



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Atlantic, Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	North Sea, eastern English Channel (ICES Subarea 4, Division 7) whiting stock
Date	26/05/2021	
Report Code	BP88	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK and Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: UK and Ireland		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Geraldine Criquet	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To May 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
Stock	North Sea, eastern English Channel (ICES Subarea 4, Division 7) whiting stock
Fishery Location	FAO 27 Atlantic, Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union through Common Fisheries Policy and UK and Ireland Fisheries Agencies
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls and seine mesh size ≥ 120 mm and Demersal trawls mesh size 70–99 mm
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's 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 MarinTrust raw material. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, whiting is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2018). This plan is not adopted by Norway; thus, it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by the EC to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the MAP as a catch option. EU–Norway have requested an evaluation of multiple management strategies that are currently under consideration (ICES, 2019a). Therefore, there is a species-specific management plan and the species has been assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1.</p> <p>For whiting in the assessment area, the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim and therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore, whiting is APPROVED by assessors in the assessment area for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified North Sea, eastern English Channel whiting as category C, reference points are defined to assess the stock status relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point so the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the peer reviewer agrees with the assessor's determination that the fishery passes both Clauses C1.1 and C1.2, so North Sea, eastern English Channel whiting is thus approved.</p>

Notes for On-site Auditor

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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 Redlist 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
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	ICES Subarea 4, Division 7.d, (North Sea, eastern English Channel)	EU/CFP and UK and Ireland	C	LC	No

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 may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

Species Name		Whiting, <i>Merlangius merlangus</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
<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>The data used for this stock assessment are: commercial catches (international catches, ages from catch sampling by métier, since 1978), two survey indices (IBTS Q1 & Q3; ages 0 to 5; since 1983); time-varying maturity estimated from NS IBTS Q1cdata; time varying natural mortalities from the SMS multispecies model (ICES, 2019b). Discards, BMS landings and bycatch are included.</p> <p>The proportion of landings with associated discards was 73% where 55% of the discards were sampled. No biological samples were available for age allocations from the industrial bycatch; therefore, samples of total catches were used, and mean weight-at-age is assumed equal to catch weights-at-age. Below minimum size (BMS) landings, where reported to ICES, are included with discards as unwanted catch in the assessment since 2015. (Figure 1 Upper-right)</p> <p>Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the fishery PASSES clause C1.1</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>The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has decreased since 2010 and is estimated to have been below MSY Btrigger since early 2000s. Fishing mortality (F) has generally fluctuated above FMSY throughout the time-series and was below FMSY in 2019. Recruitment has been relatively low since 2010, with the exception of 2013. (Figure 1).</p>			

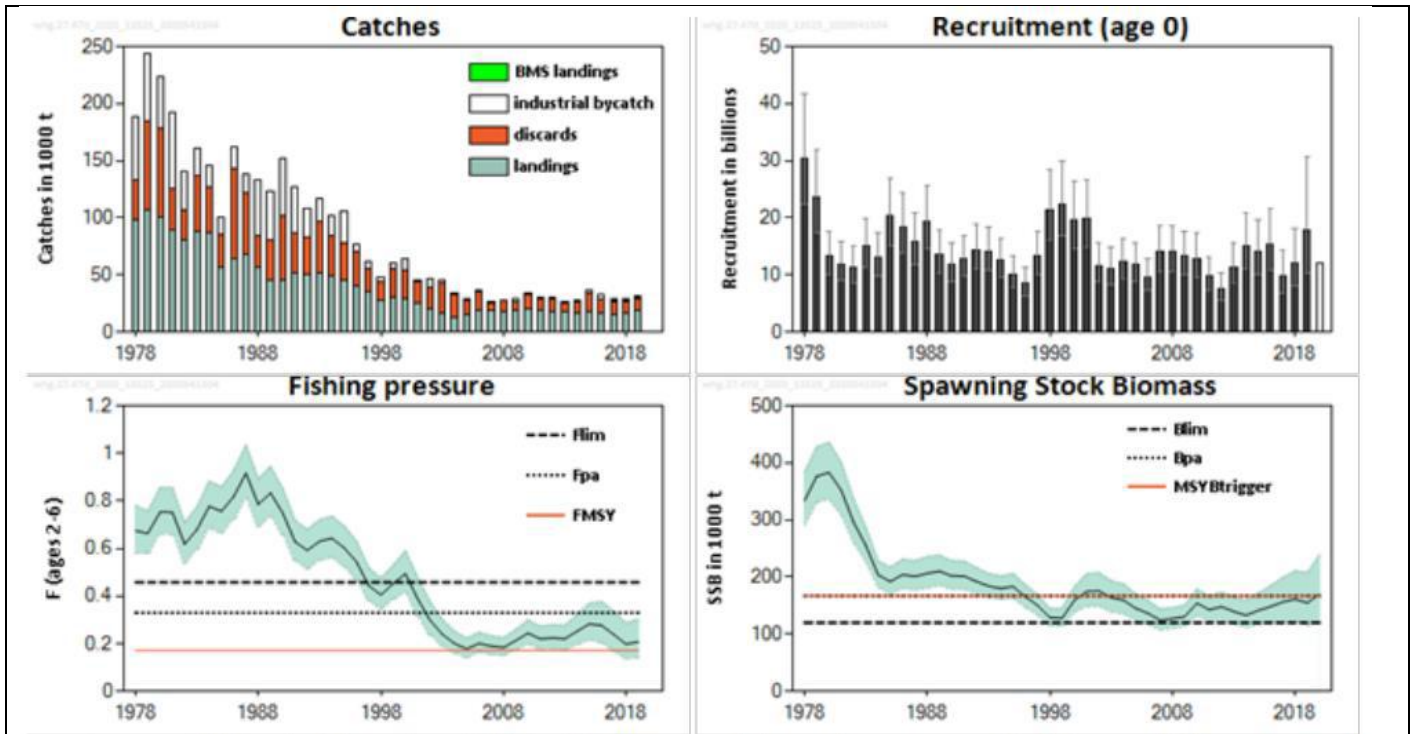


Figure 1. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas (Fishing pressure [F], Spawning-stock biomass [B]) and error bars (Recruitment) indicate 95% confidence intervals. Assumed recruitment is unshaded. Landings below minimum conservation reference size (BMS) as officially reported. Source: ICES Version 2 January 2021

Spawning-stock size is below MSY Btrigger and Bpa, but above Blim. The second version of the stock assessment posted on January 2021 has shown the same stock status and ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock (Table 1).

Table 1. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points. Source: ICES Version 2 January 2021.

	Fishing pressure			Stock size				
		2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2020	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	✘	✘	✘ Above	$B_{trigger}$	✘	✘	✔ Above trigger
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	✔	✔	✔ Harvested sustainably	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	○	○	✔ Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	— Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	— Not applicable

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it **PASSES** clause C1.2.

References

EU.2018. Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L. 179. 13 pp. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj>.

ICES. 2018b. Advice basis. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2018. ICES Advice 2018, Book 1, Section 1.2. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4503>.

ICES. 2019a. EU and Norway request concerning the long-term management strategy of cod, saithe, and whiting, and of North Sea autumn-spawning herring. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sr.2019.06, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4895>.

ICES. 2019. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, whg.27.47d, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4878>

ICES. 2020. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, whg.27.47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5935>. [Version 2 January 2021](#)

Nedreaas, K., Florin, A., Cook, R., Fernandes, P. & Lorance, P. 2014. *Merlangius merlangus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014: e.T198585A45097610. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-3.RLTS.T198585A45097610.en>.

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