MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Blue Ling in ICES Subareas 6 & 7 and Division 5b

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*)
	Geographical area:	ICES Subareas 6 & 7 and Division 5b
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 6 & 7 and Division 5b
Date	October 2022	
Report Code	FRA35	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s):			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.25	Surveillance
Assessment Period	October 2022 – October 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*)
Stock	ICES Subareas 6 & 7 and Division 5b
Fishery Location	ICES Subareas 6 & 7 and Division 5b
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU & UK
Gear Type(s)	Trawl, Longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Maintain approval

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Blue ling has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Blue ling in ICES subareas 6 & 7 and division 5b is a single stock and is managed relative to established reference points using annual quotas. For this reason, it was assessed under Category C. The most recent of the annual stock assessments conducted by ICES was published in June 2022. Catch data was included in the assessment process and the ICES catch advice did not indicate any significant issues with data incompleteness or inaccuracy. The stock assessment produced an estimate of stock biomass which was above both the target and limit reference points. Blue ling in the Celtic Seas and Faroes grounds meet the MT byproduct requirements and should therefore remain approved for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment here is the European Blue Ling (*Molva dypterygia*) fishery pursued by French vessels in FAO fishing area 27. The fishery is managed by the French government and the EU common fisheries policy in French waters, the UK and fisheries act in the UK and by the Faroes Government in 5b. For this Marin Trust assessment, Blue ling is scored as a single stock under category C. All species scoring tables have been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to Pass the fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
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 Ling	*Molva dypterygia*	ICES Subareas 6-7 and Division 5b	Yes	C	Vulnerable[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198591/45131980

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		**Blue Ling**	
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.	PASS
	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.	PASS
		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.

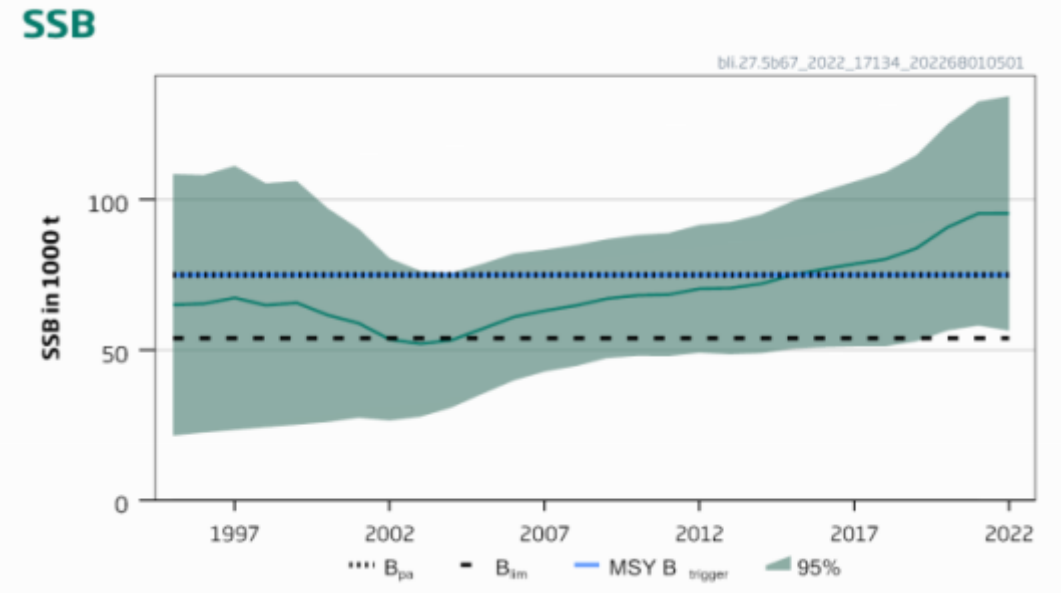
Blue ling in the Celtic Seas and Faroes grounds is subjected to an annual stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2022 using a Multi-Year Catch Curves (MYCC) model which was fitted to age composition and total catch (ICES 2022). International landings data were included in the assessment and discarding is considered negligible. The section of the catch advice covering any potential issues with the assessment ("Issues relevant for the advice") does not raise any concerns relating to the completeness or accuracy of the data used.

Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process and C1.1 is met.

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 ICES stock assessment provides an indication of the current status of the stock relative to its reference points. The 2022 ICES catch advice summarised the current situation, stating that "fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} and spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$" (ICES 2022). Reference points are established for the stock, including the target reference points MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} (both set at 75,037t); and the limit reference point B_{lim} (set at 54,000t). The 2022 stock assessment projected SSB in 2023 to be 95,770t, substantially above the target reference point level.

SSB was estimated by the most recent stock assessment to be substantially above both the target and limit biomass reference points, therefore C1.2 is met.



Blue ling in ICES Subareas 6-7 and Division 5b. SSB over time relative to current reference points (ICES 2022).

References

ICES (2022). Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 6–7 and Division 5.b (Celtic Seas and Faroes grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, bli.27.5b67. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19447787

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 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**	**Score**
	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**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
		Average Susceptibility Score	
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
		Compliance rating	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	10-30% overlap	>30% overlap
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.

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