

FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)- FAROE ISLANDS
LOCATION:	Faroe Islands - (ICES Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W)
DATE OF REPORT:	19th September 2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 1 of 18	CCM Code:
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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Faroe Islands		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	IFFO144
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	5	Initial
Assessment Period	September 2014		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment		IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply – Issue 1	
2. Fishery		Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		Faroe Islands - (ICES Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W)	
4. Fishery Method		Purse seine / Pelagic trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		High/medium	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		None	
7. Information deficiency		None	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		Confirms rating	
9. Recommendation		Approve fishery	

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Form No: 9

Report Ref:

Page 2 of 18

CCM Code:

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2. QUALITY OF INFORMATION
Good; primarily government and ICES websites
3. COMPLIANCE LEVEL ACHIEVED
High/medium
Recommendation
Approve fishery
4. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
Based on HIGH compliance findings
Based on MEDIUM compliance findings
Based on LOW compliance findings
5. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>The Capelin fishery has previously been assessed and approved against the IFFO RS standard for Iceland, which carries out the majority of research and management activity on the stock. The Faroese fishery is responsible for a comparatively small proportion of the total landings, approximately 8,000t out of 142,000t in the 2013/14 season.</p> <p>Faroese fishery management, administration, monitoring and enforcement frameworks are in place. The scientific basis for the management of the stock, along with the application of management measures, appears to be effective, with the estimated SSB having remained slightly above B_{pa} for several years. Medium compliance scores were awarded under sections B2 and D3. B2 relates to concerns expressed by Danish scientists over the lack of transparency in the stock assessment process as conducted by the Icelandic fishery science organisation MRI. D3 is rated medium because the escapement-strategy does not currently include consideration of the population effects namely for cod predation on the capelin stock, a factor which is known to be significant.</p> <p>In general the fishery scores highly and the assessment team recommend its approval against the IFFO RS standard.</p>
HIGH Compliance
A1, A2, A3, B1, C1, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2
MEDIUM Compliance
B2, D3
LOW Compliance

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE					
	The Management Framework and Procedures	Stock assessment procedures and management advice	Precautionary approach	Management measures	Implementation
legal and administrative basis	A1				
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	A2				
Management actions should be scientifically based	A3				
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist		B1			
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures		B2			
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans			C1		
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations				D1	
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity				D2	
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment				D3	
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists					E1
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established					E2

KEY: Low Compliance: Medium Compliance: High Compliance:

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 4 of 18	CCM Code:

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6. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

A1. The management of the fishery must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.

LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the conservation of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is established and works efficiently toward the conservation of the stock.

Determination: Legal and administrative frameworks exist at the national and international levels, and are effectively applied in the management of the capelin stock. H

Faroe Islands management

The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. They have exclusive competence to legislate and govern independently in a wide range of areas, including the conservation and management of living marine resources within the EEZ, protection of the marine environment, sub-surface resources, trade, fiscal and industrial relations, transport, communications, culture, education and research. Although Denmark is a member state of the European union, the Faroe Islands have chosen to remain outside the union, and as such negotiate their own trade and fisheries agreements with the EU and other countries.

The primary governmental body with responsibility for the management of Faroese fisheries is the Ministry of Fisheries and Natural Resources. The framework for the regulation of commercial fisheries, in domestic, foreign and international waters, is the Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994 and its subsequent amendments. Based on this legislation, detailed regulations are implemented governing vessel and fishing licences, area closures, gear and data requirements and other technical regulations for commercial fisheries.

The stated objective of Faroese fisheries management is *“to conserve and utilise marine fish stocks in order to ensure biological and economic sustainability and secure optimal socio-economic benefits from fisheries”*.

Scientific management advice for the fishery is provided by both the North-Western Working Group (NWWG) of ICES, and the Icelandic national fisheries scientific body MRI.

R1-R3

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

A2. Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account fishery removals and the biology of the species.

