



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment

## *GBR44 – Anglerfish/Monkfish in FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b*

### **MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	European anglerfish / Common monkfish, <i>Lophius piscatorius</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO27, ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
	Country of origin of the product:	UK
	Stock:	ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a
Date	February 2024	
Report Code	GBR44	
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	European anglerfish / Common monkfish, <i>Lophius piscatorius</i>
Stock	ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a
Fishery Location	ICES Divisions 4a,b and 6a,b
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU, UK, Norway
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls, gillnets, Norway lobster trawls, others
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation to approve
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>European anglerfish has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> in ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a is managed as a combined stock alongside <i>L. budegassa</i>, subjected to biennial stock assessment and managed using TACs. For this reason it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2022 using catch and survey data, and while the catch advice does identify some potential sources of uncertainty, the outcomes of the assessment are considered robust. There are no absolute reference points established for the combined stock, but the 2022 stock assessment concluded that the stock size index was above the proxy target reference point level. The byproduct meets the MT requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The target stock is a complex of <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>, which, in its most recent stock assessment in 2022, was estimated be above the proxy target reference point level.</p> <p>Based on the information presented, the recommendation to approve this byproduct is appropriate.</p>
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 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 anglerfish / Common monkfish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a	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>

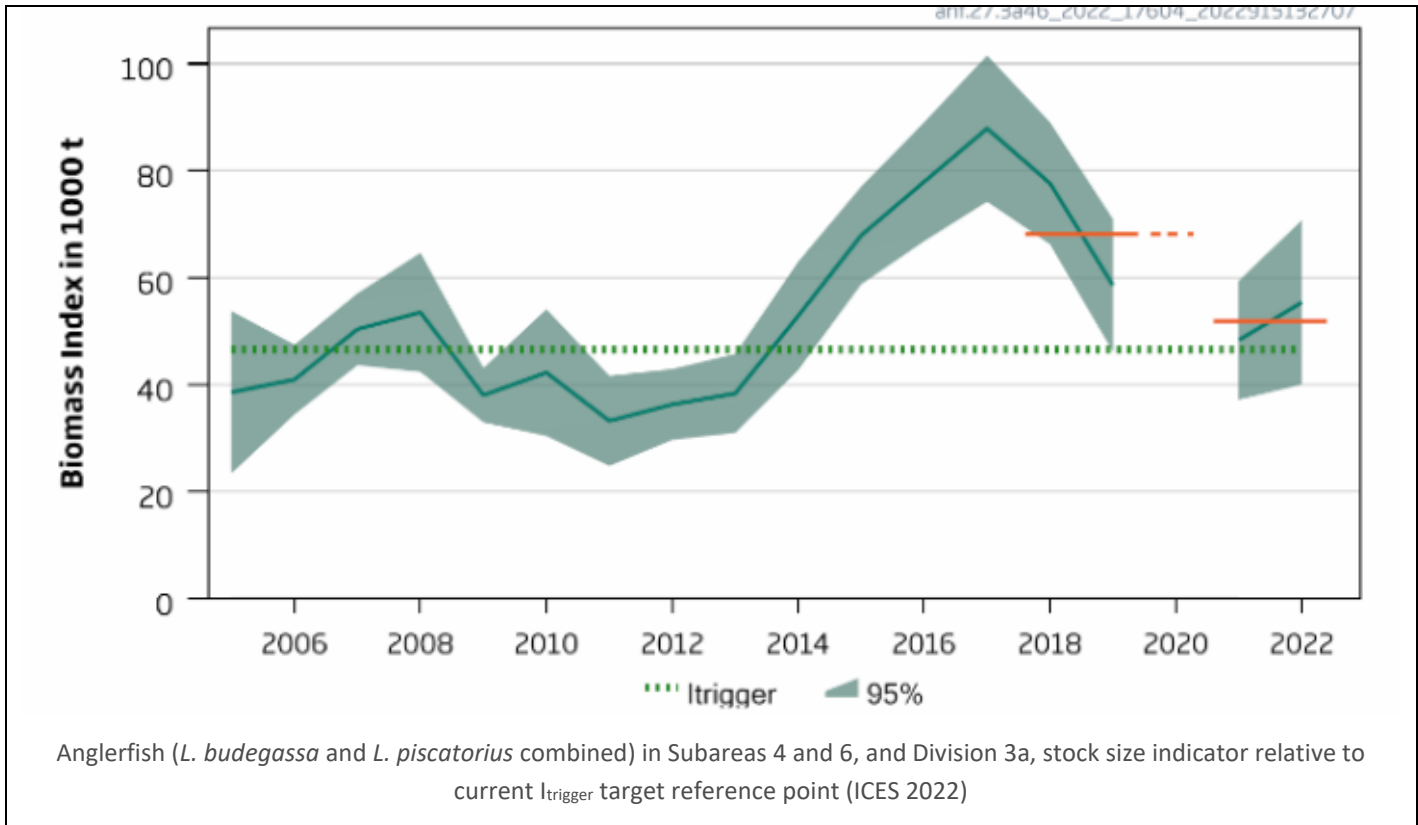
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198610/45128985>

## 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		European anglerfish	
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>Two species on anglerfish in ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a – <i>Lophius budegassa</i> and <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> – are subjected to a biennial combined stock assessment process by the ICES Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2022, and utilised survey biomass trends, commercial catch data, and discard estimates since 2007. The 2022 catch advice notes several issues with the quality of the assessment, namely: incomplete surveys due to COVID-19; the surveys do not cover geographical areas which account for around 10% of landings; and discard data are not available for the gillnet fishery which accounts for around 13% of landings. The level of uncertainty introduced by these issues is unknown; however the outcomes of the assessment are considered robust and 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>There are no absolute reference points established for anglerfish in ICES Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3a. The combined stock is managed using a biomass index trigger value defined as 1.4 times greater than the lowest observed historical biomass index value from 2005-2022. This MSY <math>B_{\text{trigger proxy}}</math> is set at 46,554t. The 2022 stock assessment concluded that the 2021 biomass index value was 55,423t, larger than the proxy target reference point. The 2022 catch advice states that “the stock-size index is above MSY <math>B_{\text{trigger proxy}}</math>” (ICES 2022). C1.2 is met.</p>			



**References**

ICES (2022). Anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*, *Lophius piscatorius*) in Subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, anf.27.3a46. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19772359>

**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>		
	<p><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></p>		
	<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	