



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *FRA46 - Whiting in ICES6.a(West of Scotland)*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 North East Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	FAO 27, ICES 6.a (West of Scotland)
Date	January 2024	
Report Code	FRA46	
Assessor	Jose Peiro Crespo	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Concarneau			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Jose Peiro Crespo	Sam Peacock	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	January 2024- January 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
Stock	FAO 27, ICES 6.a (West of Scotland)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union / France
Gear Type(s)	Bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) meets the eligibility criteria for approval as Marin Trust by-product raw material, as it is not categorized as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List (IUCN) (it is listed as Least Concern) and it does not appear in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendices.</p> <p>In the stock assessment process, fishery removals (catches and discards) are taken into account, satisfying Clause C1.1. The most recent assessment indicates that the stock's biomass is below the MSY Btrigger but within the range of Bpa and Blim, meeting the criteria of Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Consequently, whiting in FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic Ocean - ICES Division 6.a (West Scotland), is approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products standards.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>This byproduct meets the pre-requisites for MT approval, having been categorized by the IUCN as Least Concern and not appearing in the CITES appendices. The assessor has correctly determined that the byproduct should be assessed under Category C. The stock is subjected to regular, robust stock assessments, and the most recent assessment concluded that stock biomass is to be above the limit reference point level. The peer reviewer agrees with the conclusion that the byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.</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>	FAO 27, ICES 6.a (West of Scotland)	Yes, European Union/France	C	<u>LC</u> <u>(Least concern)</u>	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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		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.	Yes
	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.	Yes

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.

ICES working for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE) conducts annual stock assessment for the stock. The most recent assessment was an analytical age-based assessment (SAM) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast (ICES, 2023b). Input data included commercial landings, estimated discards and age composition of catches. The agree TAC in 2022 and 2023 were 1,800 and 2,636 tonnes respectively. Landings in 2022 were below that value.

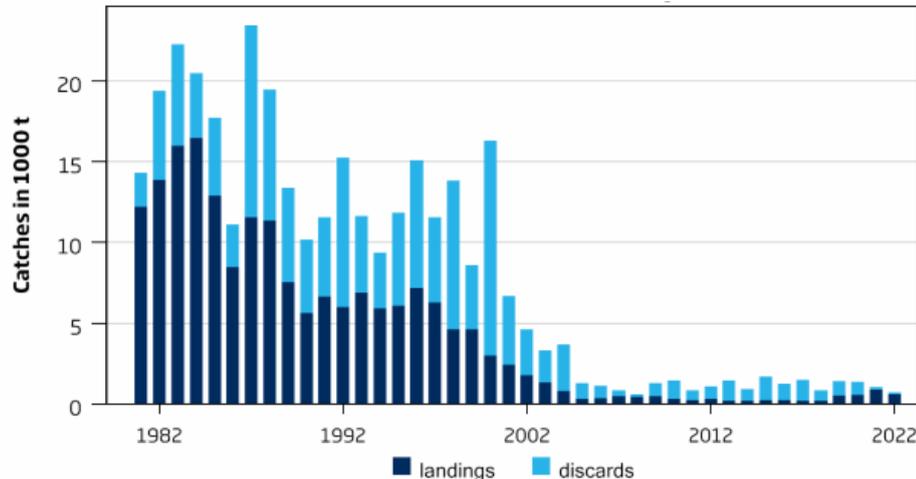


Figure 1. Temporal Dynamics of Aggregate Catches in 1000t: Landings and Discards (ICES 2023)

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.

According to the most recent ICES advice, fishing pressure on the population is below FMSY, and the spawning-stock size is below the MSY Btrigger but within the range of Bpa and Blim. CES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 3,879 tonnes.

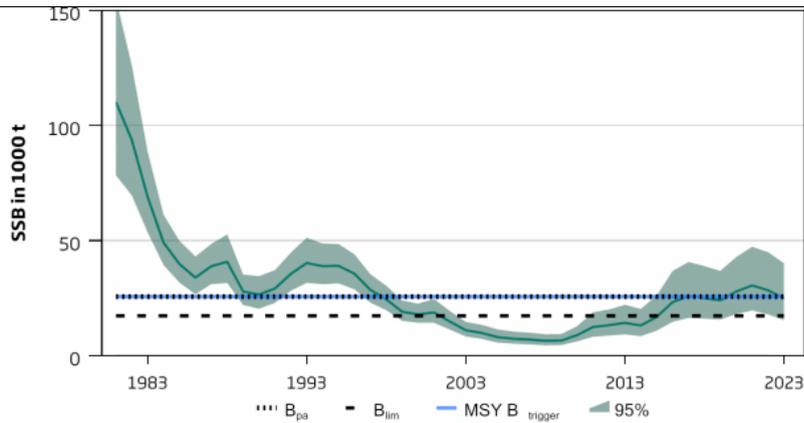


Figure 2. Temporal Trajectory of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) in 1000t (ICES 2023).

ICES projects a decrease in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) in 2025 under the MSY approach scenario, remaining below the MSY B trigger.

References

ICES 2023. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Division 6.a (West of Scotland). ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Celtic Seas ecoregion. Published 30 June 2023. ICES Advice 2023 – whg.27.6a – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21864327>

Links

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