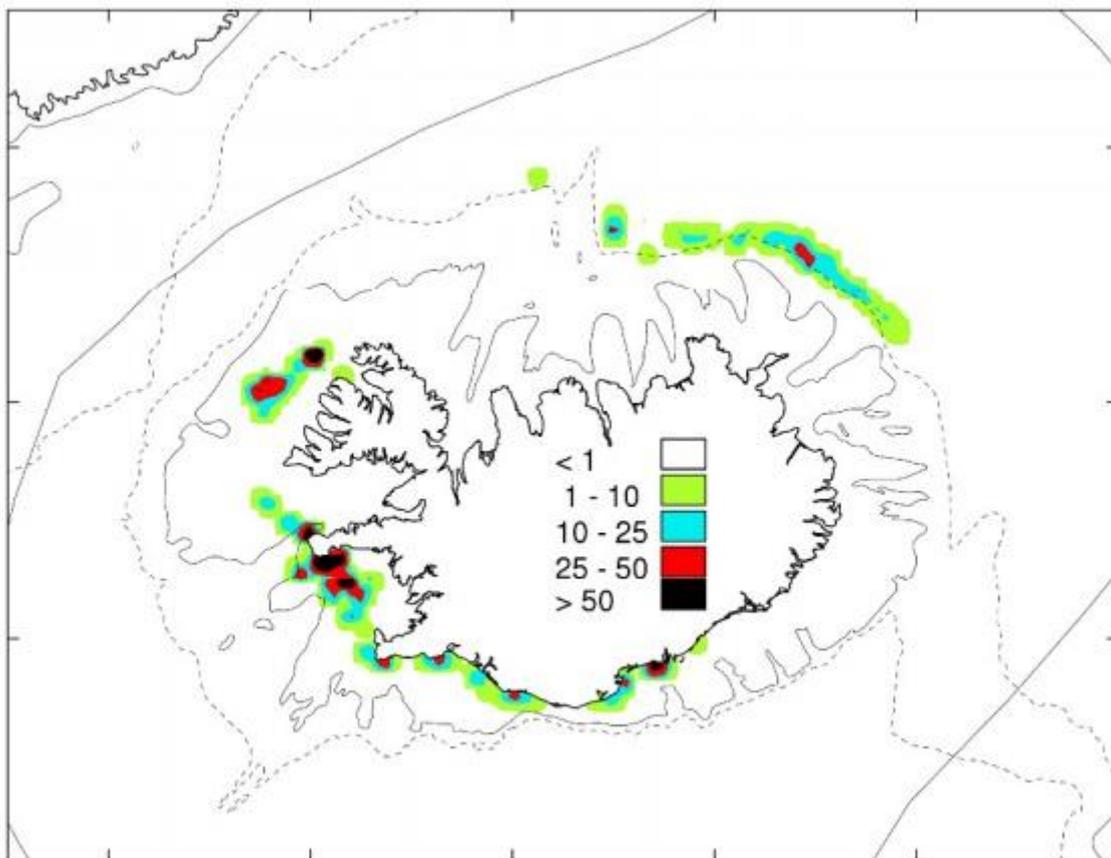
LOW	Fisheries management is not concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and do not take into account any of the matters listed in ‘A1’.
MEDIUM	Fisheries management is concerned with matters listed in ‘A1’ but not entirely. Fisheries, in relation to ‘A1’ statement, should improve to ensure the long term conservation of the marine resource.
HIGH	Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fishery removals • The biology of the species

Determination: The management unit for the stock accurately reflects the biological population, management advice and measures take into account the biology of the species, and ICES considers all fishery removals to be taken into account. H

Capelin in the Iceland/East Greenland/Jan Mayen area is considered by ICES to be a separate stock. ICES has a good understanding of the distribution and life history of the stock. Icelandic capelin spawn in March in shallow water off the southeast, south and west coast of Iceland. Most juveniles grow on or close to the continental shelf off northwest, north and northeast Iceland, and on the East Greenland plateau, west of the Denmark Strait. Maturing capelin usually undertakes extensive feeding migrations in spring and summer northwards into the Iceland Sea and the Denmark Strait. They return in September and October. The main spawning migration usually reaches the west coast and spawns there but late arrivals spawn further east at the southeast and south coast.

The design of management measures takes extensive account of the biology of the species. For example, as a precautionary measure to protect juveniles, all fishing with pelagic trawl has been banned in the Icelandic waters where juveniles are generally found, either separately or mixed with the adults. Additional temporary localised closures are enacted when high proportions of juveniles are detected in the catch. The timing of the fishery is also designed around protecting juveniles and the spawning stock.

Fishery-dependent data include detailed landings information and are used in the formulation of management actions and the production of scientific advice. Discards and bycatch are not included in stock assessments, but based on observer data both are considered by ICES to be negligible.



Fishing grounds in the 2013/2014 fishing season. Dark areas indicate highest catch (tonnes/nmi²). From the MRI advice, 2013/14 (R6).

