

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Atlantic Mackerel (Scomber scombrus)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)
DATE OF REPORT:	November 2015
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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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	IFFO 144
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Giles Bartlett/ Sam Dignan	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
1. Scope of Assessment		By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product		
2. Fishery By-Product		Atlantic Mackerel (Scomber scombrus)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Pelagic trawl & purse seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

The Northeast Atlantic mackerel stock is subject to management and administrative frameworks at the Faroese national and international levels. A new management plan is being prepared and interim objectives and timelines have been considered appropriate by ICES until the new management strategy is in place. There is sufficient scientific research conducted to enable the informed management of the fishery, and the species is not considered at risk by the IUCN.

An MSC certification report is currently being peer reviewed (November 2015).

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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>	
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: A legal and administrative framework is in place for the management of Faroese fisheries. A new international management plan is being prepared, interim objectives and timelines have been considered appropriate by ICES until the new management strategy is in place.

Faroes fishery management: 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 licenses, 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”. The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. 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. Enforcement is carried out by Faroese Inspection and rescue vessels, in cooperation with Danish naval patrol vessels, provide for a constant patrol presence in Faroese waters.

Species-specific management: Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic is managed as a single stock. A management plan was agreed by Norway, Faroe Islands, and the EU in October 2008. A new long-term management strategy for the stock of mackerel in the North East Atlantic is being prepared. ICES should therefore give its advice based on the following objectives and timelines approach until a new management strategy is in place:

1. The Parties agree to limit their fishing on the basis of a TAC corresponding to a fishing mortality rate within the range of fishing mortalities defined by ICES as being consistent with fishing at maximum sustainable yield, provided that the SSB at the end of the TAC year is forecast to be above the value of Btrigger.
2. Where the SSB is forecast to be below Btrigger, but above Blim, the Parties agree to reduce the upper and lower bounds of the range of fishing mortality referred to in paragraph 1 by the proportion of SSB at the start of the TAC year to Btrigger.
3. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of SSB greater than Blim. Where the SSB at the start of the TAC year is estimated to be below Blim the TAC shall be set at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate consistent with the objective of rebuilding the SSB to above Blim the following year. The Parties may also take additional management measures that are deemed necessary in order to achieve this objective.

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ICES currently defines the stock as 'harvested sustainably', and estimates SSB to be well above both limit and target reference points. For 2014 TAC 7 for Mackerel in Subareas I–VII and XIV and Divisions VIIIa–e and IXa was 1396,000t with official catch of 1393,000t.

R1 - 3

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

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 in support of the management of the stock exists, and is considered by ICES to be sufficient to enable the informed management of the stock.

ICES provides scientific advice and conducts stock assessment activities for the Atlantic mackerel fishery. Stock assessments are based on catch data, tagging data and three survey indices. Catch data, tagging data (1980–2005 recapture year), and three survey indices: SSB index from the triennial egg survey (1992–2013), abundance indices from the IBTS survey (combined Q1 and Q4; age 0, 1998–2014), and from the IESSNS survey (ages 6–11, 2007, 2010–2015). Catches prior to 2000 are given a very low weight in the assessment. Discard data used in the assessments are considered to be underestimates. Fishing mortality in 2014 is estimated to have been 0.34, which is above Fpa (0.25) but below Flim (0.36). The range of estimates for SSB all place it considerably above MSY Btrigger and Bpa (both 3 million t).

R1, R3

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.

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.

Determination: The IUCN red list does not categorise mackerel as at risk of over-exploitation.

The IUCN red list categorises mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) as a species of Least Concern.

R4

5. REFERENCES

R 1- ICES advice 2015 Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in Subareas I–VII and XIV and Divisions VIIIa–e and IXa (Northeast Atlantic)

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/mac-nea.pdf>

R 2- EU, Norway, and the Faroe Islands request to ICES on the management of mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in the Northeast Atlantic

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/Special_Requests/EU_FI_Norway_mackerel_management_plan.pdf

R 3- ICES WGWIDE REPORT 2015

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2015/WGWIDE/01%20WGWIDE%20Report.pdf>

R4 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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