



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Faroe Islands
	Stock:	ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Date	June 2021	
Report Code	BP123	
Assessor	Jose Peiro Crespo	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Pass	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Havsbrún			
Address:			
Country:		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address: havsbrun@havsbrun.fo		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Lloyd's Register	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Jose Peiro Crespo	Kate Morris	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	June – July 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>)
Stock	ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
Fishery Location	FAO 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Faroe Islands
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl, bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Approved
Recommendation	

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, the species is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The species is assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) as a unique stock (ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) (the Faroe Islands are situated in ICES area 5b). The last assessment for the assessment was published on 30 September 2020. A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway in 2016. The stock has been therefore assessed under category C.</p> <p>All removals are included in the stock assessment. The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) of blue whiting has been decreasing since 2018; however, it is estimated to remain above MSY Btrigger and above Bpa and Blim in 2020. The stock is at full reproductive capacity (ICES sense). Sub-clauses C1.1. and C.1.2 are met.</p> <p>Therefore, blue whiting from ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters) passes this assessment.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
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 an 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>	ICES subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway in 2016.	C	Least concern	Not listed

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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.

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		
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
<p>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.</p> <p>In the Faroe Islands all vessels larger than 15GT must maintain a daily log of their activities in an authorised catch logbook, recording data for each set or haul. Vessels smaller than 15GT must submit a sales note to the Faroese Fisheries Inspection, which is responsible for monitoring and inspecting catches and landings, following each landed catch to document their activities (Faroese seafood 2021).</p> <p>The Faroes participate as a coastal state in multilateral negotiations on the management of shared fish stocks in the Northeast Atlantic such as Atlanto-Scandic herring, mackerel, blue whiting and redfish. The Faroese marine research uses catch and effort data from logbooks to assess demersal and shared straddling stocks, under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea – ICES (Faroese seafood 2021).</p> <p>According to ICES 2020, catch data (including data from the Faroe Islands) is used as input data for the assessment of the stock of mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, sub-clause C1.1 is met.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway in 2016 (Anon 2016). ICES has evaluated the strategy and found it to be precautionary (ICES 2016).</p> <p>Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been decreasing since 2018; however, it is estimated to remain above MSY Btrigger and above Bpa and Blim. Recruitment (R) from 2017 to 2020 is estimated to be low, following a three-year period of high recruitment (ICES 2020).</p>		

