



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in FAO 27, ICES subarea 3.a, 4, 6, 7, 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 Northeast Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	UK and Ireland
	Stock:	European hake in ICES Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and Division 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)
Date	21 March 2023	
Report Code	GBR02	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK and Ireland	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pelagia UK			
Country: UK and Ireland			
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 2
Assessment Period	To March 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	European hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )
Stock	European hake in ICES Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and Division 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)
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)	Longline, gillnets and trawls
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
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 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), is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>There is a species-specific management regime in place for this stock including a stock assessment with reference points defined and a TAC set and therefore, the stock was assessed under Category C. In the last stock assessment, removals of the species are considered and the biomass is above <math>B_{lim}</math> and <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, so the stock PASSES clauses C1.1. and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the northern stock of European hake, subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.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 assessor correctly classified European hake in ICES Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and Division 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay) 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 <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>, <math>B_{pa}</math>, and <math>B_{lim}</math>. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>European hake in ICES Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and Division 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay) 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
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 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>
European hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	European hake in ICES Subareas 4, 6, and 7, and Divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)	European Union (CFP), and UK	C	LC <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/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.

<b>Species Name</b>		<b>European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
			<b>Clause outcome: PASS</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.**

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 83 130 tonnes. 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:

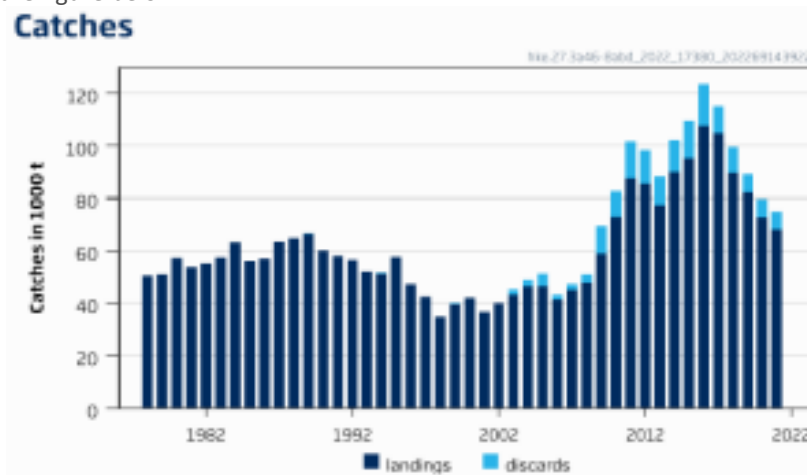


Figure 1. Hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock.

Discard estimates prior to 2003 are model estimates.

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.

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

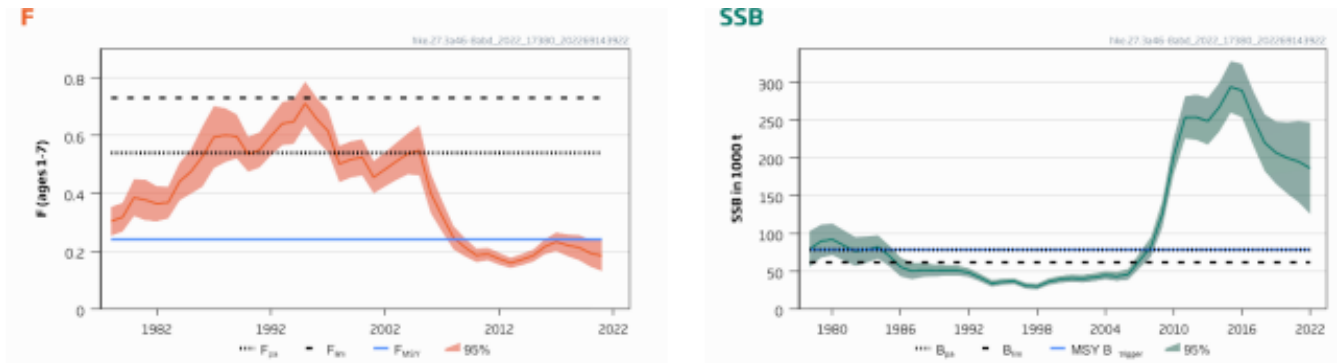


Figure 2. Hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and in divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock. Summary of the stock assessment. Estimates for SSB are for females only and the 2022 value is a forecast. Source: ICES 2022.

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