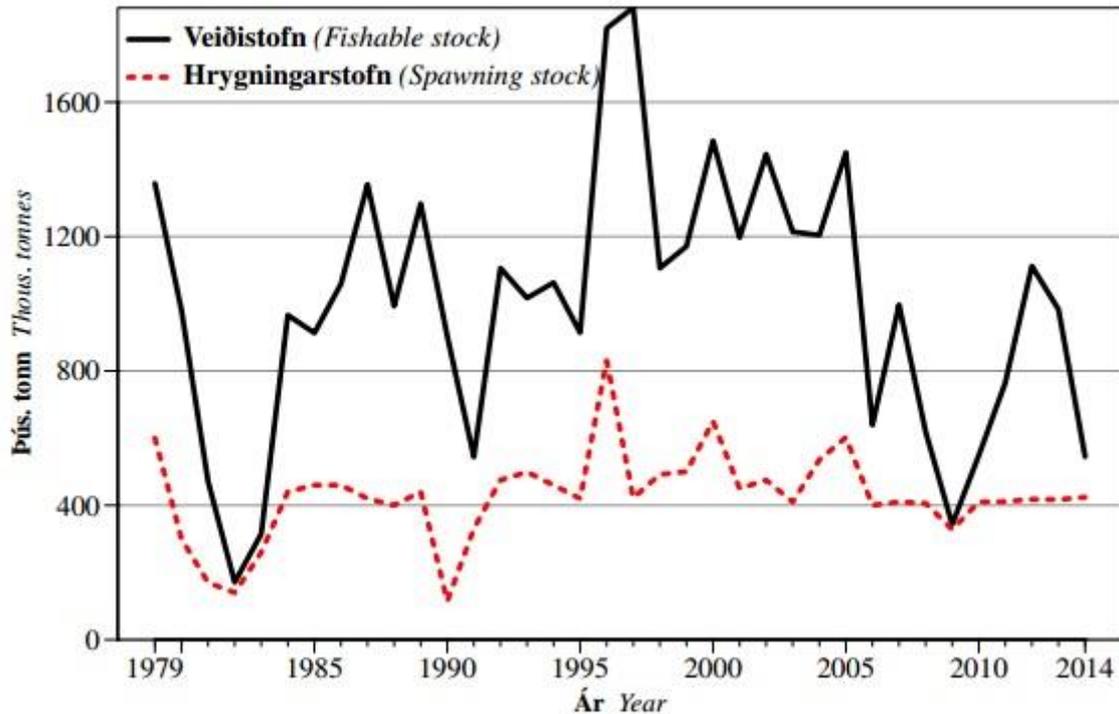
R4 – R7

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>A3. Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives</i>	
LOW	Management actions are not based on long term management objectives.
MEDIUM	Management actions are based on long term management objectives. However the actions are not scientifically formulated.
HIGH	Management actions are based on long term management objectives, and actions are science based.
<p>Determination: As a short-lived species, capelin is managed using an escapement strategy which aims to ensure spawning biomass is above 400,000t at the end of the fishing season. ICES comments and the fairly consistent SSB estimates over the past 15 years indicate to the assessment team that this approach is appropriate.</p> <p>Since 1980 the TAC has been set in accordance with a 400,000t escapement strategy management plan. In June 1989 Greenland, Iceland and Norway signed an agreement on the division of the TAC between the countries. This agreement has been revised several times since then, most recently in 2003, and currently includes a share for the Faroe Islands. The first step in the management plan is to set a preliminary TAC based on the results of an acoustic survey carried out to evaluate the abundance of immature (age 1 and age 2) part of the capelin stock about a year before it enters the fishable stock. The preliminary TAC is set at 2/3 of the predicted TAC, calculated on the condition that 400,000t of the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) should be left for spawning. The second step is based on the results of another survey conducted during the fishing season for the same year classes. This result is used to revise the TAC and set the final TAC, still based on the condition that 400,000t should be left for spawning.</p> <p>ICES has not evaluated the management plan, but states that the escapement target of 400,000t can be “treated as preliminarily precautionary”. As most capelin die at age 3, ICES does not consider medium-term stock projections to be useful. Additionally, at the time the management plan was devised, an escapement-based management approach had been successfully implemented for the Barents Sea capelin stock. Estimates of SSB have fluctuated around approximately 400,000t since the late 1990’s. Thus although the specifics have not been confirmed by ICES, an escapement-based approach appears to be appropriate for the short-lived capelin stock.</p>	

H

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 7 of 18	CCM Code:

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Abundance of the fishable capelin stock on the 1 January in the 1978/79–2013/14 fishing seasons, and the remaining spawning stock biomass at the end of each season. From the 2013/14 MRI advice (R6).

R4 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B1. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the conservation and management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exist, and existent research is considered most adequate for the long term conservation of the target, non-target and physical environment

Determination: *Fishery dependent and independent data are available to ICES and MRI and form the basis for the advice they provide on the management of the stock. There are no substantial concerns over the level of research available, although ICES reports some gaps and is continuing to review the methodology used to produce recommendations. The most recent ICES advice proposed a benchmark assessment for early 2015.*

ICES conducts an annual stock assessment and the MRI provides advice throughout the year based on the results of ongoing survey efforts. Data from a number of surveys (fishery-independent) and landings data (fishery-dependent) are available to ICES and the MRI, although the results of some non-stock-specific research efforts (such as estimates of bycatch and discarding) do not appear to be made available to ICES.

ICES considers the estimate of natural mortality used in the stock assessment process to be an underestimate, and stated in the most recent advice that the assumed relationship between the results of the acoustic surveys during the fishing season and the post-season SSB (which is central to the quota advice) may be

inaccurate. This source of uncertainty is covered in more detail in section C1. The ICES assessment methodology currently used was originally described in 2002, but was reviewed by an ICES workshop (WKSHORT) in 2009 which concluded that it was unable to approve the methodology due primarily to the low natural mortality estimate. ICES is continuing to use the existing methodology until an improved approach has been developed.

Fishery dependent data

Information about the Icelandic landings of the fishery fleet is collected by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries. They have access to both landings in the harbours (the official landing) and the registered catch in the digital logbook kept by all the vessels. The logbooks keep information about timing (day and time), location (latitude and longitude), fishing gear, catch size, and species composition in the catch of each fishing operation for each vessel. Biological samples from the catch are taken at sea by the fishermen or in the harbours by the MRI and/or inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries and then analysed by MRI. Samples record length, weight, age (from scales), sex, maturation, and weight of sexual organs. The information from the samples is then used along with the total landings and logbook data to generate landings composition estimates. Similar data are collected by the other States which prosecute the fishery, although the Icelandic catch represents the large majority.

