



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

### *FRO01 – Blue whiting in FAO 27, ICES Subareas 1-9, 12 & 14*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Subareas 1-9, 12 & 14
	Country of origin of the product:	Faroe Islands, EU, Iceland, Greenland, Norway
	Stock:	Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters
Date	June 2023	
Report Code	FRO01	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Faroe Islands, EU, Iceland, Greenland, Norway	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): P/f Havsbrún			
Country: Faroe Islands			
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	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	June 2023 – June 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue whiting ( <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i> )
Stock	Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters
Fishery Location	ICES Subareas 1-9, 12 & 14
Management Authority (Country/ State)	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), EC, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Norway, Iceland, UK
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl, bottom trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Pass

**Table 2. Assessment Determination**

Assessment Determination
<p>Blue whiting has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic is managed relative to target and limit reference points and is subject to regular stock assessments conducted by ICES; it was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022, and produced catch advice which was updated in June 2023. The stock produced a very strong 2020 year class which will be fully recruited to the fishery by the end of 2023, resulting in SSB substantially larger than the target and limit reference points. The byproduct continues to meet the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) fishery, pursued by vessels in FAO fishing area 27. Blue whiting is managed by international or state regulations. Therefore, for this Marin Trust assessment, the Blue whiting stock is scored against Category C.</p> <p>The species scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the FAO 27, Blue whiting stock pursued by the fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</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 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Northeast Atlantic & Adjacent waters	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

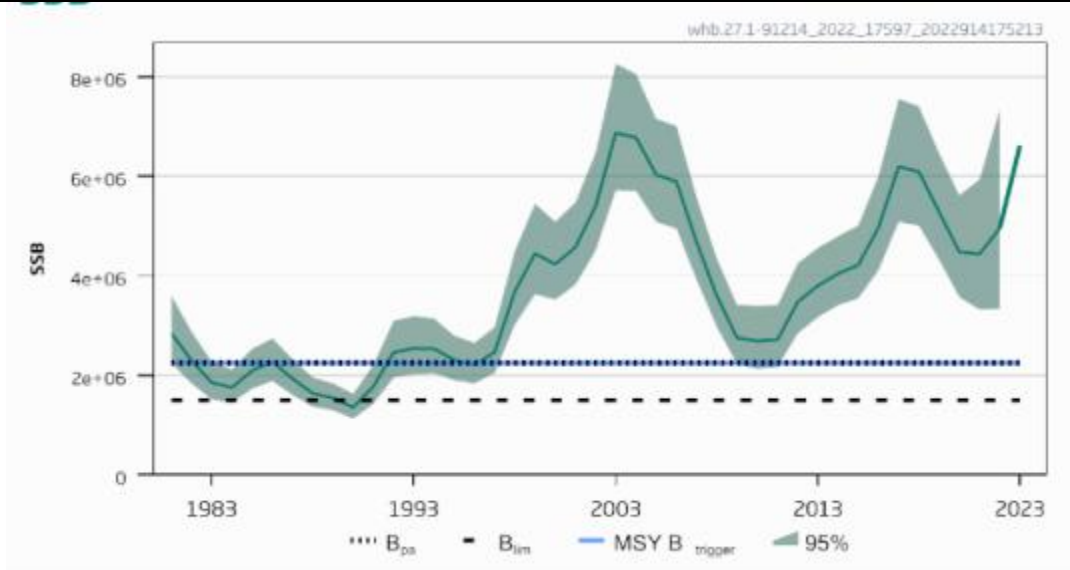
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198586/18983495>

## 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 whiting	
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
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2022, with advice published in September of that year and subsequently updated in June 2023 (ICES 2022). The stock assessment was an age-based analytical assessment which utilised catches in the model and the forecast, plus data from the Blue Whiting Spawning Stock Survey 2004-2022. Discard data since 2014 were included in the assessment. The catch advice (ICES 2022) includes a section examining the quality of the assessment, which does not raise any major concerns. C1.1 is met.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The ICES catch advice provides an indication of the status of the stock relative to reference points. The target reference points <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>SSB_{mgt}</math> have been set at 2,250,000t. The limit reference points <math>B_{lim}</math> and <math>SSB_{mgt\_lower}</math> have been set at 1,500,000t. The 2022 stock assessment projected SSB in 2023 would be 6,621,207t, nearly three times larger than the target reference point. The advice also concludes, “spawning-stock size is above <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>B_{lim}</math>” (ICES 2022). Stock biomass is above the limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.</p>			



Blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic, estimated SSB relative to current target and limit reference points (ICES 2022)

**References**

ICES (2022) Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in subareas 1-9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, whb.27.1-91214. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21493974>

**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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	n/a	
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b> <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	<b>References</b>		
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		n/a	
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
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.		
			<b>Outcome:</b>
<b>Evidence</b>			
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.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	