

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)
LOCATION:	North East Atlantic FAO 27
DATE OF REPORT:	January 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	Sam Dignan	Surveillance year 2
1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product surveillance assessment year: 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product	Pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	North East Atlantic, FAO 27	
4. Fishery Method	Mixed pelagic trawl and purse seine	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Maintain approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>As with the initial assessment there is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although this only appears to be applied specifically to the sardine stock in the assessment area to a limited extent. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, there are significant improvements which would reduce the level of uncertainty. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.</p>

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, but there is only limited evidence of these being applied specifically to pilchard stocks. There is also some evidence that current management measures are not sufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fisheries.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework</p> <p>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</p> <p>There are no international quotas in place for pilchard, and no other EU-wide species-specific management measures in place. The fishery in Divisions VIIIc and IXa has been subject to nationally-implemented measures, including a TAC of 36,000t in Portugal and daily landings restricted to 7t in Spain. ICES recommends quotas for both sardine stocks for which it provides advice, and there is some evidence that total landings are in excess of the sustainable level. A management plan was recently accepted by Portugal and Spain.</p> <p>R2 – R8</p>	

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>Determination: Species-specific research is conducted in support of fishery management, but significant improvements could be made to reduce uncertainty.</p> <p>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. ICES provides advice for two pilchard stocks, although advice for the second began in 2013. The areas are as follows:</p> <p>Divisions VIIIc and IXa An annual age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data, including ages and length frequencies, and two fishery-independent survey indices. No reference points are defined but time-series of estimates of recruitment, fishing mortality and biomass are available. ICES advises that when the management plan is applied, catches in 2016 should be no more than 12,000 t and in 2017 no more than 23,000t</p> <p>Divisions VIIIa,b,d and Subarea VII The advice is based on biomass and egg abundance indices from two surveys, used as a combined index of stock size based solely on information from the Bay of Biscay. The lack of catch composition and survey information in the Celtic seas and the English Channel impairs the possibility of performing an analytical assessment for the whole area. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 33,065 t in each of the years 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>R9</p>		M
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<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>		
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: Pilchard has been categorised by the IUCN as 'Near Threatened' however, several pilchard fisheries have been approved against the MSC standard and so a high compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> as near threatened, and the species does not appear in the CITES appendices. Given the estimated 16% decline in the population within the assessment region, the truncation of life history in the Mediterranean, and the overexploited status and of several Mediterranean stocks, <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> is listed as Near Threatened. There are currently five European sardine fisheries which have been approved against the MSC sustainability standard.</p> <p>R10, R11</p>		H

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5. REFERENCES

- R1.** Image of *Sardina pilchardus* by Mariano Garc
<http://fishbase.org/photos/UploadedBy.php?autoctr=11739&win=uploaded>
- R2.** About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R3.** CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R4.** CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R5.** Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R6.** Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R7.** Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R8.** Sardine Fishery Management Plan (2012-2015): http://www.dgrm.min-agricultura.pt/xeo/attachfileu.jsp?look_parentBoui=938831&att_display=n&att_download=y
- R9.** ICES advice, sardine, 2016:
- Divisions VIIIc and IXa:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/sar-soth.pdf>
 - Divisions VIIIa,b,d and Subarea VII:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sar-78.pdf>
- R10.** IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R11.** Marine Stewardship Council Track a Fishery
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/@@search?q=sardina+pilchardus&search=>