

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Atlantic Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)
DATE OF REPORT:	23rd October 2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Faroe Islands	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	IFFO144
Key Contact: :	Title: Mr	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Atlantic Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)
4. Fishery Method		
		Pelagic trawl & purse seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve by-product

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>The Northeast Atlantic mackerel stock is subject to management and administrative frameworks at the Faroese national and international levels. Although the international management plan has not been followed in recent years, ICES considers the current level of fishing to be sustainable. There is sufficient scientific research conducted to enable the informed management of the fishery, and the species is not considered at risk by the IUCN.</p>

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4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>		
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.	
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.	
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.	
<p><i>Determination: A legal and administrative framework is in place for the management of Faroese fisheries. An international management plan is in place, and while it has not been followed in recent years, the current level of fishing is considered sustainable by ICES.</i></p> <p>Faroese fishery management:</p> <p>The primary governmental body with responsibility for the management of Faroese fisheries is the Ministry of Fisheries and Natural Resources. The framework for the regulation of commercial fisheries, in domestic, foreign and international waters, is the Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994 and its subsequent amendments. Based on this legislation, detailed regulations are implemented governing vessel and fishing licences, area closures, gear and data requirements and other technical regulations for commercial fisheries.</p> <p>The stated objective of Faroese fisheries management is <i>“to conserve and utilise marine fish stocks in order to ensure biological and economic sustainability and secure optimal socio-economic benefits from fisheries”</i>.</p> <p>The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. Although Denmark is a member state of the European union, the Faroe Islands have chosen to remain outside the union, and as such negotiate their own trade and fisheries agreements with the EU and other countries.</p> <p>Species-specific management:</p> <p>Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic is managed as a single stock. A management plan was agreed by Norway, Faroe Islands, and the EU in October 2008. ICES has evaluated the plan and concluded that it is precautionary; however, since 2009, there has been no international agreement on TAC and the catch levels implied by the plan have not been adhered to. Despite this, ICES currently defines the stock as ‘harvested sustainably’, and estimates SSB to be well above both limit and target reference points.</p> <p>R1, R2</p>		H
B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist	
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.	
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.	
<p><i>Determination: Research in support of the management of the stock exists, and is considered by ICES to be sufficient to enable the informed management of the stock.</i></p>		H

<p>ICES provides scientific advice and conducts stock assessment activities for the Atlantic mackerel fishery. Stock assessments are based on catch data, tagging data and three survey indices. Prior to 2013 the assessment model was considered unreliable due to highly uncertain catch data prior to 2000; however, a 2014 benchmarking and the introduction of new assessment models have improved the reliability of outcomes. Discard data used in the assessments are considered to be underestimates. Fishing mortality in 2012 is estimated to have been 0.19, which is below F_{MSY} (0.25) and F_{pa} (0.26). The range of estimates for SSB all place it considerably above $MSY B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} (both 2.36 million t).</p>		
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<p><i>C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.</i></p>		
LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.	
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.	
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.	
<p>Determination: The IUCN red list does not categorise mackerel as at risk of over-exploitation.</p> <p>The IUCN red list categorises mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) as a species of Least Concern.</p> <p>R3</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

R1 – Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries: <http://www.fisk.fo>

R2 – ICES advice, mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic, May 2014:
http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/mac-nea_update_2014.pdf

R3 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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