



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in FAO 27, ICES subarea 4, division 7.d, Denmark

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:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Denmark (Flag country: Denmark)
	Stock:	Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)
Date	1 February 2023	
Report Code	DNK07	
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			
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	To February 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
Stock	Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and in Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy-CFP), Danish Directorate of Fisheries (<i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i>)
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls and seines mesh size ≥ 120 mm (North Sea), demersal trawls mesh size 70-99 mm (North Sea and eastern English Channel), and others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with 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>Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor do they appear in CITES appendices; therefore, whiting is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2018). There is no agreement with Norway and UK regarding this plan, and it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by EC and UK to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include F_{MSY} ranges in the catch scenarios.</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, whiting in ICES subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel), 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 assessor correctly classified whiting in ICES subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel) as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa}, and B_{lim}. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Whiting in ICES subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and Eastern English Channel) passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</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
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting in ICES subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)	European Union (CFP), Danish Directorate of Fisheries (<i>Fiskeristyrelsen</i>)	C	LC ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

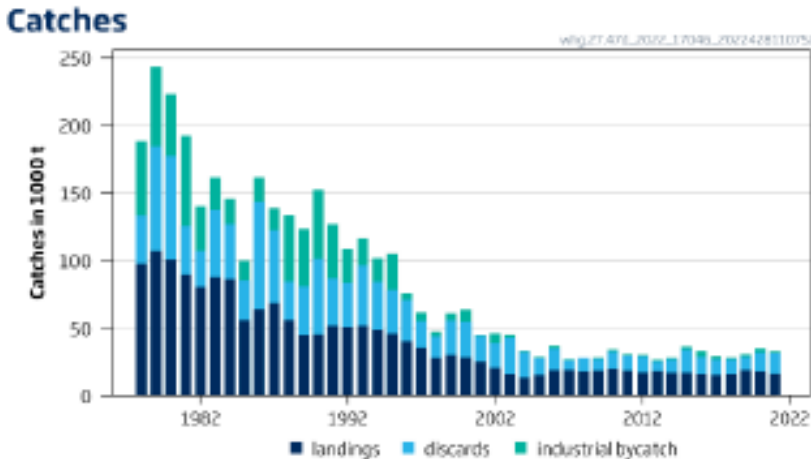
² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198585/45097610>

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		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>ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 110 172 tonnes. ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock. Management should be implemented at the stock level.</p> <p>The assessment type is an age-based analytical assessment (SAM) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. The input data considered in the last stock assessment are the following: Commercial catches (international catches, ages from catch sampling by métier, since 1978), two survey indices (NS-IBTS Q1 [G1022] & Q3 [G2829]; ages 0 to 5; since 1983); time-varying maturity estimated from NS-IBTS Q1 data; time-varying natural mortalities from the North Sea SMS multispecies model. The proportion of landings with associated discards was 46%. Fifty-three percent 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 in the assessment since 2015.</p> <p>Catches are presented in the figure below:</p>  <p>Figure 1. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Source: ICES 2022.</p>			

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.

Whiting in the North Sea is under EU landing obligation and Norway and UK national legislation regulating discards. BMS landings reported to ICES in 2015–2021 were low. Substantial discarding still continues, based on observations from sampling programmes (estimated discards in 2021 are 14 638 tonnes, which is 47% of the human consumption fishery catch). Whiting in Division 7.d is managed under a common TAC with whiting in divisions 7.b–c and e–k. Management should be implemented at the stock level to ensure that fishing opportunities are in line with the scale of the resource for each of the stocks and the corresponding MSY approach.

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

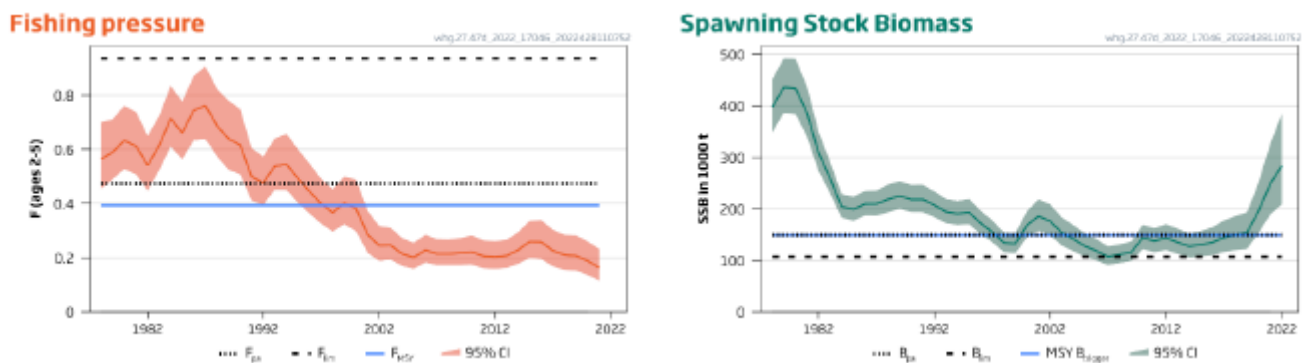


Figure 2. Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment. The assumed recruitment value for 2022 is shaded in a lighter colour. Source: ICES 2022.

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. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, whg.27.47d. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19457411>.

Links

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