



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

*Blue whiting, Faroe Islands, EU, Iceland,  
Greenland, Norway*

**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:	Faroe Islands, EU, Iceland, Greenland, Norway
	Stock:	ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Date	June 2022	
Report Code	FRO01	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Faroe Islands, EU, Iceland, Greenland, Norway	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Havsbrún			
Country: Faroe Islands			
Email address: <a href="mailto:havsbrun@havsbrun.fo">havsbrun@havsbrun.fo</a>		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.3	Surveillance
Assessment Period	June 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> )
Stock	ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 – Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); European Commission & national authorities of Faroes Islands, Greenland, Norway, Iceland
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl, bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Approve
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Approve

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

<b>Assessment Determination</b>
<p>Blue whiting has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. It is managed using reference points and therefore was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic was carried out in 2021. The assessment utilised all commercial catch data including discards and concluded that the biomass of the stock is above the limit and target reference points. A management strategy is in place for the stock, with well-defined harvest control rules. There have been some challenges to fully implementing the strategy due to unilateral quota setting by some participating nations; however, total international TAC does decrease as the ICES advice falls.</p> <p>The byproduct continues to meet the MT requirements and therefore should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
<b>Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments</b>
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the North Atlantic Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) fishery, targeted by EU, Faroes Islands, Greenland, Norway, and Icelandic vessels in FAO 27, ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14. Whiting is managed laterally across the target fleets countries and a defined management plan is in place. Whiting is correctly classified by the auditor as category C species and the C1 scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence to support their final determination. The fishery under assessment passes C1 scoring.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to approve this fishery under the Marin Trust v2.0 by-product standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
<b>Notes for On-site Auditor</b>
<p>There is nothing to highlight to the onsite auditor at this stage.</p>

## 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>	Northeast Atlantic	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

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

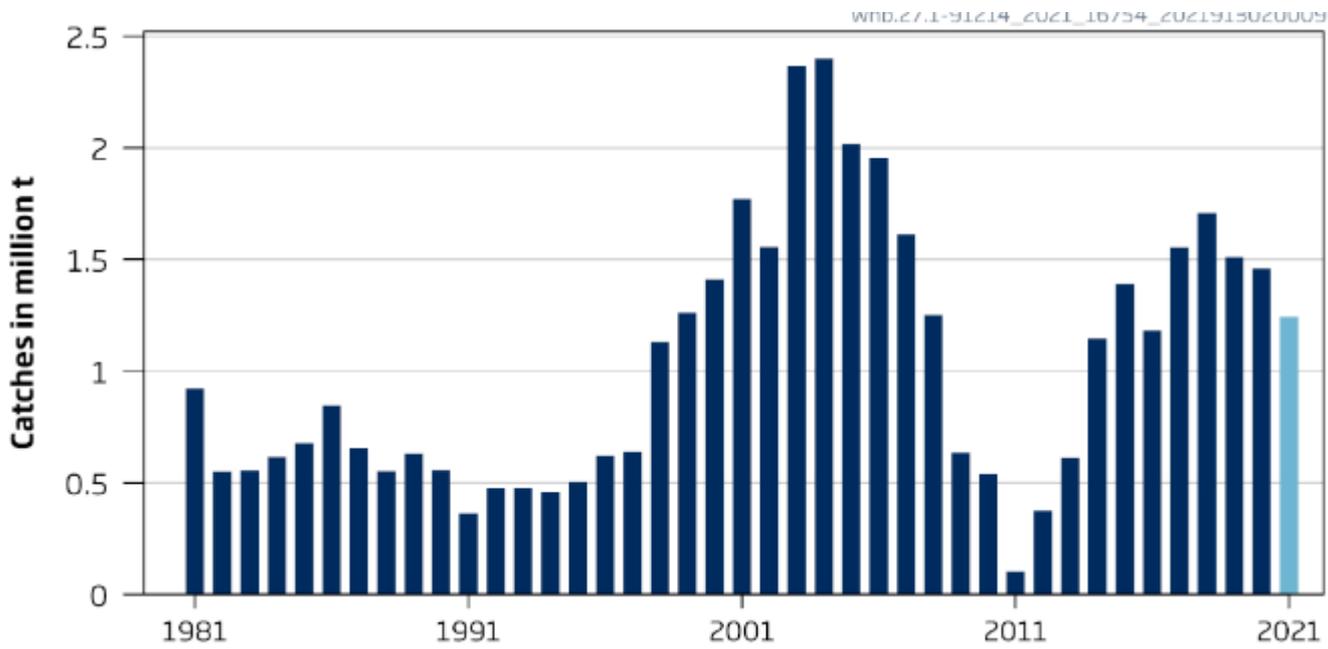
<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198586/18983495>

