MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment
Ling (Molva molva) in FAO Area 27
Northeast Atlantic, ICES Division 5.b
(Faroe Grounds)

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:	Ling (*Molva molva*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	France (Flag country not supplied by client) Fished by: Faroes, Norway, France (ICES 2023 Catch Data)
	Stock:	Ling in ICES Division 5.b (Faroe Grounds)
Date	22 July 2023	
Report Code	FRA11	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France (Flag country not supplied by client) Fished by: Faroes, Norway, France (ICES 2023 Catch Data)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Bioceval SAS - Concarneau; Copalis Industries			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matt Jew & Conor Donnelly	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	Up to July 2023		

Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd (09357209) | Doc FISH1- Issued October 2022 – Version 2.3 | Approved by Libby Woodhatch

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Scope Details	
Main Species	Ling (*Molva molva*)
Stock	Ling in ICES Division 5.b (Faroes Grounds)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Northeast Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy), Ministry of Fisheries (Faroes), Ministry of Food, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture
Gear Type(s)	2023 ICES Estimates: Longline (77%), Bottom Trawl (23%)
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with Assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 Marin Trust raw material. Ling (*Molva molva*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, *Molva molva* is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. Fishery removals of *Molva molva* in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the spawning-stock size is above the limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (B_{lim}). Therefore, ling (*Molva molva*) in ICES Division 5.b (Faroe Grounds) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified ling in ICES Division 5.b as category C, because it is subject to a species-specific management regime and information to define reference points is available. Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process and the spawning-stock size is above the limit reference point for spawning stock biomass. Therefore, I agree with the assessor that ling in ICES Division 5.b should be APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.
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 an MarinTrust raw material.

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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]
Ling	*Molva molva*	Ling in ICES Division 5.b (Faroe Grounds)	European Union (Common Fisheries Policy), Ministry of Fisheries (Faroes), Ministry of Food, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, France Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture	C	LC	No

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[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	Ling (*Molva molva*)	
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.

This stock is assessed under an age-based analytical assessment that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. Catches are presented in Figure 1. Catch data are from commercial landing from primarily Faroese vessels, but also include France, Norway, and UK. Ages and length frequencies are recorded from catch sampling.

According to ICES[a] 2023 (June 2023), Fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY but below F_{pa} and F_{lim}. Whereas:

FMSY = Fishing mortality consistent with achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

F_{pa} = Precautionary reference point for fishing mortality;

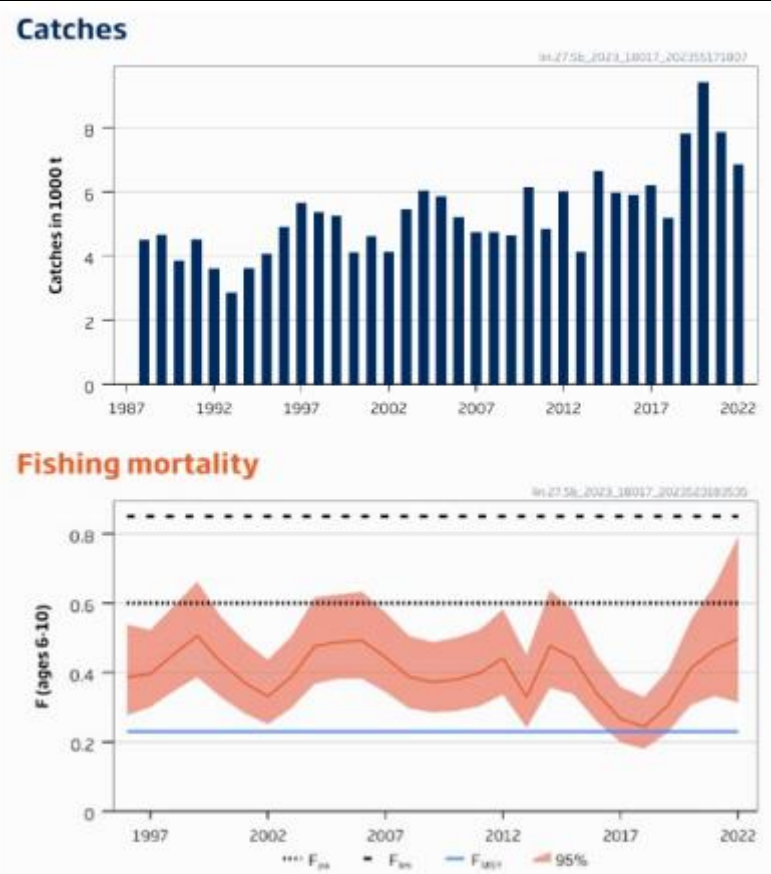F_{lim} = Limit reference point for fishing mortality;

