

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Pollack/Lythe (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
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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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
		IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Pollock/Lythe (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
4. Fishery Method		
		Gill nets, Longlines, Handlines and Jiggers
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, but the extent to which it is applied to Pollock in the assessment area is limited. Species-specific data collection is limited and stock assessments include a considerable degree of uncertainty. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct 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 the extent to which these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment is limited.</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 included a 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: Annual quotas are set for Pollock in four management units relevant to this assessment. The regions and their associated quotas for 2016 in brackets and 2017 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VI, Vb, international waters of XII and XIV: (397t) 397t • VII: (13495t) 12,146t • VIIIa,b,d,e: (1,482t) 1,482t • VIIIc: (231t) 231t <p>These do not match the geographical areas for which ICES advice is provided. None of the above management units is subject to a management plan, nor is the assessment team aware of any additional technical measures in place beyond the TAC.</p> <p>R1 – R8</p>		M

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: There have been no significant improvements in the scientific understanding of the Pollock stocks since the 2015 surveillance, and a medium compliance rating remains appropriate.</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.</p> <p>Scientific understanding of the two Pollock stocks for which ICES provides advice is very limited. Assessments are produced for Pollock in Subareas VI and VII, and for Pollock in Subarea IV and Division IIIa. The Subarea IV and III assessment is based exclusively on catch official landings data, but a biomass indicator series is also available for the North Sea fishery. ICES advice is published biennially for both stocks and both are considered data-deficient. In relation to the Celtic stock, ICES states that more information is needed on: stock identity of Pollock within the ICES area; details of the fisheries (more spatial detail in landings data – especially for the earlier years in the time-series, landings by gear, length compositions, discards); life history/biological parameters (surveys and commercial sampling); and recreational fisheries (catch and effort statistics). Similarly, in relation to the North Sea stock ICES recommends that area-specific data on life history parameters are missing and should be collected on surveys and through market sampling. Data on growth and maturity, as well as more information from the fisheries are needed.</p> <p>R7, R8</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: Pollack has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> as a species of least concern. Additionally, pollack does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>Trawl survey data throughout the region are variable, with no clear trends except for in the Skagerrak and Kattegat region, where there have been declines of 80% in catch rates over the past 30 years, although this is a very small portion of its distribution. However, in the North Sea, which is considered the majority of the range, data indicate stable but variable population trends.</p> <p>R9, R10</p>		H

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/marine-management-organisation>
- R6. Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7. ICES advice, Pollack in the Northeast Atlantic, 2016:
 - Pollack in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat) Advice for 2017 & 2018:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/Pol-nsea.pdf>
 - Pollack in Subareas VI and VII (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/pol-celt.pdf>
- R8. EU fishing quotas 2015:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG
- R9. IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R10. CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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