



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in FAO 27, ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27, North Sea, Celtic Seas & Northern Bay of Biscay
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag country: Denmark)
	Stock:	FAO 27, ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d
Date	17 January 2023	
Report Code	DNK01	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Denmark (Flag country: Denmark)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): FF Skagen: Skagen; FF Skagen: Hanstholm			
Country: Denmark			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Léa Lebechnech	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	January 2022 to January 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)
Stock	European hake in ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d
Fishery Location	Denmark, North Sea, Celtic Seas & Northern Bay of Biscay
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Commission (EC), Danish Directorate of Fisheries (<i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i>)
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
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.</p> <p>European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor do they appear in CITES appendices; therefore, European hake is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the western waters and adjacent has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2019). This plan is not adopted by Norway and UK; thus, it was not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the MAP as a catch option.</p> <p>As reference points are defined for this stock and there is a management plan in place, it has been assessed under category C. Removals of the species are taken into consideration in the last stock assessment (June 2022) and the biomass is well above B_{lim} reference point, so the stock PASSES clauses C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, European hake in ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish-oil under the current Marin Trust 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 the stock of hake in ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d under Category C, as the stock is subject to a specific management regime in place and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and the stock has its biomass above limit reference point, so it passes Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, hake in FAO Area 27 ICES subareas 4, 6, 7, divisions 3.a, 8.a, b, d (greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and northern Bay of Biscay), is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>N/A</p>

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
European Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	European hake in ICES subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d,	European Commission (EC) Danish Directorate of Fisheries (<i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i>)	C	LC ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198562/84946555>

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		European Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</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.

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 83 130 tonnes. The advice for 2023 is 10.8% higher than the advice for 2022 following the benchmark. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

The assessment type is a length-based and sex-disaggregated model (Stock Synthesis) that uses landings and discards in the assessment and forecast.

The input data considered in the last stock assessment are the following: Commercial landings; four survey indices including the French Southern Atlantic Bottom trawl survey (EVHOE-WIBTS-Q4 [G9527]), the Spanish Porcupine Bottom Trawl Survey (SpPGFS-WIBTS-Q3 [G5768]), the Irish Groundfish Survey (IGFS-WIBTS-Q4 [G7212]), the Irish Anglerfish and Megrim Survey (IE-IAMS [G3098]), and French surveys in the Bay of Biscay (FR-RESSGACQ [G2537]); constant maturity, and sex-and age-dependent natural mortality.

Discard estimates from most fleets are available and included in the assessment.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

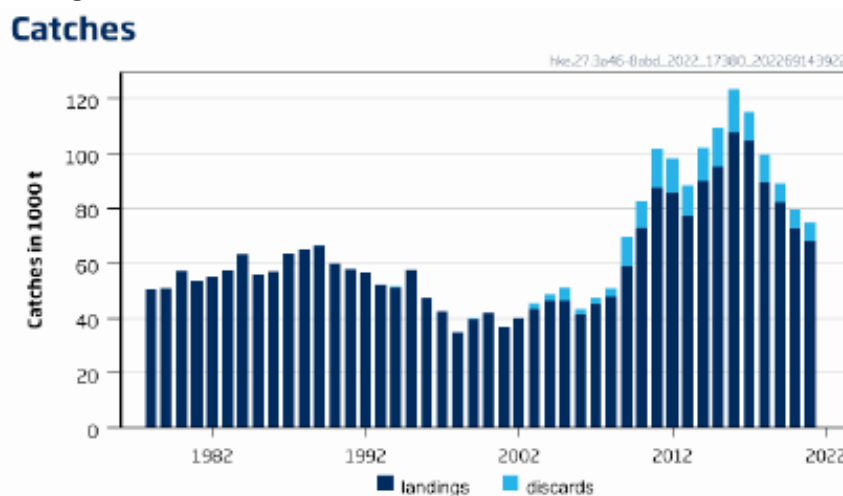


Figure 1. European hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock. Source: ICES 2022.

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock 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.

The stock was benchmarked in 2022 and an update of the Stock Synthesis framework was applied with the addition of commercial and survey data. The estimated SSB and fishing mortality are generally in line with the estimates from last year's assessment.

Analyses show that the new assessment tends to revise historical SSB downwards and F upwards when a new year of data is added. If this pattern continues, this may result in an inflated advised catch.

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} ; spawning-stock size is well above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} .

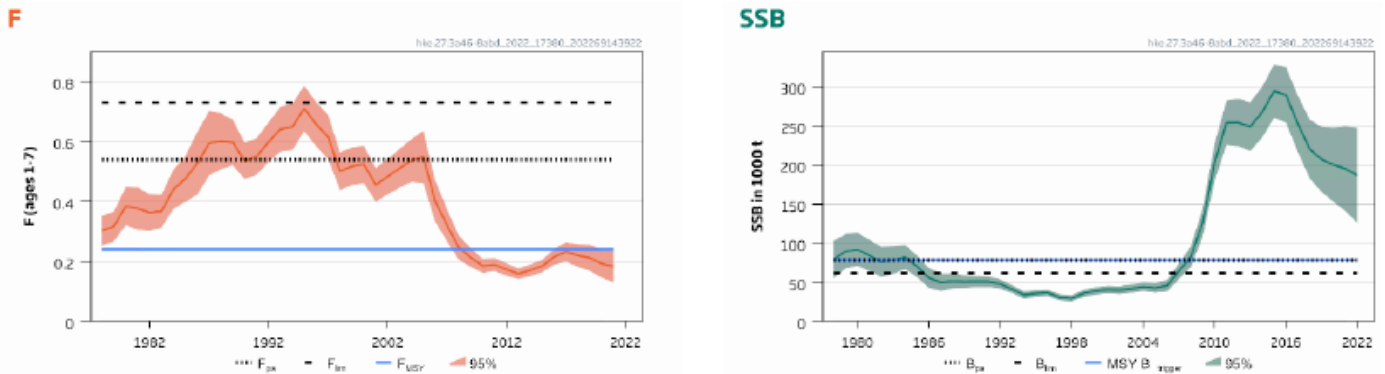


Figure 2. European hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock. Summary of the stock assessment. Source: ICES 2022.

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

References

ICES. 2022. Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in 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). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, hke.27.3a46-8abd. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19448012>.

Links

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