



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

FRA35

Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*)

in ICES Division 5b and

Subareas 6, 7 & 12

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27
	Country of origin of the product:	France
	Stock:	ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7, 12
Date	October 2024	
Report Code	FRA35	
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): Copalis Industrie			
Country: France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	October 2024 – October 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>)
Stock	ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7, 12
Fishery Location	FAO27
Management Authority (Country/ State)	EU
Gear Type(s)	Trawl, longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
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. Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Molva dypterygia</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>There is no internationally agreed management plan in place for this stock. However, it is managed using quotas, relative to established target and limit reference points. For this reason it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024 and utilised all international catch data, therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that SSB is substantially higher than the target reference point level, therefore C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7 and 12 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7 and 12 under category C, as the stock is managed using quotas, relative to established target and limit reference points.</p> <p>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 (or proxy). Therefore, the stock PASSES clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>In conclusion, blue ling in ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7 and 12, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</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 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
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	ICES Division 5b and Subareas 6, 7, 12	Yes	C	Vulnerable ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198591/45131980>

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		Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</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.	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.

Regular stock assessments for this stock are conducted by the ICES Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2024 using a Multi-Year Catch Curves model which incorporated international landings 1995 – 2023 and age-at-length estimates from French sampling. Discarding is considered negligible.

The most recent ICES catch advice states “ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 11 197 tonnes in 2025 and no more than 11 170 tonnes in 2026” (ICES 2024).

Catches are presented in the figure below:

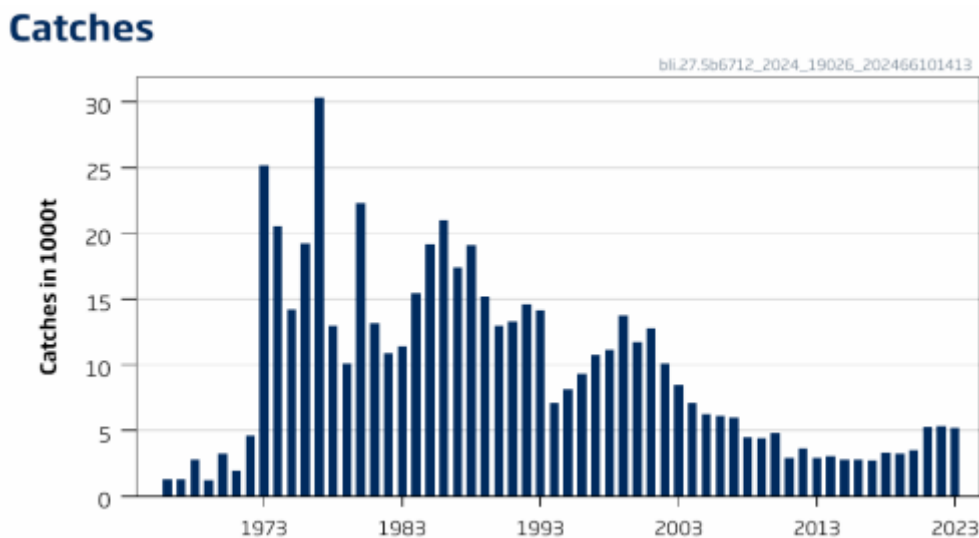


Figure 1. Blue ling in ICES 5b, 6, 7, 12: Catches (ICES 2024)

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.

An indication of current stock status is provided in the annual ICES catch advice. Target reference points $MSY B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} are set at 75,037t. Limit reference point B_{lim} is set at 54,000t. The 2024 stock assessment produced a short-term projection for SSB in 2025 of 98,695t, nearly double the limit reference point level.

The 2024 catch advice states, “Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} and below F_{pa} . Spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$ ” (ICES 2024).

Estimated SSB relative to current reference points is shown in Figure 2 below.

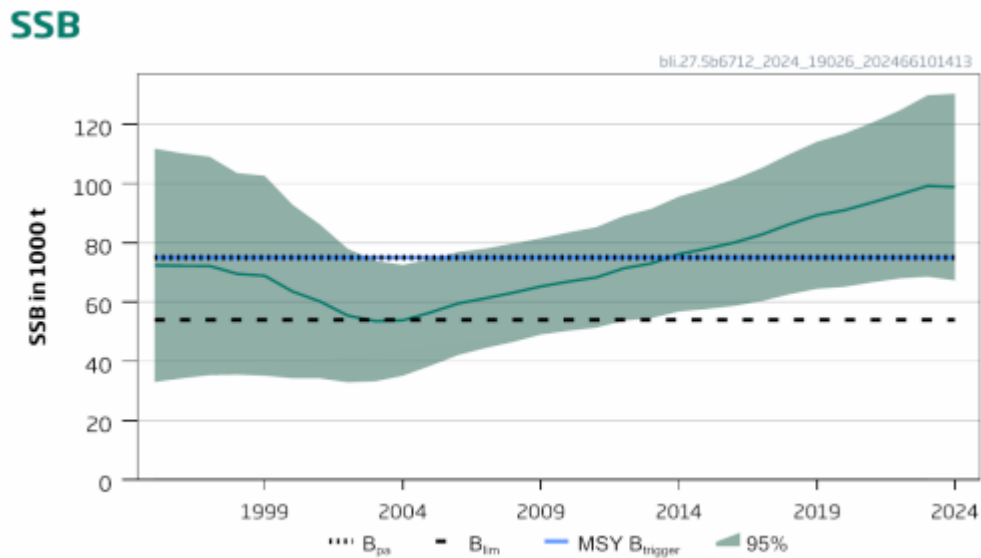


Figure 2. Blue ling in ICES 5b, 6, 7, 12: Estimated SSB relative to current reference points (ICES 2024).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

References

ICES (2024). Blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) in subareas 6–7 and 12 and in Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, Faroes grounds, and western Hatton Bank). ICES Advice: Recurrent Advice. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019174.v1>

Links

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