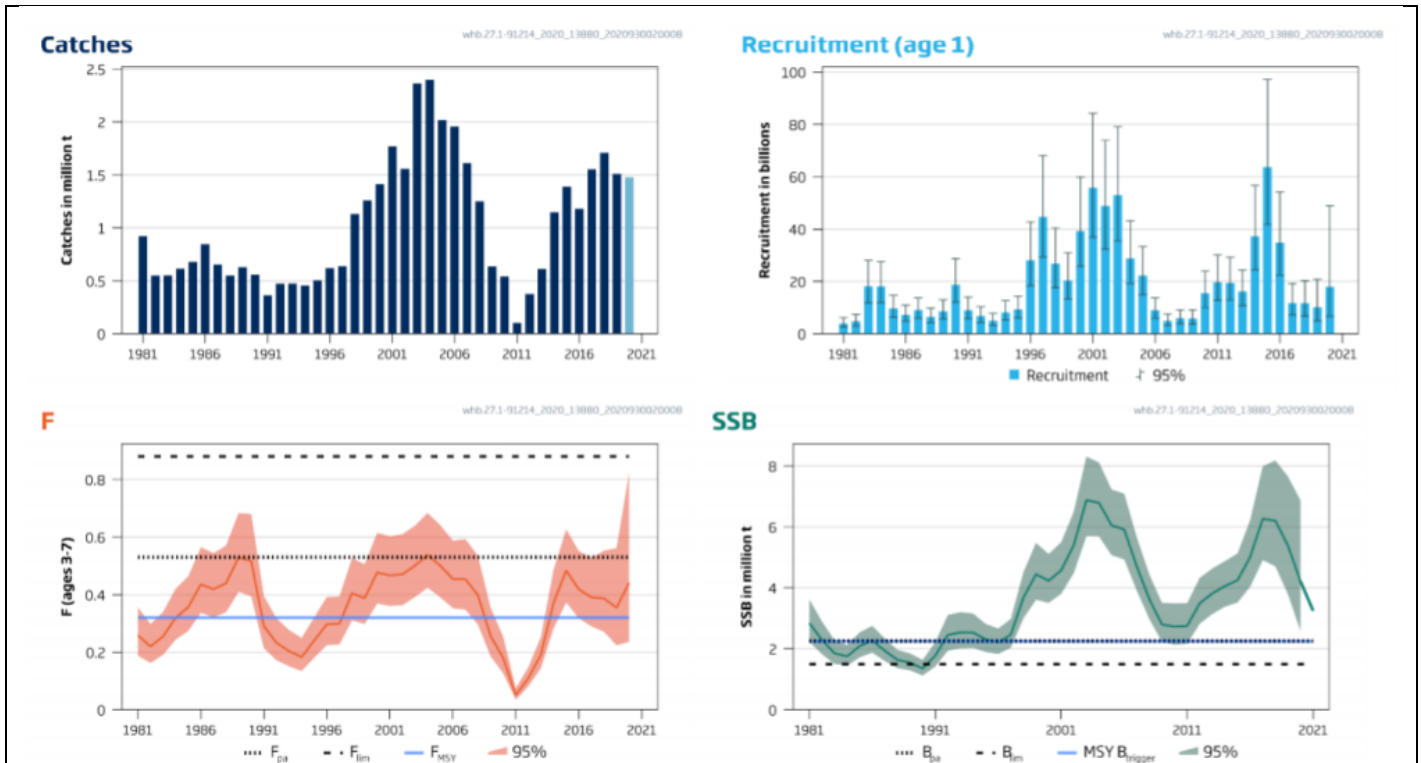


FIGURE 1 BLUE WHITING IN SUBAREAS 1–9, 12, AND 14. SUMMARY OF THE STOCK ASSESSMENT (ICES 2020).

Fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be above FMSY since 2014, but below Fpa and Flim. ICES advise that if the agreed long-term management strategy is applied by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway, catches in 2021 should be no more than 929,292 tonnes.

	Fishing pressure			Stock size						
	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2021				
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	✗	✗	✗	Above	MSY	✓	✓	✓	Above trigger
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	✓	✓	✓	Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	F_{MGT}	✗	✗	✗	Above	B_{MGT}	✓	✓	✓	Above

FIGURE 2 BLUE WHITING IN SUBAREAS 1–9, 12, AND 14. STATE OF THE STOCK AND THE FISHERY RELATIVE TO REFERENCE POINTS (ICES 2020).

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

References

Anon. 2016. Agreed record of conclusions of fisheries consultations between the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway on the management of blue whiting in the north-east Atlantic in 2017. 6 pp. <https://d3b1dqw2kzxi.cloudfront.net/media/8742/agreed-record-blue-whiting-2017.pdf>.

ICES 2016. Report of the Workshop on Blue Whiting Long Term Management Strategy Evaluation (WKBWMS), 30 August 2016, ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:53. 104 pp.

ICES 2020. Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, whb.27.1-91214. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5881>.

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3

GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01
------	---------------

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name		
	Productivity Attribute		Value
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
	Average Productivity Score		
	Susceptibility Attribute		Value
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery		
	Distribution		
	Habitat		
	Depth range		
	Selectivity		
	Post-capture mortality		
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
References			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4 Species Name			
Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
Outcome:			
Evidence			
D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
References			
Links			
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4		
FAO CCRF	7.5.1		
GSSI	D.5.01		