></p> <p>As per the 2021 ICES Advice report, fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and Fpa but below Flim; spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. This can be seen in the figure below.</p>			



**Figure 1.** Blue whiting in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches for 2021 (pale blue) are preliminary estimates. For this stock, F<sub>mtg</sub> = F<sub>MSY</sub> and SSB<sub>mtg</sub> = B<sub>pa</sub>. (Source ICES, 2021)

**The stock passes C1.2.**

**References**

CITES. 2022. Cites Appendix 1. <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

Garcia, S. 2015. *Micromesistius poutassou*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T198586A18983495. Accessed on 25 April 2022.

ICES. 2021. Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in subareas 1-9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, whb.27.1-91214. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7883>.

**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