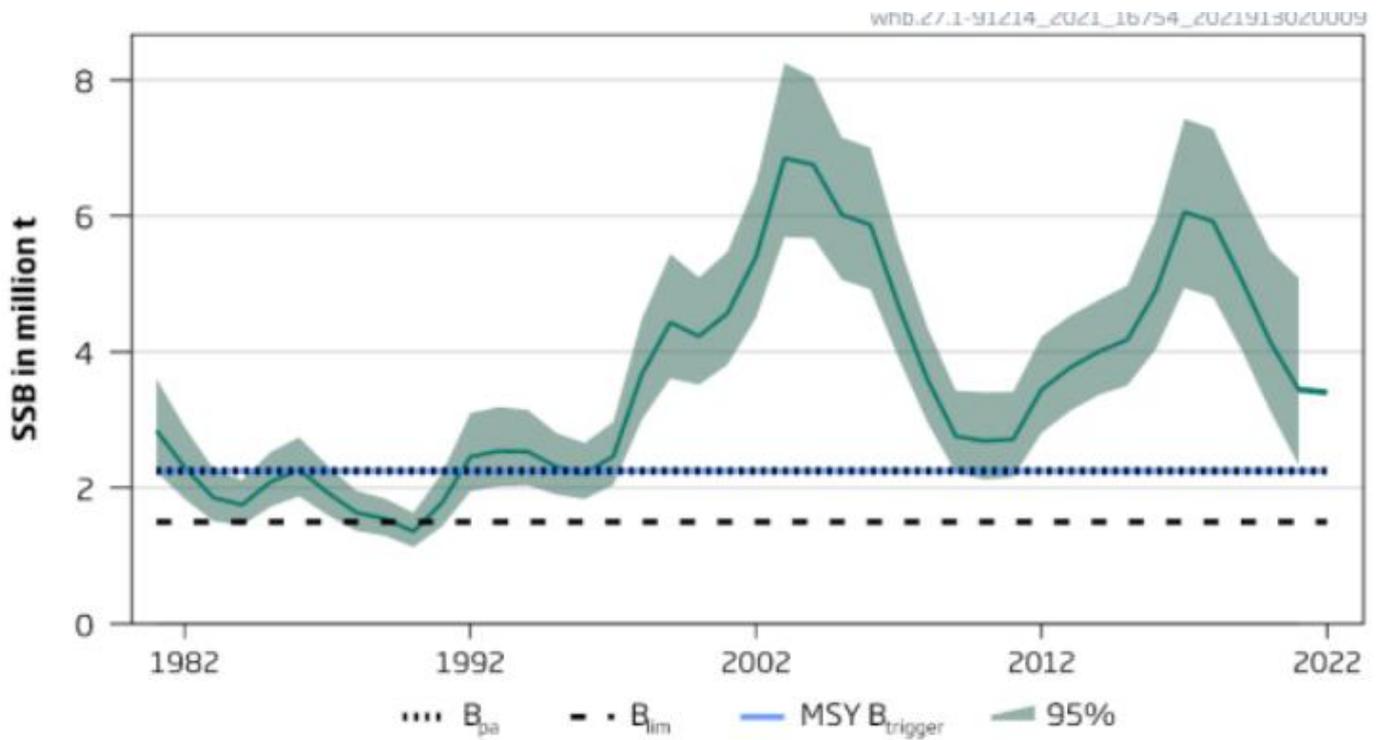
## CATEGORY C SPECIES

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 ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</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
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was an age-based analytical assessment carried out in 2021. The assessment utilised commercial catch data from all nations participating in the fishery (ICES 2021). Total catch in 2020 was estimated to be 1,495,248t. Catch data are available broken down by participating nation, fishing area, and those taken inside and outside the Regulatory Area covered by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). Discards have been included in the fishery removal data since 2014. 98% of catch is taken by pelagic trawl gears.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Catches of blue whiting in subareas 1-9, 12 and 14, from 1981 – 2021 (ICES 2021).</p>			
<p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process and therefore C1.1 is met.</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), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.</b></p>			

In the most recent stock assessment, conducted in 2021, spawning stock size was estimated to be above  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ . Spawning stock biomass in 2022 was projected to be 3,403,66t, against a target reference point ( $B_{trigger}$ ) of 2,250,000t and a limit reference point ( $B_{lim}$ ) of 1,500,000t (ICES 2021).



Estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) of blue whiting in subareas 1-9, 12 and 14, from 1981 – 2021 (ICES 2021).

Recommendations for the appropriate level of catch for the stock are made annually by ICES on the basis of a long-term management strategy agreed between the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway since 2018. The recommendation is not always adopted as unilateral TAC setting results in a total international TAC higher than the ICES recommendation. However, catch has decreased to reflect decreasing recommendations.

Stock biomass of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic is currently estimated to be above the limit reference point, therefore C1.2 is met.

**References**

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**

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