MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

GBR42 – Ling in FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Ling, *Molva molva*
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 3, 4, 6-9, 12 and 14
Date		February 2024
Report Code		GBR42
Assessor		Sam Peacock
Country of origin of the product - PASS		UK
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		n/a

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Lunar FPR Ltd			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Sam Dignan	0.2	Initial
Assessment Period		February 2024 – February 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Ling, *Molva molva*
Stock	ICES Subareas 3, 4, 6-9, 12 and 14
Fishery Location	ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, UK, Norway
Gear Type(s)	Longline, trawl, gillnets and others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation to approve
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Ling has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Ling in the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic is assessed by ICES as a single stock, although stock structure is uncertain. There are no absolute biomass reference points established, although a CPUE biomass proxy is available and the stock is subject to a number of regional TACs. Due to the presence of a species-specific management regime, the byproduct was assessed under Category C.
The stock is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP) using a trends-based CPUE assessment methodology. The assessment incorporates international catch data and estimated discard data. The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023 and concluded that the CPUE biomass proxy was substantially above the proxy reference point level. For these reasons, ling should be approved for use as a raw material.

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
Based on the information presented, the recommendation to approve this byproduct is appropriate.

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 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]
Ling	*Molva molva*	ICES Subareas 3, 4, 6-9, 12 and 14	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198593/45132914

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	
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.

Ling in the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic is subject to regular assessment by the ICES Working Group on the Biology of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2023 and summarised in the June 2023 catch advice for the stock. A CPUE trends-based assessment utilised total international commercial catches, a standardised CPEU series from Norwegian vessels, and length frequency data from catch sampling. The assessment also incorporated discard estimates and survey indicators. The ICES catch advice notes that there is uncertainty over the stock structure of ling in this region, stating that the index used for the advice is suitable for subareas 4 and 6 (where the fishery within this MT assessment occurs), but may not be for subareas 7 and 8. Overall, the stock assessment is considered robust 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.

There are no reference points for stock size established for this ling stock. However, ICES catch advice is produced using a standardised biomass index based on CPUE data from the Norwegian longline fleet, including the proxy target reference point $I_{trigger}$. $I_{trigger}$ is defined as 1.4 times greater than the lowest observed CPUE from the time series, and is currently set at 65kg per 1,000 hooks. The index value in 2022 was estimated to be 155kg per 1,000 hooks, significantly above the proxy target level. The biomass proxy is above the proxy target reference point, and therefore C1.2 is met.
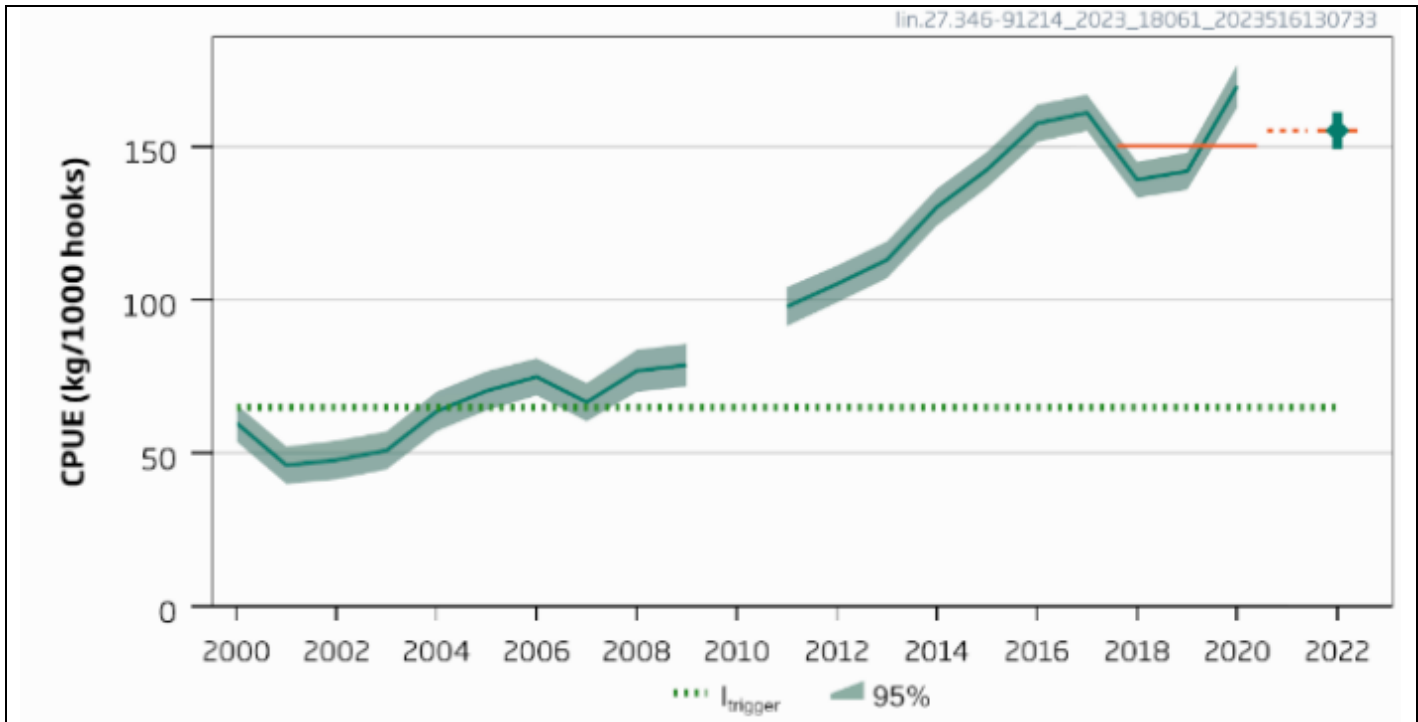
Ling in subareas 3, 4, 6-9, 12 and 14, biomass index relative to current I$_{trigger}$ reference point (ICES 2023)

References	
ICES (2023). Ling (*Molva molva*) in subareas 3, 4, 6–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, lin.27.346-91214. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21828360	

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	n/a		
	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		n/a
	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