



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in FAO 27, ICES Subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 27 northeastern Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	UK & Ireland
	Stock:	Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)
Date	23 May 2023	
Report Code	GRB20	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	UK & 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 & 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	Re-approval
Assessment Period	To May 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )
Stock	Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 northeastern Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	UK and European Union (Common Fisheries Policy-CFP)
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls and seines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust raw material.</p> <p>Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d is managed under a TAC with a precautionary management plan, and limit reference points have been established, therefore the species is assessed under category C here. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, and the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, so it PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Consequently, whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 Standard for by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d 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>Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d 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>
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting in ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d	UK - European Union (CFP)	C	LC	No

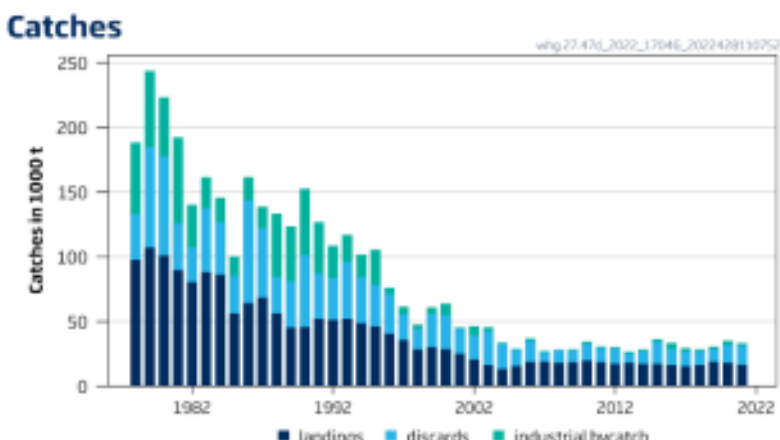
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <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.

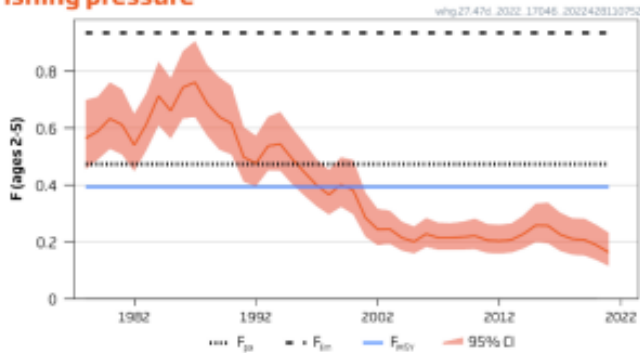
Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		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><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>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 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] &amp; 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 mode. 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><b>Figure 1.</b> Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Source: ICES 2022.</p>			
<p>Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, so it <b>PASSES Clause C1.1.</b></p>			

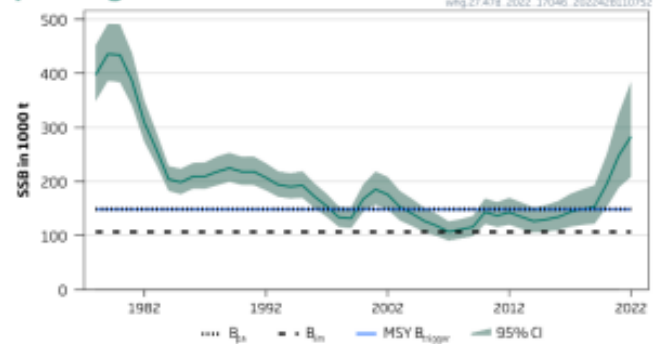
**C1.2** The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

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

### Fishing pressure



### Spawning Stock Biomass



**Figure 2.** Whiting in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. Summary of the stock assessment.  
Source: ICES 2022.

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), so 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