

# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

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



|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>FISHERY By-Product:</b> | <b>Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)</b>   |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>           | <b>Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (UK &amp; Ireland)</b> |
| <b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>     | <b>February 2015</b>   |
| <b>ASSESSOR:</b>           | <b>Sam Peacock</b>   |

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|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Form No: 9a | Report Ref: | Page 1 of 5 | CCM Code: |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|

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| 1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME                    |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| Name:   |                |   |
| Address:  |                |   |
| Country: UK & Ireland   | Zip:           |   |
| Tel. No.  | Fax. No.       |   |
| Email address:  | Applicant Code |   |
| Key Contact: :  | Title:         |   |
| Certification Body Details  |                |   |
| Name of Certification Body:   |                |   |
| Assessor Name   | Peer Reviewer  | Initial/Surveillance/<br>Re-certification |
| Sam Peacock   | Deirdre Hoare  | Surveillance                              |
| 1. Scope of Assessment  |                |   |
| IFFO RS By-Product surveillance   |                |   |
| 2. Fishery By-Product   |                |   |
| Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )   |                |   |
| 3. Fishery By-Product Location  |                |   |
| Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (UK & Ireland) |                |   |
| 4. Fishery Method   |                |   |
| Trawl, gillnet, longline, and mixed gears                                       |                |   |
| 5. Outcome of Assessment  |                |   |
| Maintain byproduct approval   |                |   |

## 2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

## 3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

As at the time of the 2014 re-assessment, there is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the hake stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends maintaining the approval of this byproduct 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> |   |
| <b>LOW</b>   | An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.   |
| <b>MEDIUM</b>  | 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. |
| <b>HIGH</b>  | 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. ICES has revised the reference points since the 2014 re-assessment, but the stock is several times larger than  $B_{pa}$  which leads the assessment team to consider the management approach to remain effective.**

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 hake in five regions within EU waters. The regions and their associated TACs for 2015 are as follows:

- IIIa; EU waters of Subdivisions 22-32: 2,738t
- EU waters of IIa and IV: 3,190t
- VI and VII, EU waters of Vb, international waters of XII and XIV: 50,944t
- VIIIa,b,d,e: 33,977t
- VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: 13,826t

These management units do not match the area for which ICES advice is given. A recovery plan for hake was agreed in 2004, and although it uses reference points which ICES no longer considers appropriate, this is because biomass reference points have been revised down and fishing mortality up. Although there is some evidence that the management regime does not precisely match the advice, SSB has substantially improved in

recent years and is currently around 150,000t ( $B_{pa} = 46,200t$ ).

There is also a closed season from 1 May to 31 May, during which fishing for hake in the Porcupine Bank is prohibited.

R1 – R8

**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 the stock does not exist   |
| <b>MEDIUM</b> | Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty. |
| <b>HIGH</b>   | 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 stock exists and is generally considered sufficient to allow the informed management of the fishery.**

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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 produces annual advice for hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d. The stock assessment is based on commercial landings and four fishery-independent survey indices. ICES states that the assessment suffers from a shortage of tuning data and the total quantity of discards is not certain. MSY-based and precautionary-approach-based reference points have been calculated, including  $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$ ,  $F_{MSY}$ ,  $B_{lim}$  and  $B_{pa}$ .

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 guidance.*

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>LOW</b>    | The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.   |
| <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. 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. |
| <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.  |

**Determination: Hake has not been categorised by the IUCN; however several fisheries have been approved against the MSC standard and so a high compliance rating is appropriate.**

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The IUCN has not categorised *Merluccius merluccius*, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. As at the time of the 2014 re-assessment, several hake fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic remain approved against the MSC standard.

R9, R10

## 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): <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>
- R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7 – ICES advice, Hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI, and VII, and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (Northern stock), June 2014: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/hke-nrth.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](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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