



**IFFO RS Limited**

*London 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

**IFFO RS fishery assessment on Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) from Northeast Atlantic (ICES subdivisions I-IX, XII & XIV)**

Dear IFFO RS certificate holder,

The IFFO RS fishery assessment made on the Blue whiting fishery in 2015 indicated failures of compliance and adherence to the conditions given by the IFFO RS Standard in previous years, including unilateral quotas that were above the recommended Total Allowable Catch. This unilateral management action on international stocks has the potential to seriously undermine efforts towards sustainable management.

Therefore, according to the current IFFO RS Standard (Version 1.6) fishery assessment criteria, the Certification Body SAI Global concluded that the Blue whiting fishery for the Northeast Atlantic should not be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. However, some of the Blue whiting fisheries have recently been granted the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification as sustainable if similar conditions as the ones demanded by, but not complied with, for IFFO RS were followed.

The IFFO RS Governing Board, during their meeting held in London on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, discussed the status of this fishery in the light of the decision by the Certification Body SAI Global not to renew the approval status of the Blue whiting. The IFFO RS Governance Board have decided to stand by the decision of the IFFO RS's Certification Body not to grant approval, despite the MSC certification of some Blue whiting fisheries. Blue Whiting will therefore be removed from the list of approved raw material for the production of IFFO RS fishmeal and fish oil. Therefore, as from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 all producers that utilise Blue whiting as raw material for the production of marine ingredients must keep any finished product produced completely separate from any marine ingredient that are manufactured from a complaint IFFO RS raw material. If your operation does not have this capability to keep this production separate you must contact your certification body to discuss your situation and agree with them the most appropriate course of action.

All marine ingredients produced from Blue whiting before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2016 will be considered as IFFO RS compliant.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Jackson  
Chairman of Governing Board