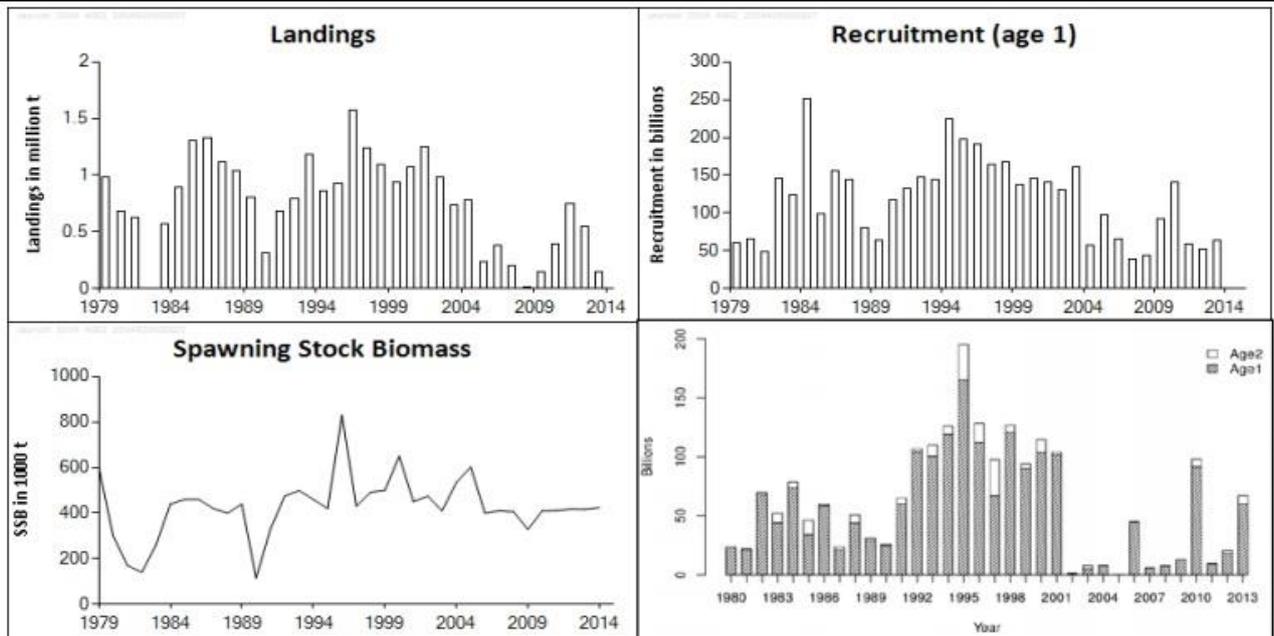
Commercial CPUE data are available but are not considered by ICES to be relevant due to the nature of the fishery.

The total annual catch of capelin in the Icelandic stock by weight, season and fleet is available back to 1964. Total catches in numbers by age during the summer/autumn are available back to 1985 and for the winter seasons to 1986.

