IFFO RS Limited

T: +44 (0) 2030 539 195
E: Standards@iffors.com
W: www.iffors.com

Unit C, Printworks | 22 Amelia Street
London, SE17 3BZ | United Kingdom

Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients

Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0

Fishery Under Assessment	**Pollack *Pollachius pollachius*** **North east Atlantic**
Date	April 2020
Report Code	2020-76
Assessor	Conor Donnelly
Stock Pass	Pollack in FAO 27 excl. 7a
Stock Fail	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Pelagia				
Address:				
Country: UK & Ireland		**Zip:**		
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**		
Email address:		**Applicant Code:**		
Key Contact:		**Title:**		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		**SAI Global Ltd**		
Assessor	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval**	**Whole fish/ By-product**
Conor Donnelly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Re-approval	By-product
Assessment Period	2020			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
Main Species	Pollack *Pollachius pollachius*
Stock:	FAO 27 excl. 7a
Fishery Location	North east Atlantic
Gear Type(s)	Gillnets, demersal otter trawl, beam trawls, seines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	**APPROVE**
Recommendations	**APPROVE**

Assessment Determination
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 IFFO RS raw material. Pollack does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices; therefore, pollack is eligible for approval for use as IFFO- RS raw material.

The species is not subject to a species-specific research and management regime sufficient to pass a Category C assessment. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population in the assessment area means that a risk-assessment type approach must be taken. The fishery was assessed using the risk-based Productivity, Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) as per IFFO-RS v 2.0 procedures for Category D species. The species has passed this risk-based assessment (Table D4). 1) Pollack in FAO 27 excl. 7a is **APPROVED** by SAI Global assessors for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.
Peer Review Comments
The report is well structure and rationale are supportive to pass the clauses. The Peer review recommends the approval of this by-product under IFFO-RS v 2.0 by-products standard.
Notes for On-site Auditor

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The '% landings' column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the 'target' or 'main' species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the 'bycatch' or 'minor' species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The 'stock' column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The 'management' column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: 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 an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)
Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.
Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)
Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.
Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Pollack	*Pollachius pollachius*	FAO 27 excl. 7a	NA	EU / CFP	D

CATEGORY D SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and 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. In a by-product assessment, Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In both cases, 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.

The process for assessing Category D species involves the use of a Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) to further subdivide the species into 'Critical Risk', 'Major Risk' and 'Minor Risk' groups. If there are no Category D species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Productivity and susceptibility ratings are calculated using a process derived from the APFIC document "Regional Guidelines for the Management of Tropical Trawl Fisheries, which in turn was derived from papers by Patrick *et al* (2009) and Hobday *et al* (2007). Table D1 should be completed for each Category D species as follows:

- Firstly, the best available information should be used to fill in values for each productivity and susceptibility attribute.
- Table D2 should be used to convert each attribute value into a score between 1 and 3.
- The average score for productivity attributes and the average for susceptibility attributes should be calculated.
- Table D3 should be used to determine whether the species is required to meet the requirements of Table D4. A species which does not need to meet the requirements of D4 is automatically awarded a pass.
- Table D4 should be used to assess those species indicated by Table D3 to determine a pass/fail rating.

- Any Category D species which has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Endangered or Critically Endangered, or which appears in the CITES appendices, automatically results in a fail.

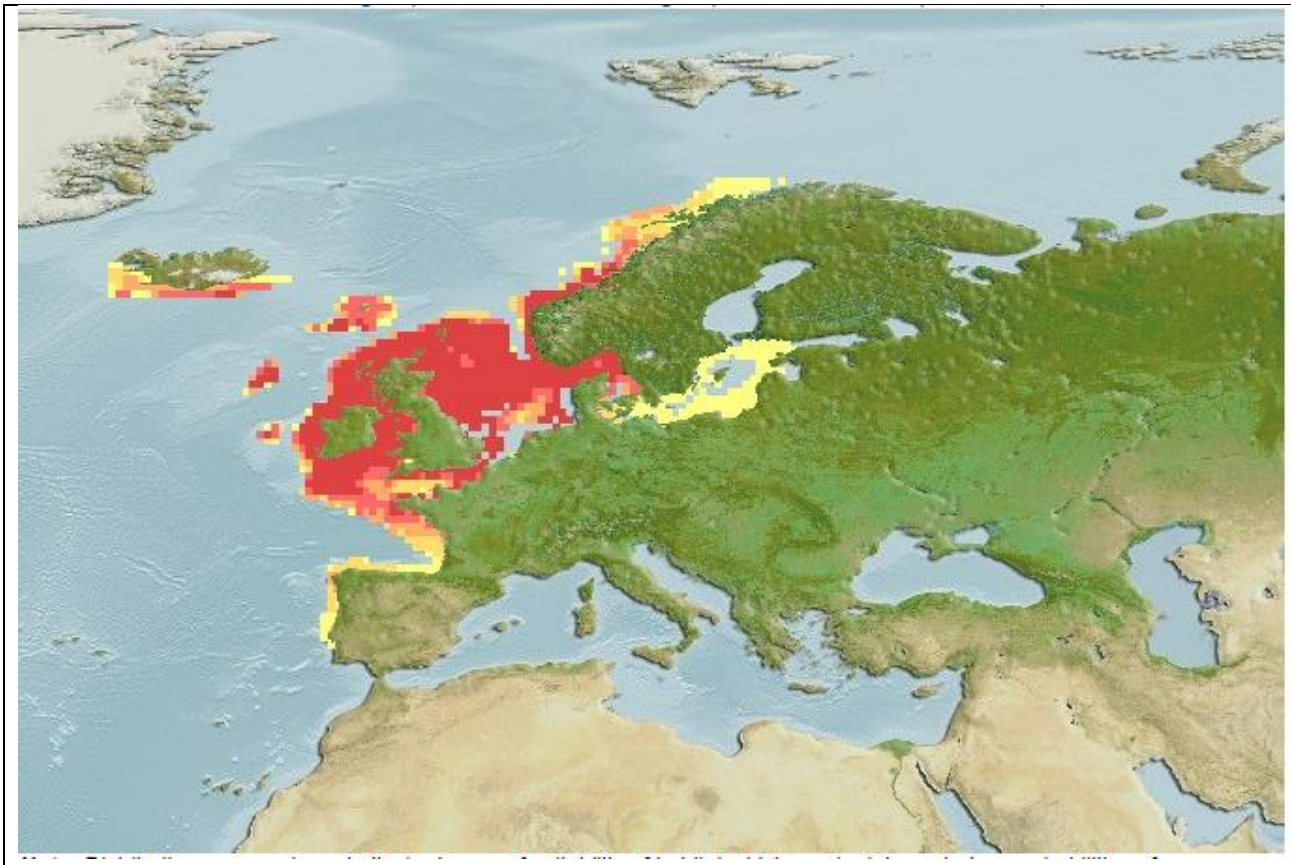
D1	Species Name:	Pollack *Pollachius pollachius*	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	2.7	2
	Average maximum age (years)	11.5	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	26,000-600,000	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	130.0	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	41.0	2
	Reproductive strategy	open water egg scatterers	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
	Average Productivity Score		**1.86**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of the stock occurs in area fished	3
	Distribution	Not scored if overlap scored	NA
	Habitat	Benthopelagic in areas with hard bottoms	2
	Depth range	40-200, usually 40-100	3
	Selectivity	Up to 4m length	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
	Average Susceptibility Score		**3**
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		**Table D4**

