



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR06 - Blue whiting

(Micromesistius poutassou)

in FAO 27, ICES 1-9, 12, 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, ICES 1-9, 12, 14
	Country of origin of the product:	UK, Ireland Flag countries: UK, Ireland
	Stock:	Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Date	April 2024	
Report Code	GBR06	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK, Ireland Flag countries: UK, Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s):	Killybegs (Pelagia)		
Country:	UK, Ireland	Flag countries:	UK, Ireland
Email address:	Applicant Code:		
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	April 2024 – April 2025		

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	FAO 27, ICES 1-9, 12, 14
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fishery Policy), Ireland - Sea-Fisheries Policy & Management Division, UK - Marine Management Organization
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor’s recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) 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 and subsequently by the UK in 2021 and there are reference points established for the stock. Thus, the species was assessed under category C. Catches are considered in the stock assessment process, it PASSES C.1.1. The biomass is above the limit reference point, it PASSES C.1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in FAO 27, ICES 1-9, 12, 14 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in FAO 27, ICES 1-9, 12 and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) under Category C, the stock being subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above limit reference point. Therefore, the stock is considered to satisfy C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion, blue whiting in FAO 27, ICES 1-9, 12 and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.</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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting in ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	Yes	C	LC ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <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

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.

According to ICES (2023): "ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the United Kingdom is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1 529 754 tonnes."

The assessment type is an age-based analytical assessment – SAM. The 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 [IBWSS; A1142] ages 1–8, 2004–2023, excluding 2010 and 2020). Time invariant maturity-at-age was estimated in 1994 by combining maturity ogives from the southern and northern areas. Time invariant natural mortality fixed at 0.2 for all ages, derived in the 1980s from age compositions before the targeted fishery started. Discard data since 2014 have been included in the assessment.

Catches are demonstrated in Figure 1.

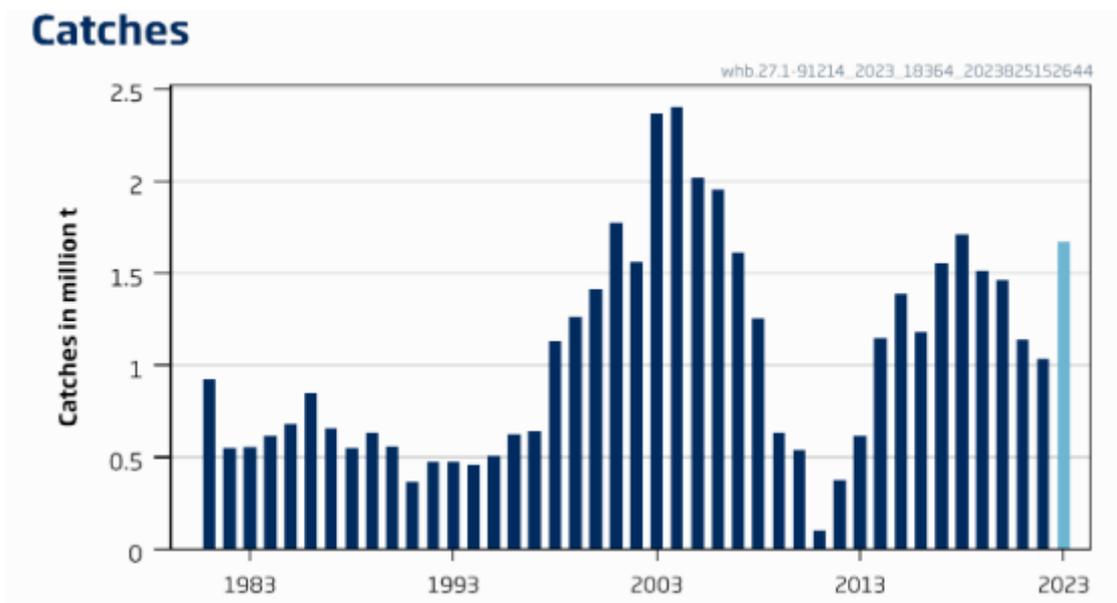


Figure 1. Blue whiting catches in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14. Summary of the stock assessment. The catch estimate for 2023 is preliminary (ICES, 2023).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 is met.

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 ICES (2023): “Fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and Fpa but below Flim; spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim.” (Figure 2).

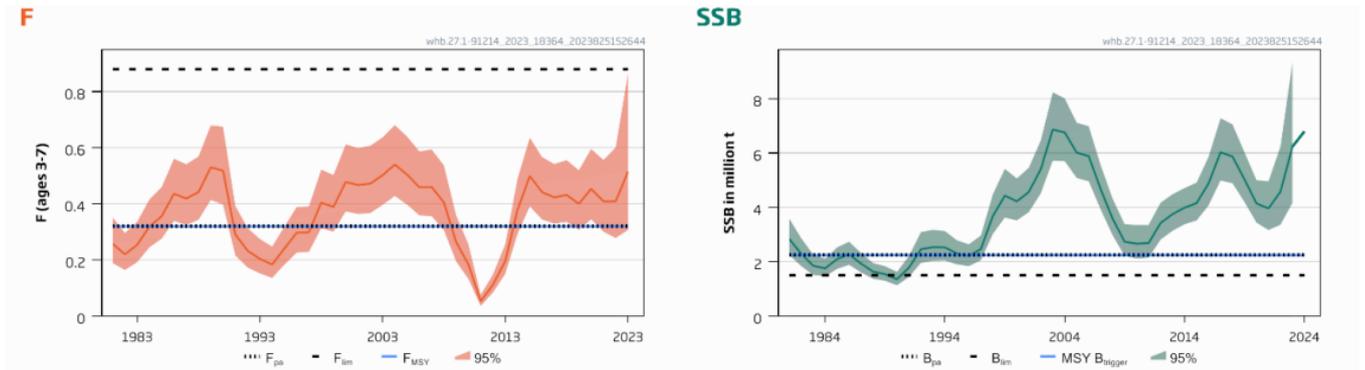


Figure 2. Summary of stock assessment of blue whiting in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14.

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). **C.1.2** is met.

References

ICES. 2023. Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, whb.27.1-91214, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856554> (Published 29 September 2023).

Links

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