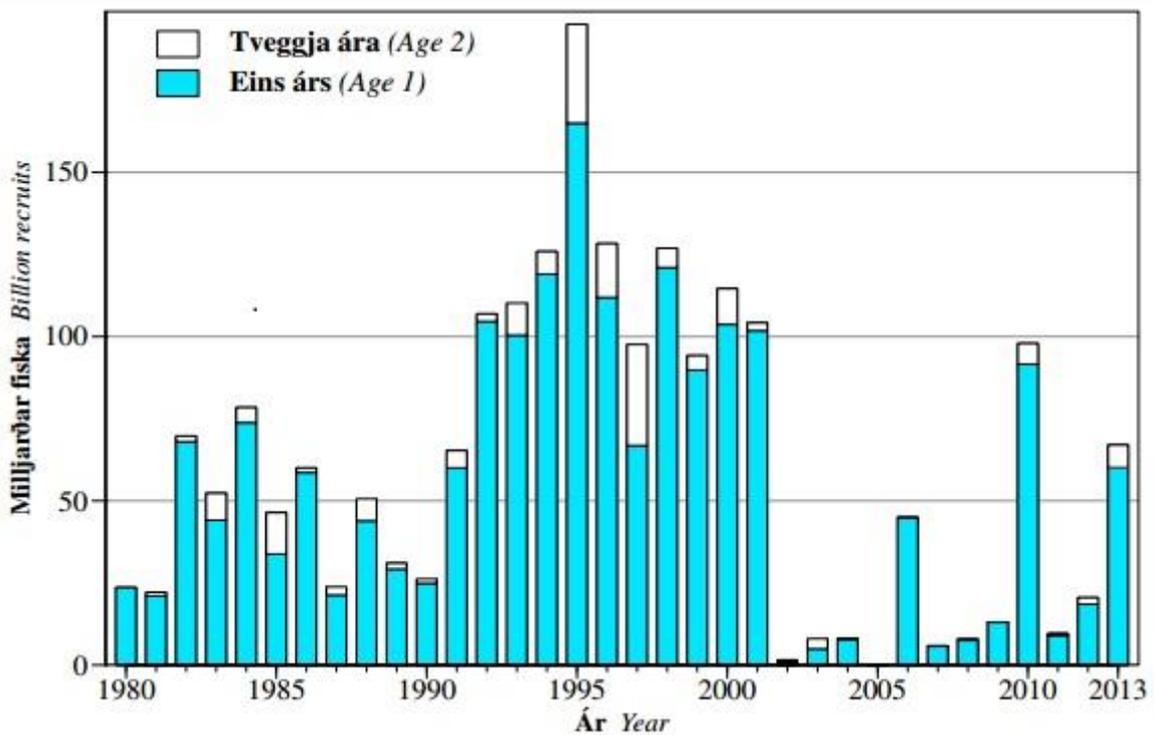
Fishery independent data

Several acoustic surveys aimed at different age groups of capelin have been conducted through the history of the fishery. The purpose of the surveys on young capelin is to locate and estimate the abundance of young capelin. They take place late October-December. The results from these surveys are used to predict a starting quota for the fishing season starting in the year after the surveys are conducted. The surveys aimed at the fishable part of the stock are conducted in the fishing season, most often in winter, but can take place in autumn.

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 9 of 18	CCM Code:



Capelin in Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W (Iceland–East Greenland–Jan Mayen area). Landings and assessment results (weights in thousand tonnes). Acoustic index of immature capelin at ages 1 and 2 (numbers in billions) from autumn surveys. From the ICES advice, May 2014 (R4).



Acoustically measured number of immature age 1 and 2 capelin in autumn 1980–2013. From the MRI advice, 2013/14 (R6).

R4 – R7

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>B2. Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures.</i>	
LOW	Scientific advice is not taken into account when designing conservation and management measures.
MEDIUM	Scientific advice is taken into account, when designing conservation and management measures. However some areas of discrepancy are identified that could have a significant impact in the long term conservation of the marine environment.
HIGH	Scientific advice is taken into account, when designing conservation and management measures, in a comprehensively manner.
<p><i>Determination: In general the best available scientific advice appears to be taken into account during the management of the capelin fishery. However, ICES has noted a lack of transparency with regards to the availability of information on the scientific basis for MRI advice during the fishing season (although the methodology and results are made available to ICES on a post-hoc basis). This, and a minor discrepancy between the ICES-recommended season and the season as applied, leads the assessment team to consider a rating of medium compliance to be appropriate.</i></p> <p>Fishery management decisions are informed by the annual stock assessments conducted by ICES and the MRI, and by in-year advice which is provided by the MRI and updated to reflect survey results. In general, this advice has been followed, to the extent that the fishery was closed entirely in 2008/09, when biomass was estimated to be too low to ensure SSB would be above 400,000t if a fishery took place. In addition to following MRI quota recommendations, a number of technical measures have been implemented in the fishery in line with scientific advice, including minimum mesh sizes and closed areas.</p> <p>Members of the ICES North-Western Working Group (NWWG) have expressed concern over the lack of transparency in the scientific process by which Icelandic (i.e. MRI) data are analysed and advice produced. In 2012 (R10), Jesper Boje, a Danish member of NWWG stated that, <i>“The present practice that Iceland is autonomously assessing and releasing the final TAC is not appropriate or up to date. Analyses, assumptions and the entire process is not transparent to other parties...The entire assessment and advisory process for both initial and final TAC setting should therefore be conducted by ICES in order to ensure the necessary transparency.”</i> This comment, in the opinion of the assessment team, accurately reflects the limited availability of survey results and in-season advice on the MRI website in relation to capelin. In-season MRI advice is summarised in the season summary published after the fishery has closed, and all data are made available for analysis by ICES after the TAC has been set. The MRI states that <i>“[In-season] surveys start early January and are completed during the fishery often only few weeks prior to the end of the fishery (the spawning time). This short period, that is, from the end of the surveys until the end of the fishery, makes it impractical to seek advice regarding the final TAC by institute like ICES.”</i></p> <p>The ICES NWWG has also advised that the fishing season should not begin until October, due to the period of rapid growth observed in the capelin stock during the plankton-rich period of June – late September. At present the assessment team is not aware of any plans to follow this advice, although landings before October have been very limited in recent years. The current season start and end dates are codified in a contract between Iceland, Greenland, Norway.</p>	
M	
R4 – R7	

C. THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>C1. The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.</i>		
LOW	The precautionary approach is not applied in the formulation of management plans.	
MEDIUM	The precautionary approach is applied, however not all uncertainties are taken into account.	
HIGH	The precautionary approach is applied, taking into account uncertainties relating to the dynamic of fish population (recruitment, mortality, growth and fecundity), and the impact of the fishing activities, such as discards and by-catch of non-target species as well as on the physical environment (Habitats).	
<p>Determination: In general the fishery appears to be managed in adherence with precautionary principles. Appropriately conservative TAC-setting processes are in place to reflect the level of uncertainty in biomass estimates.</p> <p>ICES has not evaluated the management plan, but states that the escapement target of 400,000t can be “treated as preliminarily precautionary”. There are no other reference points defined for the stock. A two-stage methodology is used for setting the annual TAC: a preliminary quota based on the results of an acoustic survey carried out before the fishing season begins, and a final quota based on a similar acoustic survey carried out later in the year. The objective of the process is to generate an estimate of the biomass which can be removed and still leave 400,000t of spawning stock at the end of the season. A core aspect of this estimate, in addition to the survey results, is to factor-in an estimate of natural mortality. ICES has recently expressed concern that the natural mortality estimates used in the TAC calculations may be too low, leading to higher TACs than sustainable. In response, the MRI applies a rule which means the initial TAC is set at 0t in any year where it would otherwise be set below 500,000t. This represents a precautionary approach as it does not use the lack of an accurate mortality estimate as an excuse for inaction, although future assessments should ensure that as new mortality estimates become available the MRI adopts them as appropriate. In recent years the fishery has generally remained closed until additional information becomes available during the fishing season, when appropriate the initial quota is set at a conservative level.</p> <p>R4 – R7</p>		H
D. MANAGEMENT MEASURES		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>D1. The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.</i>		
LOW	The level of fishing permitted is not set according to management advice given by research organisations.	
MEDIUM	The level of fishing permitted is higher than management advice given by research organisations. However, the difference is not considered to have a significant impact of the sustainability of the stock	
HIGH	The level of fishing permitted is set according to management advice given by research organisations.	
<p>Determination: The level of fishing in the capelin fishery is set in two stages, an initial quota for the July – December period and a final quota for January – March. In recent years both initial and final TACs have been set in line with the scientific advice, and final landings have been at or below the official TAC.</p> <p>The first step in the two-stage capelin management plan is to set a preliminary TAC, based on the results of an acoustic survey carried out to evaluate the immature 1-group and immature part of the 2-group in the autumn (October–November), almost a year before the fishing season starts. A recommendation for the initial TAC is published in the annual ICES advice in the February preceding the season start in July, with the objective that an SSB of at least 400,000t should be left at the end of the season the subsequent March. In recent years the fishery had remained closed for the first part of the season on the basis of the initial ICES (and MRI) advice. In 2011/12 and 2012/13 an initial quota was set on the basis of the MRI advice, which in turn was based on October survey results, although the actual landings prior to January were limited.</p>		H

The second step is to revise the TAC in early January based on the results of further surveys. Thus although confined in recent years almost entirely to January-March, the capelin fishery has been open every year except 2008/09 on the basis of this secondary advice. As evidence of the efficacy of the approach, the most recent MRI report states that the estimated SSB at the end of the 2011/12 season was 418,000t.

In most years, and every year since 2009, the TAC is set in line with the MRI advice, and where it has exceeded the advice historically the difference has been minimal (see table below). Final total landings have consistently been at or below the official quota. The final TAC for the 2013/14 season was set at 160,000t. Final landings were 142,000t, of which Faroese vessels landed approximately 8,000t.

MRI quota recommendations ('Rec. TAC'), final TAC, and landings data for Capelin 1984 – 2014. From the MRI advice, 2013/14 (R6).

TAFLA 2.24.1. LOÐNA. Endanlegar tillögur um aflahámark, ákvörðun stjórnvalda um aflamark og afli (þús. tonn). CAPELIN. TAC recommended by the Marine Research Institute, national TAC, and landings (thous. tonnes).					
Vertiðir	Tillaga	Aflamark	Afli	Afli	Afli
Seasons	Rec. TAC	TAC	Íslendinga Landings (Iceland)	annarra Landings (others)	Total landings
1984/85	920	920	774	123	897
1985/86	1 280	1 280	987	325	1 312
1986/87	1 290	1 290	1 053	380	1 333
1987/88	1 115	1 115	912	204	1 116
1988/89	1 065	1 065	921	116	1 037
1989/90	900	900	666	142	808
1990/91	250	312	284	27	311
1991/92	740	740	635	47	682
1992/93	900	900	655	95	793
1993/94	1 250	1 250	1 001	178	1 179
1994/95	850	850	750	114	864
1995/96	1 150	1 150	883	46	929
1996/97	1 600	1 600	1 249	322	1 571
1997/98	1 265	1 265	940	260	1 245
1998/99	1 200	1 200	899	201	1 100
1999/00	1 000	1 000	844	90	934
2000/01	1 110	1 110	894	177	1 071
2001/02	1 300	1 300	1 051	198	1 249
2002/03	1 000	1 000	765	223	988
2003/04	875	875	575	167	742
2004/05	985	985	640	144	784
2005/06	215	238	193	45	238
2006/07	370	385	307	70	377
2007/08	207	207	149	54	203
2008/09	0	15	15	0	15
2009/10	150	150	111	40	151
2010/11	390	390	322	68	390
2011/12	765	765	585	162	747
2012/13	570	570	464	87	551
2013/14	160	160	111	31	142

