



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Brazilian flathead (*Percophis brasiliensis*) in FAO 41, N of 41°S

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>)["pez palo", in Spanish]
	Geographical area:	FAO 41, North of 41°S
	Country of origin of the product:	Argentina
	Stock:	Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) in the area of the Río de la Plata, Argentine-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone and adjacent jurisdictional waters north of 39° S
Date	19 October 2023	
Report Code	ARG02	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Argentina	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Coomarpes Ltda			
Country: Argentina			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification/ NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Re-approval
Assessment Period	October 2023 – October 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) [“pez palo”, in Spanish]
Stock	Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) in the area of the Río de la Plata, Argentine-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone and adjacent jurisdictional waters north of 39° S
Fishery Location	FAO 41, north of 41°S
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing (Argentina)
Gear Type(s)	Longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with 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 MarinTrust raw material. Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) [“pez palo”, in Spanish] is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Brazilian flathead fishery takes place in areas under provincial and national jurisdiction of Argentina and the resource is shared with Uruguay. Technical Commission of the Maritime Front - CTMFM (“Comisión técnica mixta del frente marítimo”, in Spanish), a binational entity from Argentina and Uruguay, is responsible for managing this resource at the international level, while the methodology for evaluating the Brazilian flathead resource is agreed upon by the technical groups of each country. Thus, the stock is subject to a management regime and reference points are defined, therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The latest stock assessment available for this stock was published in November 2022 and fishery removals were considered, thus the stock PASSES C1.1. The species is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point, thus it PASSES C.1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) in FAO 41, north of 41°S 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 Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) in FAO 41, north of 41°S as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime (Technical Commission of the Maritime Front – CTMFM) and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. The Brazilian flathead northern stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point in multiple biomass models. Thus, there is high confidence that the reproductive biomass (BR) is above LRP, so it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) in FAO 41, north of 41°S passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3.</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
Brazilian flathead ["pez palo", in Spanish]	<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>	Argentina EEZ North of 41°S	Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing (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		Brazilian flathead (<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>) ["pez palo", in Spanish]	
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 latest stock assessment was performed using integrated models, structured by age, developed on the Stock Synthesis platform, calibrated with standardized relative abundance indices, derived from information from fishing statistics, satellite monitoring of the commercial fleet and Argentine research campaigns and covered 1934-2021 period.

Technical Commission of the Maritime Front - CTMFM ("*Comisión técnica mixta del frente marítimo*", in Spanish), established a total allowable catch (TAC) of 7,500 tons for the stock from 01st October 2023 to 30th September 2024 in the Common Fishing Area (Gob, 2023).

Landings of Brazilian flathead from 2012-2021 in north of 39° S are represented in Figure 1.

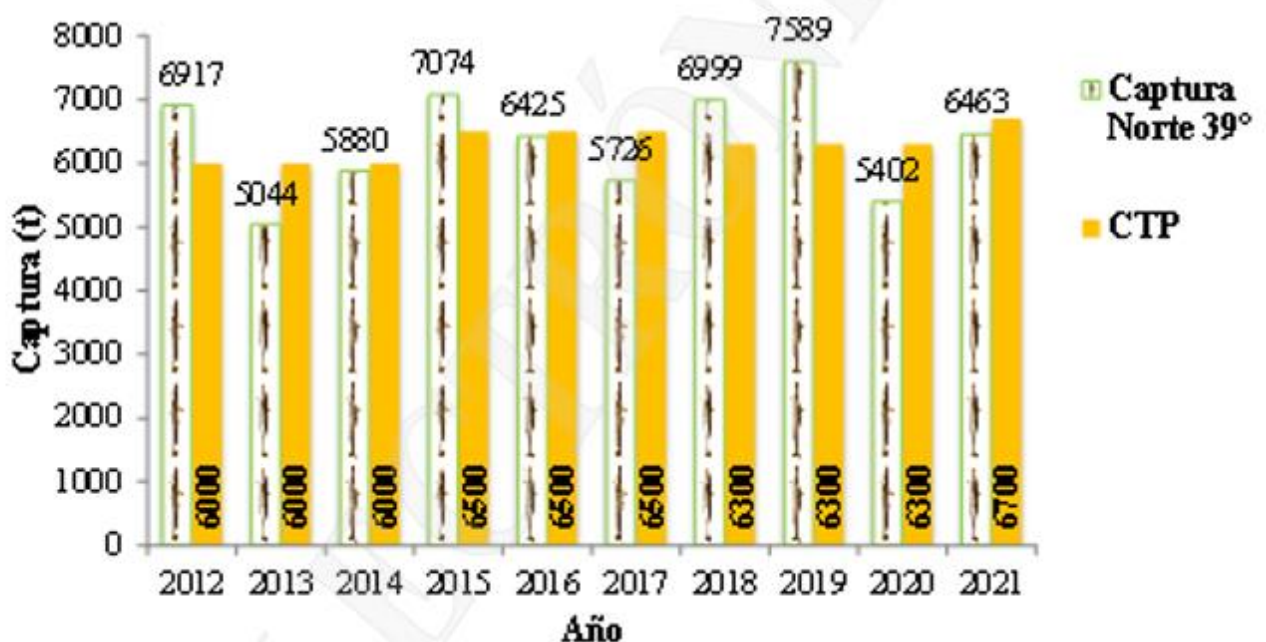


Figure 1. Landings of Brazilian flathead north in 39°S and Total Allowable Catches (CTP) established by Technical Commission of the Maritime Front - CTMFM resolutions in the Treaty area (Rico and Rodríguez, 2022).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C1.1 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.

