

FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



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R1

FISHERY:	Beaked redfish/Deep sea redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>)
LOCATION:	ICES Division Va (Iceland Grounds)
DATE OF REPORT:	November 2016
ASSESSOR:	Sam Dignan

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Iceland		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-assessment
Sam Dignan	Deirdre Hoare	1	Surveillance 2
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment		By-product re-assessment – IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply (Issue 1)	
2. Fishery		Beaked redfish/Deep sea redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		ICES Division Va (Iceland Grounds)	
4. Fishery Method		Trawl	
5. Outcome of Assessment		Maintain approval of by-product	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework in place in Iceland which is applied specifically to the beaked redfish stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but significant improvements could be made. The assessment team recommends approving this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME	
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>A. 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 the efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is somewhat established, but there is evidence of it not being efficient to ensure the conservation of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.
<p><i>Determination: There is an effective fishery management framework in place in Iceland, which is applied specifically to the by-product species under assessment. However the Russian Federation’s setting of unilateral quotas for pelagic redfish has the potential to undermine the conservation of the stock.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework: Modern Icelandic fisheries management is based on the Fisheries Management Act of 1990, and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. The objectives of the Fisheries Management Act are to promote the conservation and efficient utilisation of the marine resources and thus to ensure stable employment and economic viability of fishing communities. In other words, the aim is to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries while emphasising the economic benefits of the fisheries sector. The fisheries management system in Iceland is primarily based on extensive research on the fish stocks and the marine ecosystem, decisions made on the conduct of fisheries and allowable catches on the basis of scientific advice, and effective monitoring and enforcement of the fisheries and the total catch. Research is carried out within Iceland by the Marine Research Institute and internationally by ICES. These are the main pillars of the Icelandic fisheries management intended to ensure responsible fisheries and the sustainability of the ocean’s natural resources. Management of those stocks subject to international prosecution is facilitated by Iceland’s membership of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).</p> <p>Species-specific management: Three annual quotas are set for beaked redfish in Icelandic waters. In recent years quotas have been set in line with MRI advice.</p> <p>Demersal deep sea redfish – Icelandic TAC was set at 10,000 t for 2015/2016 fishing and total catches were approx. 9,580 t. For the 2016/2017 fishing season MRI recommended a TAC of 12,900 t for this stock.</p> <p>Deep pelagic redfish – ICES advised that catches in 2015 and 2016 should be <10,000 t. The 2015 Icelandic TAC was set at 2,900 t and overall Icelandic catches totalled 2,100 t. Based on ICES advice North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) decided on an overall TAC of 8,500 t for 2016 and MRI recommended a TAC of 2,500 t for 2016. In September 2016, ICES advised that when the MSY approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>Shallow pelagic redfish – Annual quotas for have not been recommended since at least 2011 and Icelandic catches have been low <300 t in all years. In September 2016, ICES advised that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>In the case of shallow and deep pelagic redfish, the Russian Federation has set unilateral quotas since 2011 that consider both shallow and deep pelagic redfish as a single stock. As a result overall catches of deep pelagic redfish have significantly exceeded recommended TACs in all years since 2011.</p>	
R2 – R6	

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B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>	
LOW	Research to support the conservation and management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the conservation and 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 for the provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.
<p>Determination: Management of the Icelandic beaked redfish fishery is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment activities.</p> <p>Fisheries management in Icelandic waters is supported nationally by the Marine Research Institute (MRI). The MRI carries out ongoing research on the status and productivity of commercial stocks, and long-term research on the marine environment and the ecosystem around Iceland. The results of this research are the foundations on which the majority of Icelandic fishery management decisions are made. Additional and international scientific advice is provided 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. Annual management advice is provided by both the MRI and ICES.</p> <p>Division 5a and Subarea 14 (Icelandic slope stock) No assessment is carried out and the stock is considered data-limited. Advice is provided on the basis the precautionary approach. No reference points are defined.</p> <p>Subareas 5, 7, and 14 and NAFO Subareas 1 and 2 (Deep pelagic stock >500 m) Advice is based on stock development from biennial international redfish survey, conducted in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters since 1999. Indices from the survey suggest a rapid decline in the stock from 2001 – 2015. In 2016 ICES for the first time conducted an age – length-based assessment model which gives relative estimates of abundance and exploitation rates for this stock. Reference points are defined.</p> <p>Subareas 5, 7, and 14 and NAFO Subareas 1 and 2 (Shallow pelagic stock <500 m) A qualitative assessment is conducted using commercial catch data, several commercial indices, and one survey index. No reference points are defined. ICES reports that several data improvements are needed, including better catch and landings data, better survey information, and a recruitment index.</p> <p>Redfish species are separated on board or at landing in the Icelandic fisheries.</p> <p>R2 – R7</p>	

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.	
<p>Determination: The IUCN has categorised <i>Sebastes mentella</i> as a species of least concern; however, the latest assessments show that elements of <i>Sebastes mentella</i> stock-complex in Icelandic waters could be at risk of over-exploitation. A medium compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Sebastes mentella</i> as a species of least concern; however, the latest assessments show that elements of <i>Sebastes mentella</i> stock-complex in Icelandic waters could be at risk of over-exploitation. A medium compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>R4 – R9</p>		M

5. REFERENCES

- R1 – Image of beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*): <http://www.fisheries.is/main-species/redfishes/deepsea-and-oceanic-redfish/>
- R2 – Icelandic fisheries management: <http://www.fisheries.is/management/fisheries-management/>
- R3 – Marine Research Institute: http://www.hafro.is/undir_eng.php?ID=1&REF=1
- R4 – ICES advice, Beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subarea 14 and Division 5a (Icelandic slope stock) (East of Greenland, Iceland grounds): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/smn-con.pdf>
- R5 – ICES advice, Beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subareas 5, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, north of Azores, east of Greenland) and NAFO subareas 1 and 2 (shallow pelagic stock > 500 m): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/smn-sp.pdf>
- R6 – ICES advice, Beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subareas 5, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, north of Azores, east of Greenland) and NAFO subareas 1 and 2 (deep pelagic stock < 500 m): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/smn-dp.pdf>
- R7 – MRI 2016, State of Marine Stocks in Icelandic Waters 2015/2016 Prospects for the Quota Year 2016/2017 (In Icelandic and English)(<http://www.hafro.is/undir.php?ID=26&REF=4>):
 Djúpkarfi – Demersal Beaked Redfish: http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2016/djupkarfi_2016.pdf
 Úthafskarfi, Efri Stofn – Shallow Pelagic Redfish: http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2016/uthafskarfiefri_2016.pdf
 Úthafskarfi, Neðri Stofn – Deep Pelagic Redfish: http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2016/uthafskarfinedri_2016.pdf
- R8 – IUCN redlist – beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/154816/0>
- R9 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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