

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



Clupea harengus
Image © Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

FISHERY By-Product:	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
LOCATION:	Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (UK & Ireland)
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Re-certification
Assessment Summary		
1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product re-certification 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (UK & Ireland)	
4. Fishery Method	Pair trawlers in shallow, coastal waters, and single trawls, purse seiners and freezer trawlers offshore	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve byproduct	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although there is only limited evidence of any technical measures applied specifically to the herring stock in the management area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends maintaining the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.

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: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment. Although there are some variations in the level of management between stocks, on balance a high compliance rating remains appropriate.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework: The UK & Ireland are members of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). 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 has undergone a series of updates, including the most recent reform which was implemented from 1st January 2014. The principal aim of the new CFP is to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. The 2014 reform also details the gradual roll-out of a landing obligation (prohibiting discards), which began in selected fisheries in 2015 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increases the role and importance of management at the regional level, and encourages more intensive stakeholder engagement.</p> <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>Species-specific management: There are a number of herring management units relevant to this assessment for which annual quotas are set. The management units along with the associated TACs for 2016 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IIIa : 43,671 t (+ 6,659 t as bycatch) ▪ EU and Norwegian waters of IV north of 53°30' N: 310,945 t ▪ Norwegian waters south of 62° N: 1,184 t ▪ by-catches in IV, VIId and in EU waters of IIa : 13,162 t ▪ IVc, VIId: 57,007 t ▪ EU and international waters of Vb and VIb and VIaN: 4170 t ▪ VIaS, VIb-c:1630 t ▪ VIa Clyde : To be established ▪ VIIa: 4,575 t ▪ VIIe-f: 930 t ▪ VIIg, h, j, k: 15,442 t 		H

These management areas do not exactly match the regions for which ICES provides advice (see section B). The majority of herring stocks in the Northeast Atlantic are subject to management plans, although the details of these and other technical measures vary.

R1 – R8

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

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.

Determination: Research and stock assessment activities are carried out on the numerous herring stocks relevant to this assessment, and are generally considered to be sufficient to enable the informed management of the fisheries.

Fisheries management in EU waters is supported by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). ICES utilises the best available scientific information collected by 20 member countries and others, and develops advice for the majority of commercially fished stocks in European waters.

The level of scientific understanding varies between the seven stocks for which ICES provides advice, as follows:

Herring in Subareas I, II, and V, and in Divisions IVa and XIVa (Norwegian spring-spawning herring)

Annual stock assessment is conducted using commercial catches including catch-at-age, and eight survey indices including larval and acoustic surveys. Stock status is measured against reference points, which have been defined based on the MSY approach, the precautionary approach, and the management plan. ICES advises that when the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia management plan is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 646 075 tonnes.

Herring in Divisions VIa and VIIb,c

Age- based analytical assessment, using data from commercial catches, two acoustic surveys and Scottish IBTS surveys. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. ICES states that although the assessment is exploratory it is considered a good indicator of trends over time. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, there should be zero catch in 2017. ICES advises that a stock recovery plan be developed for this stock.

Herring in Division VIIa North of 52°30'N (Irish Sea)

An analytical assessment is conducted annually using two survey indices and commercial catch-at-age data. MSY-based and PA-based reference points have been defined. ICES considers input data quality and sampling coverage to be appropriate for the stock. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 4127 tonnes.

Herring in Divisions VIIa (South of 52°30'N) and VIIg, h, j, k (Celtic Sea and South of Ireland)

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and one acoustic survey index. Reference points have been established based on the MSY approach and the PA. ICES notes that the assessment is strongly sensitive to the results of the acoustic survey, which is a potential weakness. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 16 145 tonnes.

Herring in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea autumn spawners)

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An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catches and four survey indices. Reference points have been established based on the MSY approach, PA approach, and management plan. ICES reports that the input data are considered to be of good quality. ICES advises that when the European Union (EU)–Norway management strategy is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 458 926 tonnes, including 426,259 tonnes for the A-fleet.

R7 - R8

C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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.

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.

Determination: Herring has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern; therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

H

The IUCN has categorised *Clupea harengus* as a species of least concern. Herring does not appear in the CITES appendices. Also there are several herring species that are MSC certified.

R9 - R10

5. REFERENCES

- R1** – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R2** – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R3** – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R4** – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R5** – Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R6** – Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7** – ICES advice library: <http://www.ices.dk/publications/library/Pages/default.aspx>
Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in subareas 1, 2, and 5, and in divisions 4.a and 14.a, Norwegian spring-spawning herring (Northeast Atlantic)
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/her-noss.pdf>
Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in divisions 6.a and 7.b-c, (west of Scotland, west of Ireland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/her-67bc.pdf>
Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N (Irish Sea)
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/her-nirs.pdf>
Herring in Divisions VIIa (South of 52°30'N) and VIIg, h, j, k (Celtic Sea and South of Ireland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/her-irls.pdf>
Herring in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea autumn spawners):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/her-47d3.pdf>
- R8** – EU fishing quotas 2016:
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=27996&subweb=343&lang=en
- R9** – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R10** – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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