



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) in FAO 41, southwest Atlantic

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Argentine hake, <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 41 (Southwest Atlantic)
	Country of origin of the product:	Argentina (Flag countries: Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina)
	Stock:	Northern stock: North of 41°S
Date	11 October 2022	
Report Code	ARG01	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Argentina (Flag countries: Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Agustiner S.A ; Mundo Branco ; Coomarpes Ltds, Calle 1003 E/1004 & 1005 Puerto Mar Del Plata, Argentina			
Country: Argentina			
Email address: sdalmasso@agustiner.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	1 day	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To October 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Argentine hake, <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>
Stock	Northern stock: North of 41°S
Fishery Location	FAO Area 41 (Southwest Atlantic)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA), and Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (Argentina).
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, Argentine hake is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CRMFM), a binational entity from Argentina and Uruguay, is responsible for establishing catch levels for Argentine hake within the Common Fishing Zone (ZCP) and distribute this determined value among both countries. The Northern stock (north of 41°S) is distributed outside the ZCP and inside Argentina and Uruguay's EEZ. CTMFM is also responsible for determining the limit and target reproductive biomass reference points for the stock. Thus, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined, therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Argentine hake in FAO Area 41 (Southwest Atlantic) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor's determination, who correctly classified Argentine hake Northern stock under Category C, as reference points are defined to assess status of the stock relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. The Argentine hake Northern stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, so it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the Northern stock of Argentine hake should be approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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
Argentine hake	<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>	Northern stock: North of 41°S	Consejo Federal Pesquero (CFP), Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Uruguayan Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA), and Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (Argentina).	C	NE	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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		Argentine hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</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.

The stock is assessed using two models: a statistical model structured by age (ECE) and the extended survivor analysis (XSA). Both models incorporate commercial landings into the model and forecast (Irusta et al. 2021). Long-term catch data are presented in Figure 1.

CTMFM advises that the catch for this stock does not exceed 106,522 tonnes in 2022 to allow for reproductive biomass recovery to the limit reference point within three years (Irusta et al. 2021).

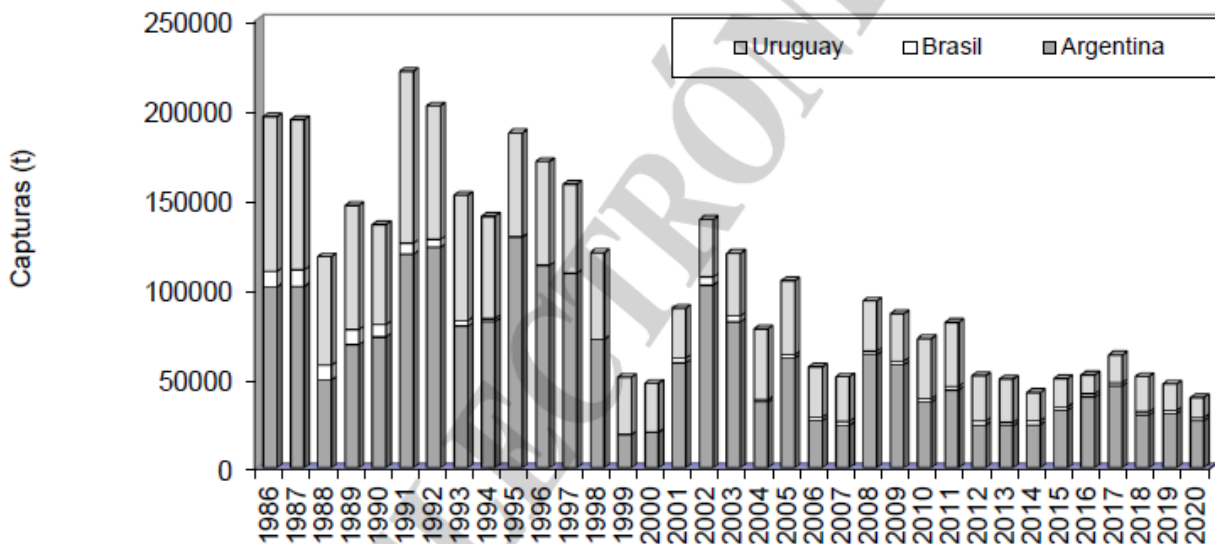


Figure 1. Commercial catches from 1986 to 2020 for each flag state for the hake stock north of 41°S. Source: Irusta et al. 2021

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. The fishery PASSES clause C1.1.

