

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



Merluccius merluccius
Image © Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

FISHERY By-Product:	Hake (Merluccius merluccius)
LOCATION:	Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (UK & Ireland)
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Re-certification
Assessment Details		
1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product re-certification	
2. Fishery By-Product	Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (UK & Ireland)	
4. Fishery Method	Trawl, gillnet, longline, and mixed gears	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve byproduct	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although there is only limited evidence of any technical measures applied specifically to the hake stock in the management area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends maintaining the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.</p>

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.

LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment. ICES has revised the reference points since the 2014 re-assessment, but the stock is several times larger than B_{PA} which leads the assessment team to consider the management approach to remain effective.

H

Fishery management framework:

The UK & Ireland are members of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.

The CFP has undergone a series of updates, including the most recent reform which was implemented from 1st January 2014. The principal aim of the new CFP is to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. The 2014 reform also details the gradual roll-out of a landing obligation (prohibiting discards), which began in selected fisheries in 2015 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increases the role and importance of management at the regional level, and encourages more intensive stakeholder engagement.

The primary authorities with responsibility for implementing the CFP are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland, the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in England and Wales, and Marine Scotland, a Directorate of the Scottish Government, in Scotland.

Species-specific management: Annual quotas are set for hake in five regions within EU waters. The regions and their associated TACs in tonnes for 2016 and 2017 are as follows:

Area	2016	2017
IIIa	2,997	3,371
IIa, IV	3,492	3,928
VI, VII,Vb	61,902	67,658
VIIIa,b,d,e	40,393	44,808
VIIIc, IX, X	10,674	7,357

R1 – R8

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.

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HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.
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Determination: Research is carried out specifically to support the management of the species under assessment. H

The northern hake stock is assessed by ICES using a length-based model, based on a range of input data including commercial landings, four fishery-independent survey indices, and maturity and natural mortality estimates derived from historical studies of the population. ICES states that the assessment suffers from some shortage of tuning data, particularly in relation to earlier years, for areas outside of Subareas VII and VIII and for the larger individuals in the population. Discards have increased sharply in the last year in northern areas (Subareas IV and VI), but they are not included in the assessment. Some discards from Subareas VII and VIII are included in the assessment. Model growth estimates are uncertain, but they are in accordance with the tagging information.

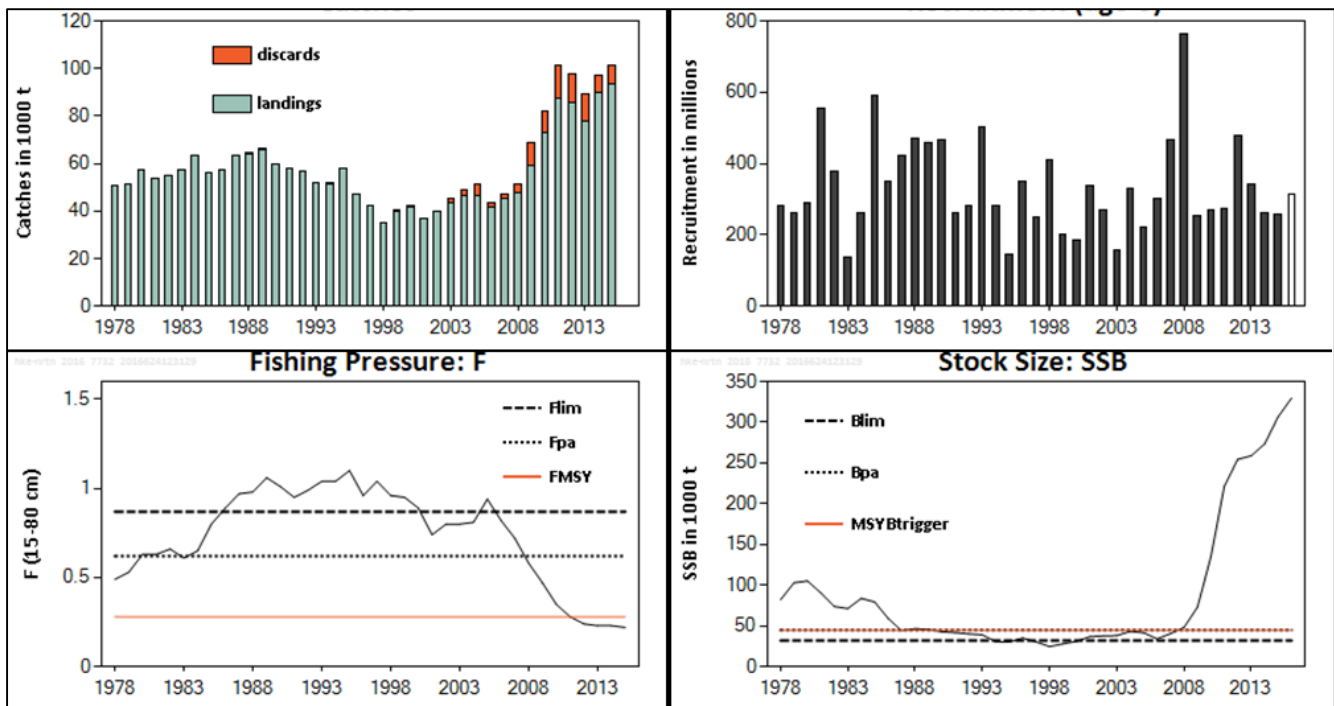


Figure. Hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d. Summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). From the ICES advice, June 2016.

R7

C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.

LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

Determination: Hake has been assessed by the IUCN red list as a species of Least Concern and several hake fisheries have been certified against the MSC standard. H

The IUCN has assessed *Merluccius merluccius* as a species of Least Concern. Also it is listed on the MSC website as a 'fish to eat' and there are several MSC-certified fisheries worldwide.

R9 - R10

5. REFERENCES

- R1** – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R2** – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R3** – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R4** – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R5** – Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R6** – Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7** – ICES advice, Hake in the Northeast Atlantic, 2016:
 - Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in Subareas IV, VI, and VII and Divisions IIIa, VIIIa,b,d (Northern stock) (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, Northern Bay of Biscay)
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/hke-nrtn.pdf>
- R8** – EU fishing quotas 2016, 2017:
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=27996&subweb=343&lang=en
- R9** – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R10** – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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