

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
LOCATION:	North-East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2015
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

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Certification Body Details

Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Bill Paterson	Initial

Summary of Assessment Findings

1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location	North-East Atlantic
4. Fishery Method	Pelagic trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve by-product

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the sprat stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, although there are significant improvements which could be made in the understanding of some NE-Atlantic sprat stocks. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product 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.

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. H

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.

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.

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.

Species-specific management:

Annual quotas are set for four sprat stocks in the North-East Atlantic. The stocks and their TACs in 2014 were as follows:

- IIa, IV: 144,000t
- IIIa: 33,280t
- Subdivisions 22-32: 239,979t
- VIId,e: 5,150t

Other regulations vary between stocks, but include minimum mesh size and restrictions on the permitted percentage of herring bycatch per trip. Since 2005 EU vessels operating in the fishery have not been allowed to land unsorted catches.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>

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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 to support the management of the stocks exists, but significant improvements could be made to improve the reliability of the resulting advice for several of the management units. M

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 stock management advice for sprat in five different units, as follows:

- Subarea IV (North Sea)
- Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat)
- Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea)
- Divisions VIId,e
- Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland)

Advice for the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland is not considered to be dedicated to a specific stock, but rather to the species in a wider region where data are available. The stock structure of sprat in this region is unclear, and there is currently no TAC set. Scientific understanding varies considerably between the four ‘true’ stock units.

North Sea

Reference points are defined for the stock, including MSY (F_{cap}), MSY ($B_{escapement}$), B_{pa} , and B_{lim} . The assessment is based on commercial catch data, three survey indices, annual maturity data, and natural mortalities from a multispecies model.

Skagerrak – Kattegat

Reference points do not appear to be defined. The assessment is considered data-limited, and is based on commercial catches and two surveys. ICES considers that non-negligible discarding takes place but cannot quantify it. There are several concerns regarding the accuracy of the advice and the level of uncertainty in the available data.

Baltic Sea

Reference points are defined for the stock, including F_{MSY} , F_{pa} , F_{lim} , $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} and B_{lim} . The assessment is based on commercial catches, two acoustic surveys and natural mortalities from multispecies modelling.

VIId,e

No reference points are defined. Assessment is based on a time-series of mid-water trawl lpue and landings statistics. This is categorised by ICES as a data-limited stock.

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

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<i>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: Sprat has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has not categorised <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>, nor is the species listed in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R9, R10</p>	

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, sprat 2014:
 - Subarea IV (North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/spr-nsea.pdf>
 - Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/spr-kask.pdf>
 - Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/spr-2232.pdf>
 - Divisions VII d,e: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/spr-ech.pdf>
 - Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/spr-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

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R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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