Figure 1. Summary of the stock assessment with plots showing 95% confidence intervals. Catches and fishing mortality (F) for Ling in Division 5.b (ICES. 2023).

Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process, **it 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.

According to ICES[a] 2023 (June 2023), spawning-stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and between B_{pa} and B_{lim}. Whereas:

MSY $B_{trigger}$ = A biomass reference point that triggers a cautious response within the ICES MSY framework;
B_{pa} = Precautionary reference point for spawning stock biomass;
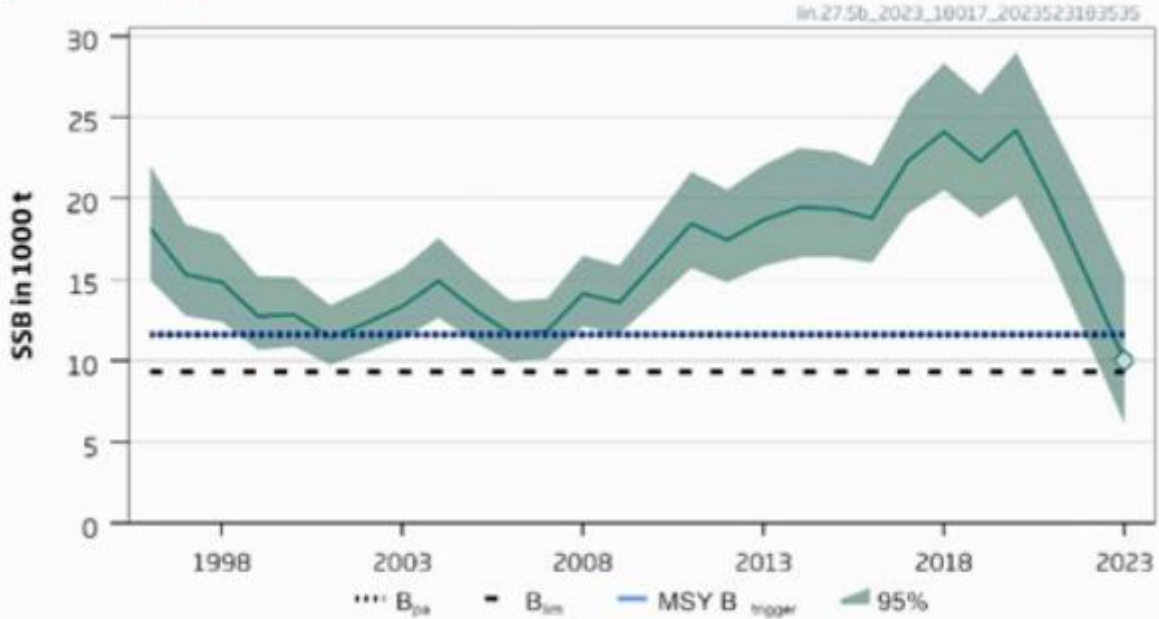B_{lim} = Limit reference point for spawning stock biomass.

Figure 2. Summary of the stock assessment with plots showing 95% confidence intervals. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) graph. The diamond SSB value for 2023 is predicted (ICES. 2023).

As its most recent stock assessment the stock has a biomass above the limit reference point, **it PASSES Clause C1.2.**

References	
ICES. 2023[a]. Ling (Molva molva) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, lin.27.5b. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21828375	
Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01