Year	Winter season					Summer and autumn season						
	Iceland	Nor-way	Faroes	Green-land	Season total	Iceland	Nor-way	Faroes	Green-land	EU	Season total	Total
1998	457.0	-	14.7	9.6	481.3	290.8	72.9	26.9	8.0	41.9	440.5	921.8
1999	607.8	14.8	13.8	22.5	658.9	83.0	11.4	6.0	2.0	-	102.4	761.3
2000	761.4	14.9	32.0	22.0	830.3	126.5	80.1	30.0	7.5	21.0	265.1	1,095.4
2001	767.2	-	10.0	29.0	806.2	150.0	106.0	12.0	9.0	17.0	294.0	1,061.2
2002	901.0	-	28.0	26.0	955.0	180.0	118.7	-	13.0	28.0	339.7	1,294.7
2003	585.0	-	40.0	23.0	648.0	96.5	78.0	3.5	2.5	18.0	198.5	846.5
2004	478.8	15.8	30.8	17.5	542.9	46.0	34.0	-	12.0	-	92.0	634.9
2005	594.1	69.0	19.0	10.0	692.0	9.0	-	-	-	-	9.0	701.1
2006	193.0	8.0	30.0	7.0	238.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	238.0
2007	307.0	38.0	19.0	12.8	376.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	376.8
2008	149.0	37.6	10.1	6.7	203.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	203.4
2009	15.1	-	-	-	15.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.1
2010	110.6	28.3	7.7	4.7	150.7	5.4	-	-	-	-	5.4	156.1
2011	321.8	30.8	19.5	13.1	385.2	8.4	58.5	-	5.2	-	72.1	457.3
2012	576.2	46.2	29.7	22.3	674.4	9	-	-	1	-	10.0	684.4
2013	454.0	40.0	30.0	17.0	541.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	541.0
2014	111.4	6.2	8.0	16.1	141.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*preliminary, provided by working group members.

Capelin landings by country and season, 1998 – 2014. From the NWWG report 2014 (R5).

R4 – R7

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 14 of 18	CCM Code:
------------	-------------	---------------	-----------

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>D2. Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.</i>	
LOW	Mechanisms to allow for recovery of the stock to sustainable levels are not established.
MEDIUM	Mechanisms to allow for recovery of the stock to sustainable levels are somehow established. However there is no evidence of the efficiency of the methods used.
HIGH	Mechanisms are established to reduce capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels and there are evidences of recovery.

Determination: The primary mechanism restricting fishing effort is the TAC. Faroese landings represent a small component of total international landings, and there is no indication that that there is excess Faroese fishing capacity applied to the stock.

Since 1997, Faroese fisheries policy has limited the size of the fishing fleet (in terms of number of vessels) to the 1996 level, although increasing capacity of individual vessels has meant that the effective fleet size has increased. However, fishing effort across the entire capelin stock is primarily limited by annual quotas, which are set as described in sections A3, B1 and D1. The adherence by Faroese vessels to this quota, along with their comparatively small quantities of fishery removals, indicates strongly that there is not an excess quantity of Faroese fishing capacity applied to the capelin stock.

R4 – R7

H

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>D3. Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment.</i>	
LOW	There are no management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment.
MEDIUM	There are management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. However it is not science based.
HIGH	There are management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. Measures are based on scientific information.

Determination: Bycatch of both PET and commercial species is considered limited, and when it does occur bycatch is landed and recorded by scientific and government officials. However, the current management plan does not include consideration of predation by cod, which is estimated to be significant, in calculation of escapement-strategy-based TACs. For this reason the assessment team considers a medium compliance rating appropriate.

Faroese vessels fishing in Icelandic waters in the most recent capelin season were subject to the “*Regulation on capelin fishing of Greenlandic and Faroese Vessels in Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone during the 2013/2014 Capelin Fishing Season*”. This regulation requires foreign vessels to adhere to Icelandic fishery legislations, the most relevant of which are described in the sections below.

Non-target species / bycatch

A number of species of sharks and skates are known to be caught as a by-catch in Icelandic waters, but information on amount of the catches is incomplete, and the status of these species is not known. Information on status and trends of non-commercial species are collected in extensive bottom trawl surveys conducted in early spring and autumn.

To prevent the removal of juvenile and spawning fish Iceland implements various technical measures such as mesh size regulation, real-time, temporary and permanent area closures. ICES states that “*In the [Icelandic] pelagic fisheries catch other than the targeted species is considered rare.*” Occasionally juveniles of other species are caught, but when this occurs in significant numbers (20% or more of the catch by weight),

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temporary closures are implemented.

PET species

Icelandic legislation (557/2007) states that all fishing vessels must keep a Fishery Log-book. Birds and Mammals that are caught in Icelandic fishing gear are to be reported and recorded in the Fishery Log-book. This Fishery Log-book is returned to the Directory of Fisheries once a month. These reports are then sent onto the MRI where the information is used in their scientific work.

The seabird community in Icelandic waters is composed of relatively few but mostly abundant species, accounting for roughly 1/4 of total number and biomass of seabirds within the whole ICES. Auks and petrels are the most important groups, comprising almost 3/5 and 1/4 of the total abundance and biomass in the area, respectively.

Ecosystem considerations

ICES states that capelin plays a key role in the marine ecosystem in this area and is by far the most important pelagic fish stock in Icelandic waters. Capelin are the main single item in the diet of Icelandic cod (Mean weight at age of Icelandic cod have been shown to correlate well with the size of the capelin stock, and it is estimated that capelin may be 40% of the total food intake for cod), are prey to several species of marine mammals and seabirds, and are also important as food for several other commercial fish species. It is not clear to what extent the ecosystem impacts of capelin removals are factored into scientific advice or management decisions, although the current Icelandic management plan does not directly consider predation of capelin by cod in its escapement strategy. Failure to recognise this in the management plan could potentially lead to higher than desired levels of total mortality

Physical environment

Direct effects on habitat and seafloor are typically minimal for pelagic gears, although occasional contact is known to occur and, in these cases, can potentially cause damage to fragile ecosystems (e.g. corals).

