

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (UK & Ireland)
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2016
ASSESSOR:	Giles Bartlett

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: 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/ Re-certification
Giles Bartlett	Deirdre Hoare	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2015		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Northeast Atlantic		
4. Fishery Method		
Demersal trawls, seines, beam and otter trawls		
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 many cod stocks 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>	
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: 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. Although the effectiveness of management efforts varies between stocks, the largest stocks (Icelandic and Northeast Arctic) are in good shape compared to reference points. On balance the assessment team considers it appropriate to maintain a high compliance rating.

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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. In 2016, cod became one of the demersal quota species operating within the new regulation, which requires all catches of this species to be accounted for, retained and landed. 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:

Cod continues to be managed as a large number of distinct stocks in EU waters, each of which is subject to an annual TAC and a variety of other management measures. The specific nature of management mechanisms in place and the nature (and effectiveness) of management plans varies between management units. The stocks and their 2015 quotas are as follows:

- Skagerrak: 4,807t
- Kattegat: 370t
- IV, EU waters of IIa, IIIa excluding Skagerrak and Kattegat: 33,651t
- Norwegian waters south of 62°N: 382t

- VIb, Vb west of 12°00'W, XII, XIV: 74t
- VIa, Vb east of 12°00'W: 0t (analytical TAC)
- VIIa: 146t
- VIIb,c,e-k, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: 4,565t
- VIId 1,961t
- Norwegian waters of I and II: 20,524t
- Greenland waters of NAFO 1 and XIV: 2,000t
- I and IIb: 33,176t
- Faroese waters of Vb (combined TAC with haddock): 960t

These management stocks are not identical to the ICES advice areas (see section B). Additionally, the quota for the Icelandic cod stock, which is set by the Icelandic government, was 215,000t in 2014. The quota for Northeast Arctic cod, set according to an agreement between Norway and Russia, was set at 993,000t in 2014.

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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: Stock-specific research is carried out in support of fishery management, and although the level of understanding varies considerably between stocks, on balance the maintaining of a high compliance rating is appropriate.

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 assesses and provides management advice for 14 cod stocks in the Northeast Atlantic. The level of understanding varies between stocks, but the majority are assessed annually and are subject to both fishery dependent and fishery independent research. Landings data are collected for all stocks. The 14 stock units are as follows:

- Divisions VIIe-k (Celtic Sea cod) – Assessment is based on commercial catches, one combined survey index and one commercial index. MSY- and PA-based reference points have been defined.
- Division IIIa East (Kattegat) – Assessed annually based on commercial catches and four survey indices.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea) – Assessed biennially using commercial landings and nine survey indices. MSY- and PA-based reference points have been defined.
- Division VIb (Rockall) – Data limited. Biennial advice, but insufficient data to conduct an assessment.
- Division VIa (West of Scotland) – Assessed using commercial catches and one survey index. Reference points have been calculated based on MSY and PA.

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- Subdivisions 25-32 (Eastern Baltic Sea) – Data limited. Survey trend assessment based on catch data and length-based survey indices. No quantitative reference points defined.
- Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic Sea) – Assessment is based on commercial catches, recreational catch, one commercial index and maturity data from surveys. MSY- and PA-based reference points have been defined.
- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic cod) – Assessment is based on commercial catches, three survey indices and one commercial index. Reference points have been calculated based on MSY, PA and the joint Norwegian-Russian management plan.
- Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters cod) – Survey-trend-based assessment is produced using catch-at-age data and an acoustic survey, commercial catches and one survey index.
- Division Va (Icelandic cod) – Assessed using a forward-based statistical catch-at-age model, from landings-at-age data and survey indices. Reference points have been calculated based on MSY, PA and the joint Norwegian-Russian management plan.
- Inshore cod in NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod) – Categorised as data limited, assessment is based on commercial catches and one survey index. No reference points.
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions VIId (Eastern Channel) and IIIa West (Skagerrak) – Annual assessment based on commercial catches and one survey index. MSY- and PA-based reference points have been defined.
- Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank) – Assessed whenever new survey results become available (closed since 2009).
- Subdivision Vb1 (Faroe Plateau) – Assessed using commercial catches and two survey indices. MSY- and PA-based reference points have been defined.

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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: Cod remains categorised by the IUCN as ‘vulnerable’; however as a large number of fisheries have been certified against the MSC standard, a medium compliance rating remains appropriate.

The IUCN has categorised *Gadus morhua* as vulnerable. Approximately twelve cod fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic have been certified against the MSC standard.

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5. REFERENCES

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R1 – Gadus morhua photo by Henk Heessen

<http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=4487&pic=2367>

R2 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm

R3 – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm

R4 – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm

R5 – UK landing obligation guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/demersal-landing-obligation-guidance/demersal-landing-obligation-guidance>

R6 – UK North sea landing obligation guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-sea-landing-obligation-guidance/north-sea-landing-obligation-guidance>

R7 – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>

R8– Marine Management Organisation (About): <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

R9 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R10 – ICES advice, cod, 2015:

- Divisions VIIe-k (Celtic Sea cod) – http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2015/WGNSS/K/cod-347d_SA.pdf
- Divisions VIIe-k (North Sea cod) – <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/cod-7e-k.pdf>
- Division IIIa East (Kattegat) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-kat.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea) <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/cod-iris.pdf>
- Division VIb (Rockall) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-rock.pdf>
- Division Via (West of Scotland) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-scow.pdf>
- Subdivisions 25-32 (Eastern Baltic Sea) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-arct.pdf>
- Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic Sea) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-2224.pdf>

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- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic cod) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-arct.pdf>
- Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters cod) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-coas.pdf>
- Division Va (Icelandic cod) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-iceg.pdf>
- Inshore cod in NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-ingr.pdf>
- Subarea IV and Divisions VIId and IIIa West (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Skagerrak) <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-347d.pdf>
- Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-farb.pdf>
- Subdivision Vb1 (Faroe Plateau) - <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-farp.pdf>
- R11 – EU fishing quotas 2016: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1457430103171&uri=CELEX:32016R0072>
- R12 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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