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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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**RESPONSIBLE
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**Global Standard for
Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients**
Fishery Assessment
Methodology and
Template Report V2.0



RESPONSIBLE
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Fishery Under Assessment	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) Denmark
Date	February 2020
Assessor	Jim Daly
Stock Pass	Subareas 4, 6, Division 3. a
Stock Fail	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: FF Skagen and others				
Address:				
Country: Denmark		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
Jim Daly	Vito Romito	0.5	SURV 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2020			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
Main Species	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
Stock:	Subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3. a
Fishery Location	ICES North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skaggerak, Kattegat
Gear Type(s)	All compliant gears
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	AGREE
Recommendation	APPROVE

Assessment Determination

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 IFFO RS raw material. Saithe does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Saithe is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material.

One stock forms part of this assessment:

- 1) Subareas 4, 6, Division 3.a

Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1.

For Saithe in the assessment area the most recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB_{2020} 217,356t) is above Blim (107, 297t) and removals are not considered to be negligible therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2.

In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore:

- 1) Saithe is **APPROVED** by SAI Global assessors in the assessment area for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-products standard.

Peer Review Comments

The stock is about 2 times above Blim levels. Catch and survey data is included in the stock assessment. The Reviewer agrees that saithe in the area of assessment be approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current 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
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3. a	N/A	EU/CFP	C

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		Saithe <i>Pollachius virens</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.
	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.
Clause outcome:		PASS

C1.1

Evidence

This assessment covers Saithe harvested from areas outlined in **Figure 1**:

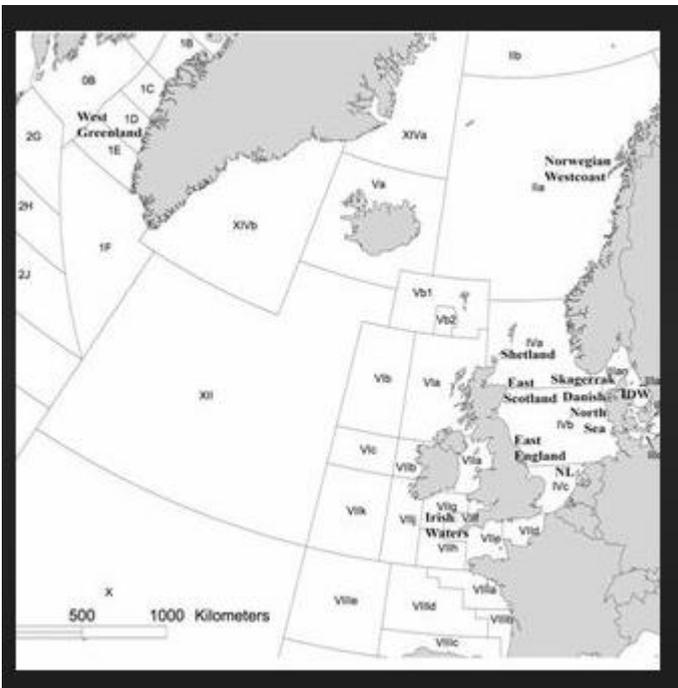


Figure 1: ICES Divisions including Saithe assessment area North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat **R1**

Data collated in support of the annual stock assessments includes data from commercial catches (landings, Below Minimum Size (BMS) landings, discards, age frequencies); a survey index; a combined commercial index scaled to exploitable biomass (French, German, and Norwegian trawler fleet data. Maturity-at-age and natural mortality are assumed to be constant.

A total of 46% of landings had associated discarding information; 85% of discards were observed, 15% were raised. BMS landings for Norway are included with landings in the assessment since 2016; all other BMS landings are included with discards.

The stock was last benchmarked in 2016. An inter benchmark was conducted in 2019 (ICES, 2019b). A management plan is in place (EU, 2018); however, this plan is not adopted by Norway thus, it was not used by ICES as the basis of advice for this shared stock. EU and Norway (2019) have requested an evaluation of multiple management strategies, currently under consideration.

C1.2 Evidence

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has fluctuated without trend and has been above MSY Btrigger since 1996 (**Figure 2**):

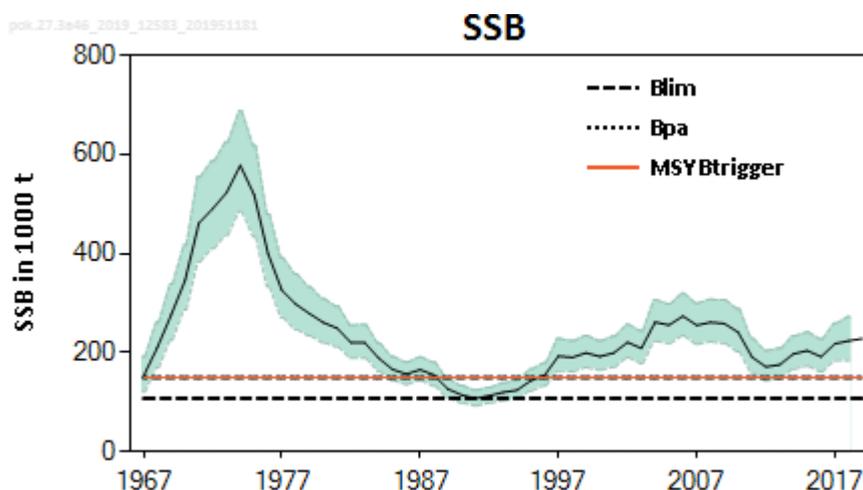


Figure 2: Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals. SSB: Spawning stock biomass. **R2**

ICES assess that spawning-stock (SSB_{2020} 217,356t) size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa and Blim (107, 297t) (**Figure 2**).

References

R1: MAP Ruzzante, D. et al Conservation genetics of harbour porpoises, *Phocoena phocoena*, in eastern and central North Atlantic Conservation Genetics 2(4):309-324 · December 2001

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FA%3A1012534212853>

R2: ICES (2019): Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/pok.27.3a46_June.pdf

R3: ICES. 2019b. Report of the Inter benchmark Protocol on North Sea Saithe (IBPNS saithe). ICES Scientific Reports. VOL 1: ISS 1. 65 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4890>.

R4: EU. 2018. Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L. 179. 13 pp. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj>.

R5: ICES. 2019a. EU and Norway request concerning the long-term management strategy of cod, saithe, and whiting, and of North Sea autumn-spawning herring. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sr.2019.06, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4895>.

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2