MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

FRA11 – Ling in ICES Division 5b (Faroes grounds)

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Ling (*Molva molva*)
	Geographical area:	Faroes Islands
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES Division 5b
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	FRA11	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Concarneau, Copalis Industrie			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	July 2024 – July 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Ling (*Molva molva*)
Stock	ICES Division 5b
Fishery Location	Faroes Islands
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Gillnets, longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Ling has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as a species of Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Ling in ICES Division 5b is managed relative to established reference points, and as such was assessed under Category C in the first instance. Ling in Division 5b is subjected to regular stock assessment by ICES. The most recent assessment was conducted in 2024, and incorporated all international catches and two survey indices. Ling biomass was estimated to be substantially below the limit reference point level, meaning that C1.2 was not met. As per the MT byproduct assessment guidance, the stock was further assessed under Category D. Ling was awarded a Productivity score of 1.71 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, leading to a Pass rating on Table D3. For this reason, the byproduct should be re-approved for use as a raw material in MT-certified facilities.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment is the Ling (*Molva molva*) caught with gillnets and longlines in ICES Division 5b (Faroes grounds), FAO area 27. The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The species is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed under category C. The most recent stock assessment conducted for ling by the ICES Working Group in the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP) in 2024 indicated that SSB was below the limit reference point and the stock does not meet C1.2. Therefore, a PSA is conducted under category D. The stock gets and average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 2.5 passing category D. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the Ling caught with gillnets and longlines in ICES Division 5b under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
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 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 5b	Yes	Failed C; further assessed under D	Least Concern[3]	No

[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.

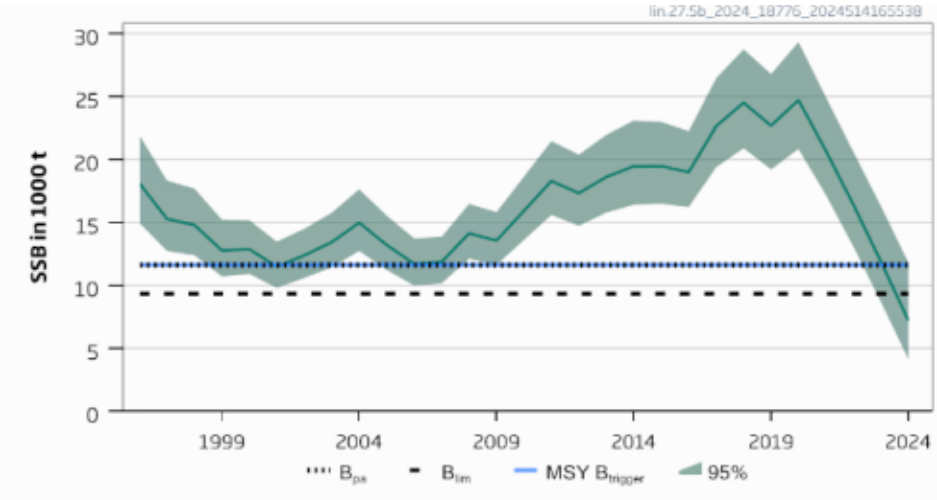
Species Name		**Ling (*Molva molva*)**	
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered, 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.	FAIL
		Clause outcome:	FAIL

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 Division 5b is subject to regular stock assessment by the ICES Working Group in the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was carried out in 2024, and was an age-based analytical assessment utilising catches in the model and the forecast. The assessment also incorporated two survey indices and a fixed natural mortality rate. Discarding is considered negligible (ICES 2024). 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.

The regular ICES catch advice provides an indication of the status of the stock relative to established reference points. The most recent advice was published in June 2024. The target reference points MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} have been set at 11,627t. The limit reference point Blim is set at 9,340t. The 2024 catch advice included a short-term projection of SSB in 2025, estimating it would be 4,738t, around half the limit reference point level. Further, the catch advice states that "spawning-stock size is below B_{lim}" (ICES 2024). C1.2 is not met, and as per the MT byproduct assessment guidance the stock has been further assessed under Category D.



Ling in ICES Division 5b, estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024)

References
ICES (2024). Ling (*Molva molva*) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019333.v1

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

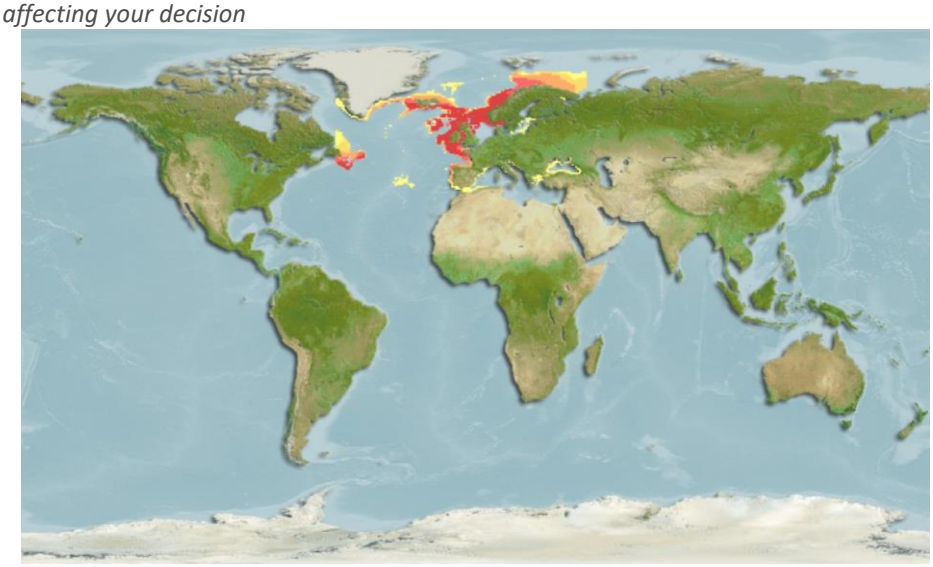
CATEGORY D SPECIES

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	Ling (*Molva molva*)	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	4.2 years	1
	Average maximum age (years)	20.6 years	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	60,000,000	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	200cm	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	71.1cm	2
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.4	3
		Average Productivity Score	**1.71**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)	<10% overlap	1
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Target	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Retained	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**2.5**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**PASS**
		Compliance rating	**PASS**

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



Ling, native range (Fishbase, https://www.fishbase.se/summary/33)

References

Fishbase, Ling: https://www.fishbase.se/summary/33

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