References

Fecundity attribute:

Suquet, M., Normant, Y., Gaignon, J.L., Quemener L. and Fauvel, C. (2005). Effect of water temperature on individual reproductive activity of pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*). Aquaculture; 243 (1-4): 113-120. http://archimer.ifremer.fr/doc/2005/publication-470.pdf

Distribution attribute:



Computer generated distribution maps for *Pollachius pollachius* (Pollack), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario. www.aquamaps.org, version 10/2019 preliminary version. Accessed 28 Apr. 2020.

All other attributes:
Fishbase. https://www.fishbase.in/summary/Pollachius-pollachius.html

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1.00 – 1.75	1.76 – 2.24	2.25 – 3.00
Average Productivity Score	1.00 – 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 – 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 – 3.00	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name	Pollack *Pollachius pollachius*	
	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.	**PASS**
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	**PASS**
		Outcome:	**PASS**

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.

The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters applies to this stock. The plan specifies conditions for setting fishing opportunities, depending on stock status and making use of the F_{MSY} range for the stock. The MAP stipulates that when the F_{MSY} ranges are not available, as is the case for pollack, fishing opportunities should be based on the best available advice.

Limited data is available for this stock, but sufficient catch data is available that ICES can provide advice (ICES, 2019). The information is insufficient to evaluate stock status but shows that commercial catches have declined since the late 1980s and in 2018, the most recent year for which information is available, were the lowest in the time series:

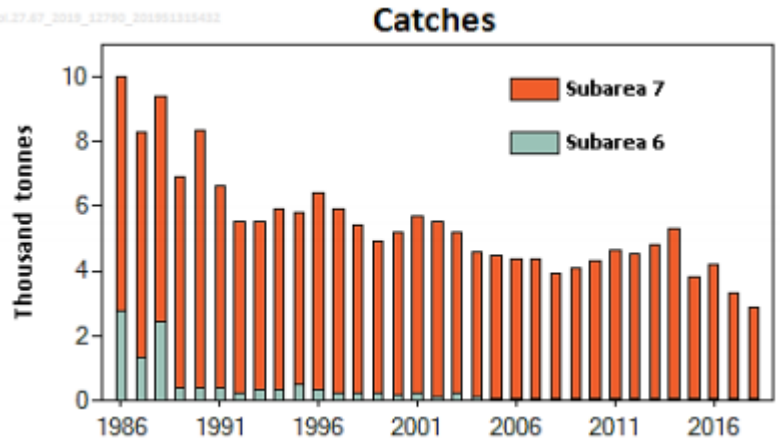


Figure 1. Pollack commercial landings (in thousand tonnes) in subareas 6–7. Landings by subarea, as estimated by ICES (source: ICES, 2019).

In their most recent advice (ICES, 2019), ICES advise that when the precautionary approach is applied, commercial catches should be no more than 3,360 tonnes in 2020.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is set for pollack within EU waters including separate TACs for pollack in ICES subarea 6 and subarea 7. In 2020, the fishing opportunities for pollack were set at a total TAC of 238t

for subarea 6 and 12,163t for subarea 7 (Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123). This is in excess of the ICES advice which has also been the case since 2015 but in all years since 2015 commercial catches have been much lower than the TAC and less than the scientifically advised catch. However, ICES note that their advice is solely based on commercial catch data and recreational catches could be a large component of the total catch (ICES, 2019).

In conclusion, the potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts. There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2020/123 of 27 January 2020 fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0123&from=EN

ICES, 2019. Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in subareas 6-7 (Celtic Seas and the English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, pol.27.6.7. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4802

Standard clause 1.3.2.2