The latest stock assessment available for this stock was published in November 2022 and concluded: “The diagnosis of the current status of Brazilian flathead, obtained from the construction of the Kobe Diagrams, which considered the Target Biological Reference Point (PBRO, 40% BRV) and the Limit Biological Reference Point (PBRL, 20% BRV), indicated that the Brazilian flathead population in 2021 is not overexploited. However, it was estimated that it is being subjected to overfishing, without exceeding the instantaneous mortality rate due to fishing limit, a state in which it has been since 2018. Among other possible factors that could have intervened in this change of status, it is worth highlighting the importance of having annual capture recommendations since 2012 and management measures for the VC, of which this species is a part, which allowed the gradual recovery of the state of the resource that was overexploited and overfished in 2015.” (Rico and Rodríguez, 2022) [Figure 2]. As all three models conclude that the current reproductive biomass (BR) is above PBRO, it can be concluded that the stock is above the PBRL.

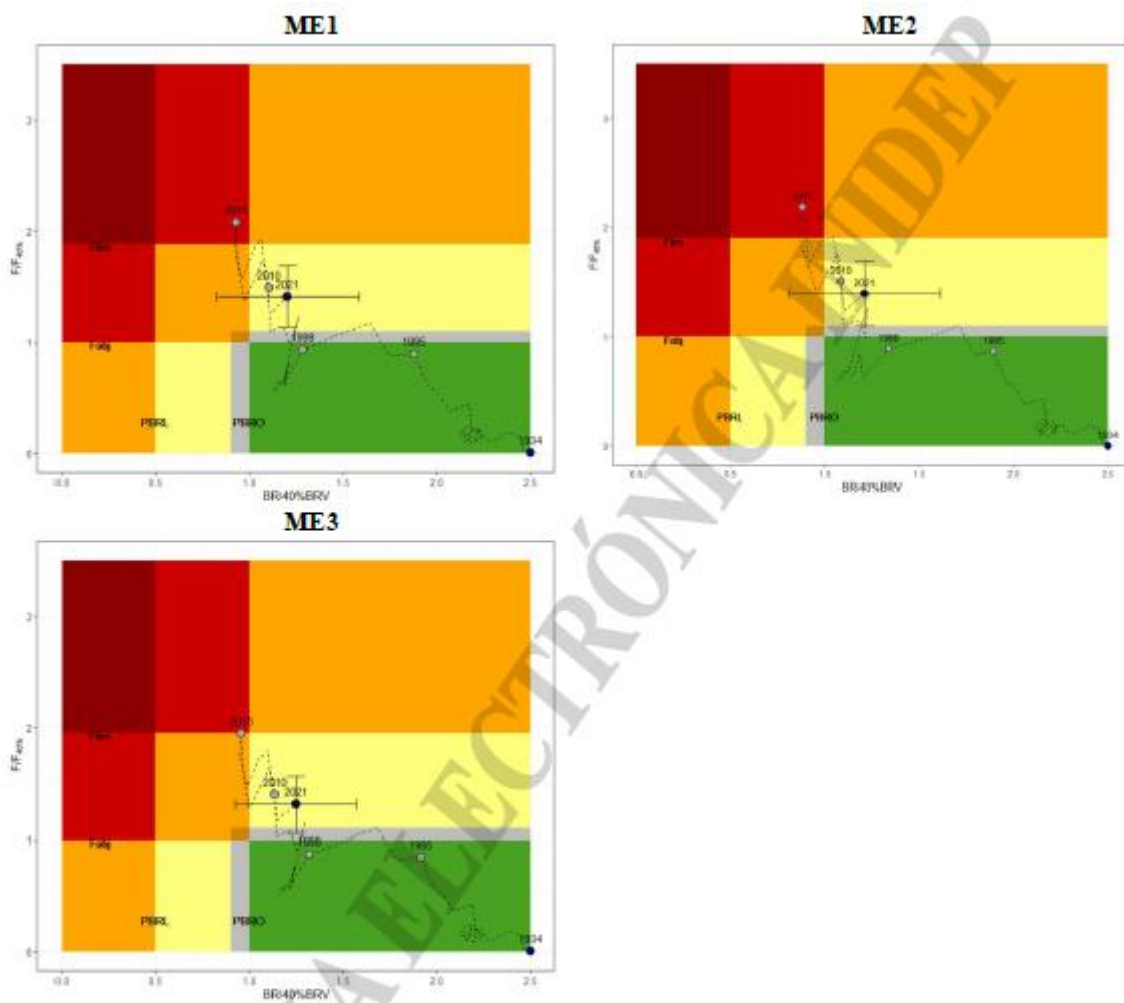


Figura 17. Diagrama de Kobe de los modelos ME1, ME2 y ME3. Los puntos azules corresponden al estado poblacional en el año inicial y final del período, y las líneas punteadas a la trayectoria del estado poblacional en todo el período. En el último año de diagnóstico se incorpora el intervalo de confianza del 95% asociado.

Figure 2. Kobe diagram of the ME1, ME2 and ME3 models. The blue points correspond to the population status in 2021, and the dotted lines, to the trajectory of the population status throughout the history. In 2021, the associated 95% confidence interval is incorporated (Rico and Rodríguez, 2022).

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

References

Gob. 2023. Comisión técnica mixta del frente marítimo. Resolución 13/2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-13-2023-390919/texto>

Rico MR, Rodriguez JS. 2022. Análisis de la pesquería y evaluación de stock de pez palo en el área del Río de la Plata, Zona Común de Pesca Argentino-Uruguay y aguas jurisdiccionales adyacentes al norte de los 39° S. Período: 1934-2021. Inf Tec Oficial INIDEP N° 055/22, 46 pp. <https://marabiertonew.inidep.edu.ar/server/api/core/bitstreams/8d7eef43-45b9-4ac6-82be-f1496ef803cb/content>

Links

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