

# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

## IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>UK &amp; Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>28/02/2014</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country:	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	David Garforth	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
		Byproduct re-certification
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> )
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)
4. Fishery Method		
		Demersal trawl, <i>Nephrops</i> trawl, Purse seine.
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 &amp; Ireland levels, which is, to some extent, applied specifically to whiting in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but there is some room for improvement. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard with a medium compliance rating.</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>	
<b>LOW</b>	There is no satisfactory legal and management framework for fisheries in the region.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	An administrative and legal framework that underpins management of fisheries in the region is established, but it is not directly applied to the byproduct stock under assessment.
<b>HIGH</b>	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management for fisheries in the region is established and applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.

**Determination: *There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels. Although there is a management plan in place for the largest stock, there is considerable discrepancy between the stock units as assessed by ICES and those for which TACs are set. On balance, the assessment team considers a medium compliance rating appropriate.***

**M**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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), starting in 2015 and eventually encompassing 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, and the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in the UK.

**Species-specific management:**

There are five whiting stocks relevant to the area under assessment. All are subject to annual TAC, although the geographical area covered by each TAC does not always match the geographical area covered by the ICES assessment.

- Division VIa (West of Scotland): No specific management objectives. Managed by a combination of TAC and technical measures. Cod recovery plan measures, which include effort restrictions and closed areas, are also expected to affect whiting. Discarding occurs frequently. The 2013 TAC was set at 292t (covering Division Vb and Subareas VI, XII and XIV).
- Division VIb (Rockall): No specific objectives. Very small fishery, with the 2013 ICES advice stating that catches should be no more than 11t. However, this area is only subject to a TAC via the combined TAC mentioned above, and as such the 2013 TAC was set at 292t.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): No specific objectives. Subject to an area-specific annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 84t.

- Divisions VIIe-k: No specific management objectives. Taken in mixed-species fisheries with very high discard rates. Subject to a single TAC which covers all of Subarea VII (Excluding Division VIIa). In 2013 this TAC was set at 24,500t, considerably higher than the ICES advice.
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel): Managed according to a management plan agreed between the EU and Norway. Separate TACs are set for Subarea IV and Division VIId, which in 2013 were 18,932t and 24,500t respectively.

R1 – R7

**B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

**LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE**

*B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.*

<b>LOW</b>	Research to support the management of regional fisheries does not exist.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Research to support the management of regional fisheries exists; however research programmes are not specifically directed at the byproduct stock under assessment.
<b>HIGH</b>	Research specifically targeting the byproduct stock under assessment is carried out in support of sustainable fisheries management.

**Determination: *Research is carried out specifically to support the management of the species under assessment, however there are some significant sources of uncertainty.***

M

The level of scientific understanding of each stock varies considerably. In general there is room for improvement, particularly in relation to discarding data, which is likely to have a significant impact on total landings if included.

- Division VIa (West of Scotland): Annual assessment based on commercial catches and three survey indices. The spawning-stock biomass remains very low compared to the historical estimates (and well below  $B_{lim}$ ). Fishing mortality has declined continuously since around 2000 and is now very low. Recruitment is estimated to have been very low over the last decade. The 2009 and, to a lesser degree, 2011 year classes are estimated to be above the recent average.
- Division VIb (Rockall): Biennial assessment, data-limited stock. Landings statistics only, with some doubts as to the accuracy of even these.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): Biennial assessment based on two survey indices. Low landing levels have resulted in very poor sampling coverage since 2003.
- Divisions VIIe-k: Annual assessment based on commercial catches, three survey indices and two commercial indices up to 2008. No discard data is included, despite significant discards. Spawning-stock biomass has been increasing since 2008 and is well above  $MSY B_{trigger}$ . Fishing mortality has shown a declining trend since 2007 and has been below the  $FMSY$  proxy since 2011. Two recruitments have been above average, 2008 and 2009; they have now entered the fishery and are contributing to the spawning stock. The 2011 and 2012 year class are estimated to be the lowest of the time-series.
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel): Annual assessment based on commercial catches and two survey indices. SSB has been below average since 2003, while fishing mortality has been declining over the whole time-series. Recruitment has been well below average since 2003.

R6

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.		
<b>LOW</b>	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered by the IUCN.	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	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. Alternatively if a species is listed as 'not assessed' or 'data deficient' by the IUCN and no additional information is available.	
<b>HIGH</b>	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities. Alternatively if a species is listed as 'not assessed' or 'data deficient' by the IUCN but other sources of evidence (e.g. MSC certification) demonstrate that the species is not critically at risk.	
<p><b>Determination: Whiting has not been assessed by the IUCN redlist and there is no additional information on vulnerability available.</b></p> <p>The IUCN has not assessed <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>.</p> <p>R8</p>		<b>M</b>

**5. REFERENCES**

R1 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index\\_en.htm](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](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](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): <http://marinemanagement.org.uk/about/index.htm>

R6 – ICES advice, June 2013 unless otherwise stated:

- Division VIa (West of Scotland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/whg-scow.pdf>
- Division VIb (Rockall): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/whg-rock.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/whg-iris.pdf>
- Divisions VIIe-k: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/whg-7e-k.pdf>
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel), November 2013: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/whg-47d.pdf>

R7 – EU fishing quotas 2013: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster\\_tac2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2013_en.pdf)

R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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