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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

IFFO RS Limited

T: +44 (0) 2030 539 195

E: Standards@iffors.com

W: www.iffors.com

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



Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



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Fishery Under Assessment	Blue ling <i>Molva dypterygia</i> Northeast Atlantic
Date	October 2019
Assessor	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Copalis Industrie				
Address:				
Country: France		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global Ltd		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Vito Romito	0.5	Surveillance 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2019			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU
Main Species	Blue ling <i>Molva dypterygia</i>
Stocks:	1 Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 6–7 and Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds)
	2 Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in Subarea 14 and Division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds)
	3 Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic, other areas)
Fishery Location	Northeast Atlantic
Gear Type(s)	Trawl and longline

Outcome of Assessment			
Overall Outcomes:	Outcome	Clause(s) failed	
1	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 6–7 and Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds)	PASS	NONE
2	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in Subarea 14 and Division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds)	FAIL	C1.2
3	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic, other areas)	FAIL	C1.2
Peer Review Evaluation			
Recommendations	<p>APPROVE: Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 6–7 and Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds)</p> <p>DO NOT APPROVE: Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in Subarea 14 and Division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds) Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic, other areas)</p>		

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU
Main Species	Blue ling <i>Molva dypterygia</i>
Fishery Location	Northeast Atlantic
Gear Type(s)	Trawl and longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Pass
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree
Recommendation	Pass 1 stock; Fail 2 stocks

Assessment Determination

If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) is not assessed on the current IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, this species is eligible for approval for use as IFFO-RS raw material. The 2019 ICES assessment is based on the 2018 assessment, with some modifications.

While the majority of landings come from subarea 6-7 and division 5.a and subarea 14; ICES assess 3 stock components in the North East Atlantic:

- Blue ling in subareas 6-7 and division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds),
- Blue ling in subarea 14 and division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds), and
- Blue ling in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, 12 and divisions 3.a and 4.a (other areas).

Fishery removals of all stocks are considered in the stock assessment process so, therefore, Blue ling *Molva dypterygia* **passes** Clause C1.1.

Blue ling in subareas 6-7 and division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds):

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point and **passes** Clause C1.2.

Blue ling in subarea 14 and division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds):

The biomass index has continued to decline since its peak in 2009. This stock **does not pass** Clause C1.2.

Blue ling in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic, other areas):

Spawning stock size is below possible MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim reference points for this stock. This stock **does not pass** Clause C1.2

In order to be approved, each stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore:

Blue ling *Molva dypterygia* (subareas 6-7 and division 5.b) **is approved** by the assessment team for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Blue ling *Molva dypterygia* (subarea 14 and division 5.a) is **not** approved by the assessment team for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Blue ling *Molva dypterygia* (subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a) is **not** approved by the assessment team for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Peer Review Comments

The Peer Reviewer agrees with the findings for the 3 stocks assessed in this report. Blue ling in ICES subarea 14, 5a, 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a should not be approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard. Conversely, blue ling subareas 6-7 and division 5.b should be approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Notes for On-site Auditor

Ensure only IFFO-RS approved raw material is processed and labelled.

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category C	Blue ling in subareas 6-7 and division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds),	N/A	PASS
	Blue ling in subarea 14 and division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds):	N/A	FAIL
	Blue ling in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4. a	N/A	FAIL

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

This assessment template uses a modular approach to assessing fisheries against the IFFO RS standard.

Whole Fish

The process for completing the template for a **whole fish** assessment is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table, to determine which categories of species are present in the fishery.
2. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses M1, M2, M3: Management.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY A SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clauses A1, A2, A3, A4 for **each** Category A species.
4. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY B SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete the Section B risk assessment for **each** Category B species.
5. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C species.
6. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete Section D.
7. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses F1, F2, F3: Further Impacts.

A fishery must score a pass in **all applicable clauses** before approval may be recommended. To achieve a pass in a clause, the fishery/species must meet **all** of the minimum requirements.

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The “% landings” column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the ‘bycatch’ or ‘minor’ species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The ‘stock’ column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The ‘management’ column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases, it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	Subareas 6-7 and division 5. b	N/A	EU	C
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	Subarea 14 and division 5. a	N/A	EU	C
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	Subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4. a	N/A	EU	C

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. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		Blue ling <i>Molva dypterygia</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.	All stocks	PASS
	C1.2	Subareas 6-7 and division 5.b: 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	
	C1.2	Subarea 14 and division 5.a: 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	FAIL	
	C1.2	Subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a 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	FAIL	
Clause outcome:			PASS 1 stock	FAIL 2 stocks

Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic):

Input is from official landings. Discarding is considered to be negligible. The assessment is a catch-based trends assessment (ICES, 2019)

Fishery removals of all stocks in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, therefore all stocks **pass** Clause C1.1

C1.2:

Blue ling in subareas 6-7 and division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds)

Advice for 2019 was first published in 2018. ICES assess that fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY and spawning stock size (is above MSY Btrigger (75 037 t). Based on $F_{2019} = 0$ SSB₂₀₂₀ was forecast to be 109,470t (Figure 2):

