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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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<b>Fishery Under Assessment</b>	Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> ) North East Atlantic (ICES IVa-c, VIa, VIIa,b,d-h,j2)
<b>Date</b>	February 2018
<b>Assessor</b>	Jim Daly

**Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

<b>Name:</b> Pelagia - Killybegs	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Country:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	<b>Fax. No.:</b>
<b>Email address:</b>	<b>Applicant Code</b>
<b>Key Contact:</b>	<b>Title:</b>

**Certification Body Details**

<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		SAI Global		
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval</b>	<b>Whole fish/ By-product</b>
Jim Daly	Conor Donnelly	1	Surveillance	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2017			

<b>Scope Details</b>	
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	EU/Common Fisheries Policy
<b>Main Species</b>	Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )
<b>Fishery Location</b>	North East Atlantic: (ICES IVa-c, VIa, VIIa,b,d-h,j2)
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	All
<b>Outcome of Assessment</b>	
<b>Overall Outcome</b>	Pass 2 stocks, Fail 2 stocks
<b>Clauses Failed</b>	C – stock VIa, VII.e-k
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	Agree with assessment recommendation
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve 2 stocks, fail two stocks

<b>Assessment Determination</b>
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK &amp; Ireland levels, applied specifically to cod stocks in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. Four stocks have been considered in this assessment; cod in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• subarea 4, division 7.d and subdivision 20;</li> <li>• division 6.a</li> <li>• division 7.a</li> <li>• division 7.e-k</li> </ul> <p>Division 6.a and 7.e-k stocks fail clause C because their biomass is below their limit reference points; the other two stocks pass.</p> <p>A number of stocks form part of long-term management plans. The landing obligation was implemented in 2017 for some stock areas and gear types. This will improve data collection that will support more accurate stock assessments.</p> <p>Cod is not currently on the CITES endangered species list. IUCN have classified Atlantic cod (including North West stocks) as vulnerable.</p> <p>The assessment team <b>does not recommend</b> approval of division 6.a and 7.e-k stocks but <b>does recommend</b> approval of the two other stocks as by-product material against the IFFO RS Standard.</p>
<b>Peer Review Comments</b>
<b>Notes for On-site Auditor</b>
Stocks that fail (division 6.a and division 7.e-k) will need to be separated from IFFO RS approved by-product material.

## Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category A			A1
			A2
			A3
			A4
Category B			
Category C	Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</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
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	NE Atlantic		EU/Common Fisheries Policy	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		
C1	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>	
	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.
		<b>Clause outcome:</b>
		PASS/ FAIL
<b>Evidence</b>		
<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>With regard to resource management, the CFP regulations comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A traditional management tool based on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas;</li> <li>• Technical measures relating to gear or catch;</li> <li>• Effort-related management, based on vessel engine power and the number of days at sea.</li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• The gradual (2015-2019) introduction on a fishery-by-fishery basis of a ‘landing obligation’, which effectively bans discarding.</li> <li>• An overhaul of the management structure, including increased regionalisation and more extensive stakeholder consultation.</li> </ul> <p>The primary authorities with responsibility for implementing the CFP are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland, the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in England and Wales, and Marine Scotland, a Directorate of the Scottish Government, in Scotland.</p> <p>Cod is managed as a large number of distinct stocks in EU waters, each of which is subject to an annual TAC and a variety of other management measures. The specific nature of management mechanisms in place and the nature (and effectiveness) of management plans varies between management units. The stocks and their 2018 quotas (2017 in brackets) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skagerrak: (5,558t) 7,995t</li> </ul>		

- Kattegat: (370t) 630t
- IV, EU waters of IIa, IIIa excluding Skagerrak and Kattegat: (32,553t) 43,156t (analytical TAC)
- Norwegian waters south of 62°N: (382t) 382t
- VIb, Vb west of 12°00'W, XII, XIV: (74t) 74t
- VIa, Vb east of 12°00'W: (0t analytical TAC) 0t (analytical TAC)
- VIIa: (0t by-catch only) 695t (analytical TAC)
- VIIb,c,e-k, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: (1,447t) 3,076t (analytical TAC)
- VIIId (2,059t) 1,733t (analytical TAC)
- Norwegian waters of I and II: (23,002t) 23,008t (analytical TAC)
- Greenland waters of NAFO 1 and XIV: (2,200t) 2,100t
- I and IIb: (33,025t) 29,218t
- Faroese waters of Vb (combined TAC with haddock): (950t) 950t

These management stocks are not identical to the ICES advice areas. ICES assesses and provides management advice for 14 cod stocks in the Northeast Atlantic. Only those stocks in the fishery currently under assessment are considered in this report.

#### **Subarea 4, Division 7.d, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Skagerrak):**

Fishing mortality (F) has declined since year 2000, but is estimated to be above FMSY. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased from the historical low in 2006 to above MSY Btrigger (Biomass reference point that triggers a cautious response within the MSY framework) in 2017. There are indications of increased recruitment in 2017. Changes to the stock assessment and reference points in 2015 and 2017 imply a need to re-evaluate management strategy to ascertain if it can still be considered precautionary under the new stock perception. The EU landing obligation was implemented from 1 January 2017 for several gears, including bottom trawls and fixed gears.

Since the implementation of effort management (days-at-sea regulation), fishing mortality rates have been reduced and the stock has increased from 2006. Furthermore, the decrease in F has led to an increase in the number of older fish in the population in recent years. **This stocks passes clause C**

#### **Division VIa (West of Scotland):**

Fishing mortality (F) is high and has been above Flim (Limit reference point for fishing mortality) for most of the time-series. The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been below Blim (Limit reference point for spawning stock biomass) since 1997. Recruitment has been low since 2001. Despite these uncertainties it is clear from the assessment and additional information from surveys that the stock remains extremely low. New reference points were calculated in 2016 (ICES, 2016c). Given the state of the stock this has not affected the advice. **As the stock is below its limit reference point this stock fails clause C.**

#### **Division VIIa (Irish Sea):**

The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is increasing and was above MSY Btrigger in 2017 for the first time since the early 1990s. Recruitment remains low and was at its lowest historic value observed in 2016. Fishing pressure (F) has declined since 2012 and has been below FMSY since 2013. An updated assessment now includes information on both landings and discards and considers these catches as an unbiased estimate of removals. **This stocks passes clause C.**

#### **Divisions VIIe-k (Western English Channel and Southern Celtic Sea)**

The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased since 2014 but is just below Blim in 2017. Fishing mortality has been decreasing since 2014 but is still above FMSY in 2016. Recruitment has been highly variable over time. Recent recruitment has been weak with the exception of the 2013 year class, which is above average. **As the stock is below its limit reference point this stock fails clause C.**

Fishing mortality on cod is difficult to control because of mixed-fisheries interactions. Cod are caught in mixed fisheries with haddock and whiting; management should take this into account. Directed fishing for Cod is prohibited in a number of management areas. R1-R5

## 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>

R2 ICES Advice Cod (2018):

Subarea 4, Division 7.d, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Skagerrak):

- <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/cod.27.47d20replaced.pdf>

Division VIa (West of Scotland):

- <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/cod.27.6a.pdf>

Division VIIa (Irish Sea):

- <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/cod.27.7a.pdf>

Divisions VIIe-k (Western English Channel and Southern Celtic Sea):

- <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/cod.27.7e-k.pdf>

R3 MSC Track a Fishery:

- <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/@@search?q=certified+cod>

R4 CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en>

R5 IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

## 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.