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**IFFO RS**  
Global Standard for Responsible Supply  
of Marine Ingredients

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



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<b>Fishery Under Assessment</b>	<b>Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) ICES Areas IVa-c, VIIa,b,d-h,j2</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>February 2018</b>
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Jim Daly</b>

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
<b>Name:</b> Pelagia				
<b>Address:</b> Killybegs				
<b>Country:</b>		<b>Zip:</b>		
<b>Tel. No.:</b>		<b>Fax. No.:</b>		
<b>Email address:</b>		<b>Applicant Code</b>		
<b>Key Contact:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
Certification Body Details				
<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		SAI Global		
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval</b>	<b>Whole fish/ By-product</b>
Jim Daly	Conor Donnelly	1	Surveillance	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2017			

<b>Scope Details</b>	
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
<b>Main Species</b>	Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )
<b>Fishery Location</b>	Ices Areas IVa-c, Via, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	Trawl, gillnet, longline, and mixed gears
<b>Outcome of Assessment</b>	
<b>Overall Outcome</b>	Pass
<b>Clauses Failed</b>	None
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	Agree with recommendation
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve

<b>Assessment Determination</b>
<p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment (Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay) to have a biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Some fleets fishing this stock have been under the EU landing obligation since 2016. Other regulations include minimum mesh size and restrictions on permitted percentage of bycatch when vessels target other species.</p> <p>IUCN has categorised hake as a species of least concern. The species does not appear in the CITES appendices of endangered species (both sites accessed 02.03.18).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends maintaining the approval of hake as by-product material under the IFFO RS Standard.</p>
<b>Peer Review Comments</b>
<b>Notes for On-site Auditor</b>

## Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C	Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )		Pass	
Category D				

## 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
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Northern		EU/Common Fisheries Policy	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		
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</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. 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
		<b>Clause outcome:</b> PASS
<b>Evidence</b>		
<p>Member States of the European Union implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in their waters. 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.</p> <p>With regard to resource management, the CFP regulations comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A traditional management tool based on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas;</li> <li>• Technical measures relating to gear or catch;</li> <li>• Effort-related management, based on vessel engine power and the number of days at sea.</li> </ul> <p>The CFP also provides for the introduction of measures to rebuild, over a period of several years, stocks that are threatened in terms of sustainable harvesting, and for recourse to effort-related management rules to supplement TACs and quotas.</p> <p>The CFP is periodically reviewed and reformed. The most recent CFP reform process was completed in 2013 and came into effect from the 1st January 2014. Key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of an objective to ‘ensure high long-term fishing yields for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020’ (i.e. movement towards an MSY-based approach).</li> <li>• The gradual (2015-2019) introduction on a fishery-by-fishery basis of a ‘landing obligation’, which effectively bans discarding.</li> <li>• An overhaul of the management structure, including increased regionalisation and more extensive stakeholder consultation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Species-specific management:</b></p> <p>Landings of hake have increased in recent years and information on discards has now become available. Many countries exploit this resource in mixed fisheries. Within the Irish Sea targeted fishing for hake occurs within the North Channel (the channel connecting the Irish Sea to the sea area west of Scotland).</p>		

Annual quotas are set for hake in five regions within EU waters. The regions and their associated TACs in tonnes for 2018 (2017 in brackets) are as follows:

- Zone 3 a (3,371t) **3,136t** (Analytical TAC).
- Union waters of 2a and 4 (3,928t) **3,653t** (Analytical TAC).
- 6 and 7; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14 (67,658t) **62,536t** (Analytical TAC).
- 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (44,808t) **42,460t** (Analytical TAC).
- 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (7,357) **9,280t**. (Analytical TAC).

#### **ICES Advice:**

##### **Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay):**

The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased significantly since 2006 and is well above historical estimates. Fishing mortality (F) has decreased significantly after 2005, and has been below FMSY since 2012. The recruitment (R) estimate for 2016 is above average. There is a lack of tuning data for the earlier years of the assessment, for some areas outside of subareas 7 and 8, and for the larger individuals in the population. Given the expansion of the stock into northern areas there is a potential that not all catches are reported for this stock. Some fleets fishing this stock have been under the EU landing obligation since 2016.

The Greater North Sea ecoregion includes the North Sea, English Channel, Skagerrak, and Kattegat. Under the EU CFP, a new multi-annual plan (MAP) approach is currently being developed for the North Sea. This seeks to apply a mixed-fisheries approach that accounts for technical interactions and recognises that simultaneous achievement of stock-specific MSYs across all stocks harvested in mixed fisheries is likely not possible.

ICES have presented a status summary of Greater North Sea stocks in 2017 relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and the ICES precautionary approach (PA)\*. For the Northern stock of hake 2017 biomass and fishing mortality data indicate a stock that is fished below FMSY with a stock size above MSY Btrigger.

#### **R1-R6**

#### **References**

R1 EU Fishing Quotas (2018):

- Council Regulation (EU) No. 2018/120 fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R0120&from=en>

R2 ICES Advice: Northern hake:

- Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay):

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/hke.27.3a46-8abd.pdf>

R3 \*ICES Fisheries Overviews: Greater North Sea Fisheries Ecoregion (2017):

- [http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/GreaterNorthSeaEcoregionFisheriesOverviews\\_December.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/GreaterNorthSeaEcoregionFisheriesOverviews_December.pdf) Published 20 December 2017 DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3721

R4 CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en>

R5 IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

R6 EU Technical Measures (Consolidated):

- Annex I Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms:  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01998R0850>

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*

## **SOCIAL CRITERION**

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.