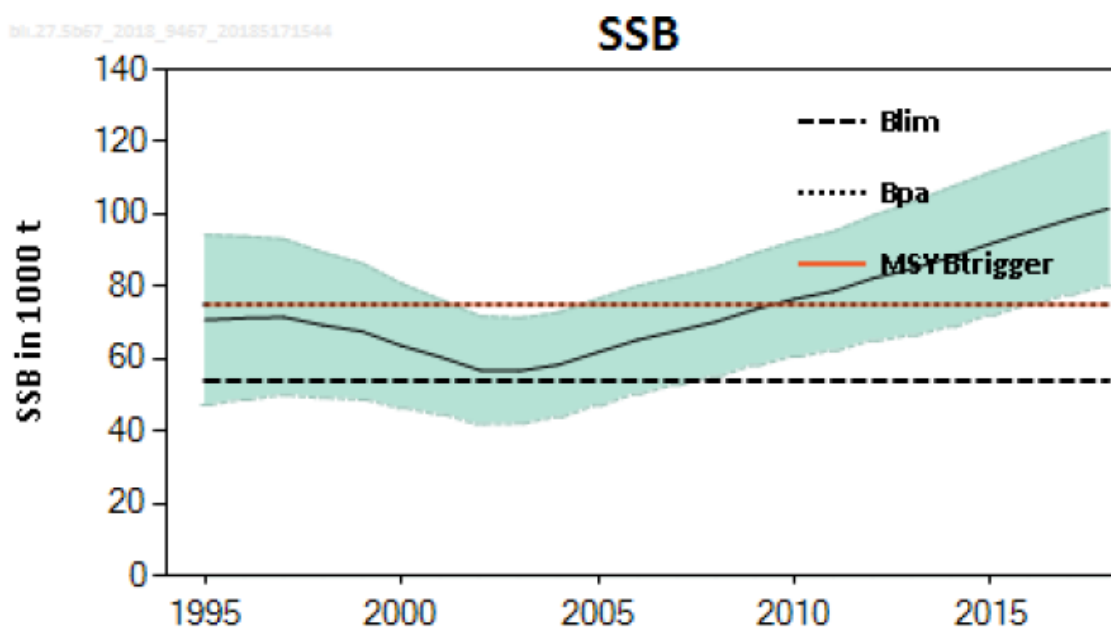


Figure 2. Blue ling in subareas 6–7 and Division 5.b. Summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes and recruitment in millions). **R2**

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

Blue ling in subarea 14 and division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds)

ICES cannot assess stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and PA reference points because reference points are undefined. The Fproxy approach was no longer considered applicable (ICES 2019); the change in survey trends approach was used instead with data from the Icelandic autumn trawl survey (IS-SMH) used as an index for stock development (Figure 3):

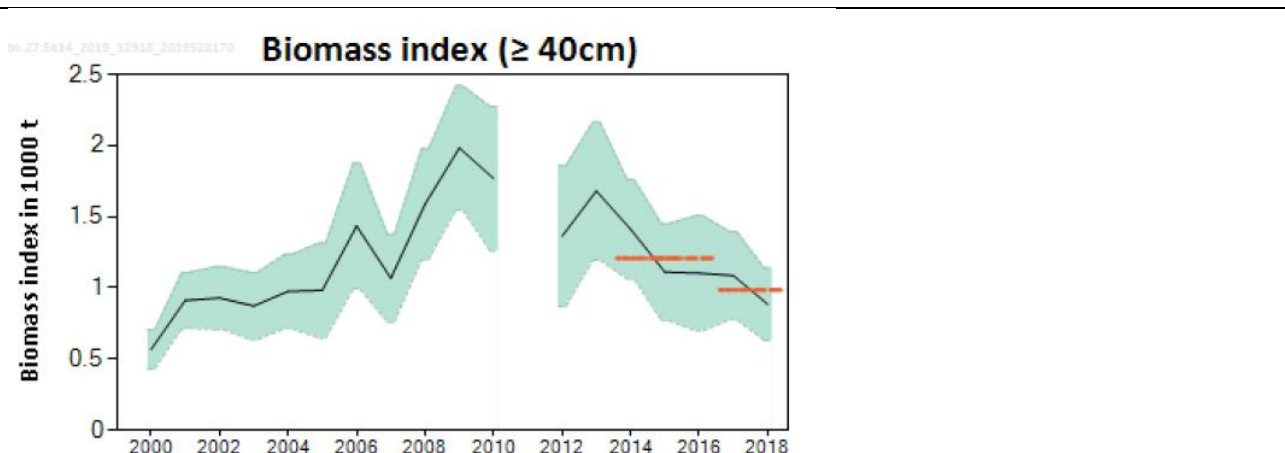


Figure 3 Biomass index (≥ 40 cm; bottom right) from the Icelandic autumn survey in Division 5.a (IS–SMH). The dashed orange lines indicate the average of the biomass index for 2014 to 2016 and for 2017 to 2018. **R3**

The biomass index has continued to decline since its peak in 2009; (Figure 3). This stock **does not pass** Clause C1.2.

Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic):

ICES assess that spawning stock size is below possible MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim reference points for this stock. Landings reported in the past from subareas 8 and 9 as blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) were considered to be Spanish ling (*Molva macropthalma*) and have not been included in the assessment. This stock **does not pass** Clause C1.2.

References

R1 FAO fishing areas 27 and 37 (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean):

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/area/search/en>

R2 ICES, 2018a. ICES Advice (2018,2019) on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort. Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 6-7 and Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Faroes grounds). Published 7 June 2018. <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/bli-5b67.pdf>

R3 ICES, 2018b. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort. Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in Subarea 14 and Division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds). Published 13 June 2018 <http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/bli.27.5a14.pdf>

R4 ICES, 2017. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort. Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (other areas). Published 7 June 2017. <http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/bli.27.nea.pdf>

R5 ICES, 2016a. Stock Annex: Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in Subarea 14 and Division 5.a (East Greenland and Iceland grounds). Created March 2011, last updated WGDEEP, 2016. http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Stock%20Annexes/2016/bli-5a14_SA.pdf

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2