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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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



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Fishery Under Assessment	Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides) ICES Area IVa-c; VIIa,b,d-h,j2
Date	April 2019
Assessor	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Pelagia Ireland, UK				
Address: Killybegs, Grimsby				
Country: Ireland, UK		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global Ltd		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Vito Romito	0.5	Surveillance 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
Main Species	Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)
Fishery Location	ICES IVa-c;Via; VIIa,b,d-h,j2
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawl, gillnet
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Pass
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Assessment Determination
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels applied specifically to the Greenland halibut stock in part of the assessment area. A formal management plan has also been agreed by Greenland and Iceland in 2014. This plan has not yet been evaluated by ICES. The Management Area is not the same as the area advised by ICES.</p> <p>The European Commission has proposed a multiannual management plan (MAP) for Western Waters, which is not yet finalized. It is proposed (EU 2018) to replace five existing single-species based multi-annual plans (MAP) and plans for the most important demersal species adopted by separate regulations by bringing all multi-annual plans (MAP) for the different demersal stocks into one Regulation. The introduction of this new approach would allow achievement of conservation objectives while, at the same time, permitting elimination of fishing effort limitations meaning that numerous reporting and control obligations would not be required. This will result in a significant reduction of the administrative burden.</p> <p>The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland) to have a biomass above the limit reference point. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process</p> <p>IUCN has categorised Greenland halibut as a species of least concern. The species does not appear in the CITES appendices (both sites accessed 02.04.19).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard for by-products.</p>
Peer Review Comments
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels applied specifically to the Greenland halibut stock in part of the assessment area.</p> <p>Input data from the assessment area includes data from commercial catches (international landings); one combined survey index (GRL-deep since 1998, and IS-SMH since 1996) and one commercial index (Icelandic trawlers (since 1985). Discarding is considered negligible.</p>

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.

The stock was well above MSY Btrigger in the early part of the time-series. After dropping below the MSY Btrigger in 2004 and 2005 it has increased and is currently above Blim and MSY Btrigger. Recent fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be close to FMSY.

The Peer Reviewer agrees with the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard for by-products.

Notes for On-site Auditor

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category A			A1
			A2
			A3
			A4
Category B			
Category C	Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)		PASS
Category D			

[List all Category A and B species. List approximate total % age of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here]

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
Greenland halibut	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	North East Atlantic	N/A	EU/Greenland/Iceland/Faroes/Norway	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		Greenland halibut <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</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
Evidence			
Clause C1.1:			
<p>Member States of the European Union implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in their waters. In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.</p> <p>The CFP is periodically reviewed and reformed. The most recent CFP reform process was completed in 2013 and came into effect from the 1st January 2014. Key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The introduction of an objective to ‘ensure high long-term fishing yields for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020’ (i.e. movement towards an MSY-based approach). ▪ The gradual (2015-2019) introduction on a fishery-by-fishery basis of a ‘landing obligation’, which effectively bans discarding. ▪ An overhaul of the management structure, including increased regionalisation and more extensive stakeholder consultation 			
Species-specific management:			
<p>Greenland halibut is subject to a number of different quotas throughout the area but is assessed by ICES as a single stock. TACs are also set for Icelandic and Greenland EEZ’s. In Faroese waters total effort is limited by the number of fishing licences. A formal management plan was agreed by Greenland and Iceland in 2014 aimed at being consistent with MSY. This plan has not yet been evaluated by ICES. This plan has limited overall catches in recent years and has assured that fishing pressure is about Fmsy.</p> <p>Input data from the assessment area includes data from commercial catches (international landings); one combined survey index (GRL-deep since 1998, and IS-SMH since 1996) and one commercial index (Icelandic trawlers (since 1985). Discarding is considered negligible.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, the species passes Clause C1.1.</p>			

ICES Advice:

Subareas V, VI and XII, XIV (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland):

The stock was well above MSY Btrigger in the early part of the time-series. After dropping below the MSY Btrigger in 2004 and 2005 it has increased and is currently above MSY Btrigger. Recent fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be close to FMSY: (**Figure 1**):