R4 – R7

E. IMPLEMENTATION

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

E1. There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.

LOW	A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations do not efficiently exist.
MEDIUM	A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations do exist but do not work efficiently.
HIGH	A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations exists and is proven to be efficient.

Determination: A framework of sanctions for violations is in place and appears to be effective.

The Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994 includes provisions for penalties to be applied in the event of transgression. These include fines, confiscation and the withdrawal of fishing licences. Fines can be applied to violation of any of the major regulations including fishing days/quotas, capacity, closed areas, minimum fish size, the ban on discards and others. Confiscation only follows violations of gear regulations, catch quotas, or bycatch regulations. Historically, confiscation of all catch and gear in cases of discarding or fishing in closed areas was mandatory, although this may have been revised since the initial version of the Act. Although the Faroese Fisheries Inspection does utilise warnings and can implement on-the-spot fines or confiscations with the vessel owner’s consent, in practice reports are generally filed with the police and prosecutions occur through the court system. The Fisheries Inspection is permitted to withdraw fishing licenses temporarily while

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such proceedings are underway.	
R8, R9	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>E2. A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.</i>	
LOW	A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is not established.
MEDIUM	A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is established but do not work efficiently.
HIGH	A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is established and work efficiently.
<i>Determination: A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is in place and appears to function effectively.</i>	
<p>The harvesting licence is an operating licence issued to an individual vessel. The fishing licence specifies the details of fishing activities (catch & area limitations and gear requirements) in which the vessel is permitted to participate, as well as outlining requirements for reporting of catch data and information on landings or transhipments. Additionally, all vessels larger than 15 GT must maintain a daily log of their activities in an authorised catch logbook which is issued for this purpose, recording data for each set or haul, and they must also have satellite vessel monitoring systems (VMS) in both national and international waters.</p> <p>The Faroese Fisheries Inspection is responsible for monitoring and inspecting catches and landings of individual vessels and the weighing-in of catches. This includes both onboard inspection, monitoring of transhipments and inspection of landings in port. Faroese inspection and rescue vessels, in cooperation with Danish naval patrol vessels, provide for a constant patrol presence in Faroese waters. They also contribute to fisheries inspection in international waters of the North Atlantic at regular intervals in collaboration with the inspection services of other nations in the region.</p> <p>When fishing Icelandic zone, the Regulation on Capelin Fishing of Greenlandic and Faroese Vessels in Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone during the 2013/2014 Capelin Fishing Season . This regulation is renewed annually to identify the total number of Faroese vessels allowed to fish in Icelandic waters, the total catch (8,000 tonnes in this season) and their reporting, inspection and fishing requirements when entering, landing and departing from Icelandic zone. Icelandic conservation measures, such as closed areas, gear restrictions are transposed at the same time.</p> <p>Internationally, the NEAFC has comprehensive port state measures to tackle IUU fishing under the NEAFC Control Scheme, monitoring IUU activity in the zones of Contracting Parties, as well as in international waters. Vessels listed on the NEAFC IUU list ("blacklist") are not permitted to call at ports, receive services and supplies or change crew members in any port of the member countries of NEAFC.</p> <p>NEAFC and NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization) have agreed to recognize and implement each other's blacklists, creating a trans-North Atlantic system for monitoring and outlawing IUU-listed vessels, with the aim of achieving a global network of cooperation with other regional fisheries management organisations around the world.</p>	
R8, R9, R11	

7. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 17 of 18	CCM Code:



8. REFERENCES

R1 – Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries: <http://www.fisk.fo/>

R2 – Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Natural Resources; “Faroe Islands Fisheries and Aquaculture: Responsible Management for a Sustainable Future”:
http://www.mfa.fo/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=%2fFiles%2fFiler%2ffylgiskjoel+til+tidndi%2ffinal_070408.pdf

R3 – Myfish report on the Faroe Islands’ fisheries governance system: Objectives setting and implementation:
http://myfishproject.eu/images/MYFISH/Myfish_Faroe%20Islands%20Case%20Study.pdf

R4 – ICES advice, Capelin in Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W, May 2014:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/cap-icel.pdf>

R5 – ICES NWWG report 2014:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2014/NWWG/01%20NWWG%20Report%202014.pdf>

R6 – ICES NWWG stock annex 2013 (2014 annex does not include capelin):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2013/NWWG/Annex%2002%20Stock%20Annexes.pdf>

R7 – MRI caplin advice, 2014: <http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2014/english/24-capelin-14.pdf>

R8 – Gezelius, S.G. & Raakjær, J. Making Fisheries Management Work: Implementation of Policies for Sustainable Fishing. Springer, 2008.

R9 – Faroese Fisheries Inspection: <http://www.fve.fo/>

R10 – Note on the Capelin in East Greenland, Jan Mayen and Iceland, J. Boje, 2012:
<http://www.ldrac.eu/upload/archivo-Documento-Capelan-50bf1a5e4ab20.pdf>

R11- REGULATION on Capelin Fishing of Greenlandic and Faroese Vessels in Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone during the 2013/2014 Capelin Fishing Season

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