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.

CTMFM established a reproductive biomass-specific limit reference point (LRP) of 150,000 tonnes and target reference point of 230,000 tonnes. The most recent stock assessment indicates that reproductive biomass (BR) is below the target reference point but above the LRP (Irusta et al. 2021; Figure 2). It is advised that Acceptable Biological Catch (CBA) is set at 106,522 tonnes to allow BR to recovery to the target reference point within three years or set at 107,422 tonnes to recover within seven years.

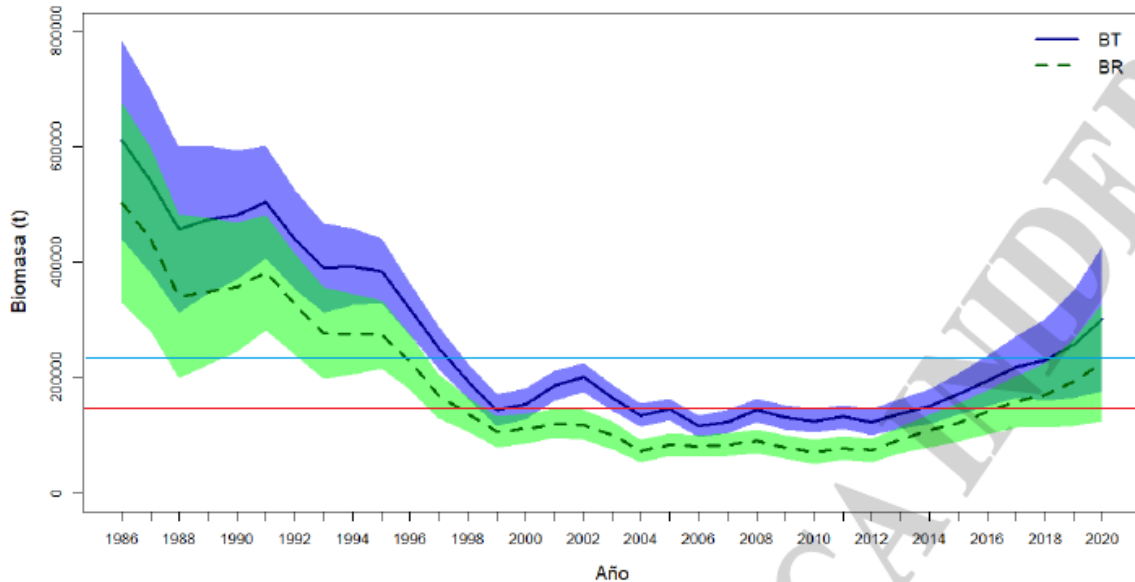


Figure 2. Long term trends for total biomass (BT) and reproductive biomass (BR) from 1986 to 2020. The horizontal lines represent the LRP (red; 150,000 tonnes) and target reference point (blue; 230,000 tonnes) for the reproductive biomass indicators.

Source: Irusta et al. 2021

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference points (or proxy). Thus, the fishery PASSES clause C1.2.

References

Irusta GG, Di Marco E, Wöhler OC. 2021. Evaluación de la abundancia del efectivo norte de 41° S de la merluza (*Merluccius hubbsi*). Estimación de la captura biológicamente aceptable para el año 2022. INIDEP Informe Tecnico Oficial 039/2021. Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca:
Available by request: <https://www.inidep.edu.ar/solicitud-de-informes-catalogo.html>.

Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2022. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org, (06/2022).
<https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Merluccius-hubbsi.html>.

Links

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