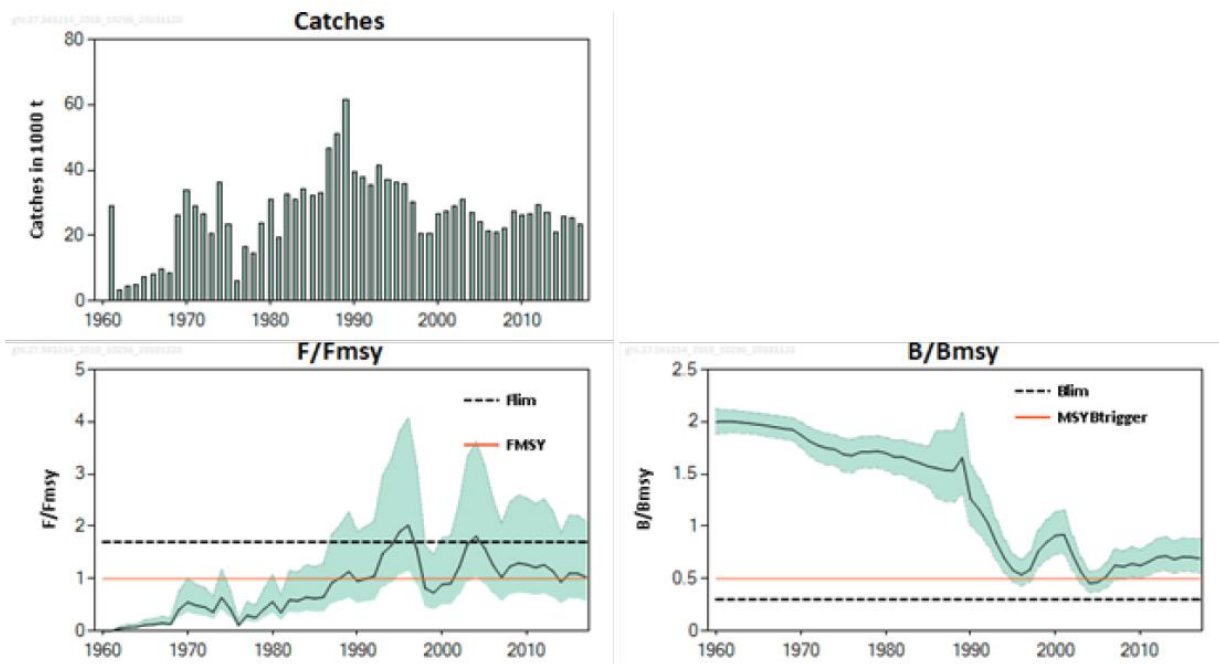


Figure 1 Greenland halibut in subareas V, VI, XII, XIV. Summary of the stock assessment. **Top:** Catches. **Bottom:** Trends in fishing mortality (left) and biomass (right) at the end of each calendar year relative to biomass model-based MSY reference levels (medians and 90% confidence intervals) **R2**

ICES assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and Flim, and spawning stock size is above MSY Btrigger and Blim.

Tagging results, genetic studies, and trends in survey indices and CPUEs suggest that the stock structure is more complex than currently reflected in the stock assessment unit. The connectivity to the Barents Sea stock (ICES subareas I and II) is unquantified and there may be different stock trends within the current assessment area. These issues add to the uncertainty of the assessment. **R2**

References

R1 EU Fishing Quotas (2018):

- Council Regulation (EU) No. 2018/120 fixing for 2018 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:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R0120&from=en>

R2 ICES Advice Greenland halibut (Nov 2018):

- Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV: Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland:

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/ghl.27.561214.pdf>

R3 NWWG REPORT 2018 Greenland Halibut Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV: 43pp

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2018/NWWG/19%20NWWG%20Report%202018_Sec%2017_Greenland%20Halibut%20in%20Subareas%205,%206,%2012,%20and%2014.pdf

R4 IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.