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# FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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

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<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Whiting (<i>Merlagius merlangus</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>EU waters</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>19/12/12</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Quayside Business Centre, 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: Copalis		
Address:		
Country: France	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Whiting ( <i>Merlagius merlangus</i> )
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		EU waters
4. Fishery Method		
		Primarily otter trawls but also other trawls and as bycatch in other fisheries.
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain approval

## 2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

## 3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust management framework in place and applied to European whiting fisheries. However, there some evidence that management measures do not always follow scientific advice, which itself could be significantly improved by increased population data. For these reasons the assessment team recommend these byproducts remain approved with a medium compliance rating.

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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>		
<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.	
<p><b><i>Determination: An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and applied to European whiting stocks, but there is significant room for improvement in the long-term species-specific management. There have been no significant changes since the initial assessment.</i></b></p> <p><b>Fishery management framework (Europe):</b></p> <p>France is a member of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implements 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.</p> <p>With regard to resource management, the CFP regulations comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A traditional management tool based on TACs and quotas;</li> <li>• Technical measures relating to gear or catch;</li> <li>• Effort-related management, based on vessel engine power and the number of days at sea.</li> </ul> <p>The CFP also provides for the introduction of measures to rebuild, over a period of several years, stocks that are threatened in terms of sustainable harvesting, and for recourse to effort-related management rules to supplement TACs and quotas.</p> <p><b>Fishery management framework (France):</b></p> <p>The French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche, de la Ruralité et de l'Aménagement du territoire ) is responsible for marine fisheries and aquaculture throughout the country. This ranges from quota negotiations to enforcement, which is carried out by the French navy, maritime affairs, customs, and other French government agencies.</p> <p><b>Management of whiting:</b></p> <p>Annual TACs are set for European whiting fisheries. TACs appear to exceed ICES advice for some stocks, although official landings are often closer to the ICES recommendations. There are no management plans in place for any European whiting stocks, with the exception of the North Sea and Eastern Channel stock. Here an interim plan has been agreed by the EU and Norway, and ICES is in the process of analysing its sustainability.</p> <p>Whiting management could be improved for all European stocks, although there is currently no evidence that poor management is having a significant detrimental effect on any fisheries.</p> <p>(R1 – R3)</p>		<b>M</b>

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
<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.	
<p><b>Determination:</b> <i>Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty. There have been no significant changes since the initial assessment.</i></p> <p><b>ICES advice:</b></p> <p>The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) provides annual advice on quotas and management of whiting. The advice is divided into the following reports: <i>Whiting in Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat); in Division VIa (West of Scotland); in Division VIb (Rockall); in Division VIIa (Irish Sea); in Divisions VIIe-k; in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel); and in Subarea VIII and Division Ixa (Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters).</i> In some of these regions, whiting is caught as bycatch only.</p> <p>The level of data available for each assessment varies considerably. Some reports are based on catch or survey data only; others combine several catch and survey indices. At least some reference points have been established for all stocks except Skagerrak-Kattegat, Rockall and Bay of Biscay. In general ICES considers data to be deficient in whiting fishery assessments, and recommendations tend to be based on the precautionary approach. 2012 was the first year in which ICES provided quantitative advice for data-deficient fisheries, which represents a minor improvement in the level of science available to inform management decisions.</p> <p>(R3)</p>		M
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>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.</i>		
<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.	
<p><b>Determination:</b> <i>The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities. There have been no significant changes since the initial assessment, but the assessment team has downgraded the compliance level to ‘medium’ to improve consistency with other assessments where the byproduct species had not been classified by the IUCN.</i></p> <p>The IUCN has not assessed <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>. ICES has not recommended the closure of any European whiting fishery. The status of the many European whiting stocks varies considerably, and the biomass of some stocks (most noticeably Division VIa) is considerably below <math>B_{lim}</math>.</p> <p>(R3, R4)</p>		M

**5. REFERENCES**

R1 – OECD country note on fishery management – France: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/36/34429244.pdf>

R2 – French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, marine fisheries: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/peche-maritime>

R3 – ICES advice, whiting, 2012:  
<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/asp/advice.asp?titlesearch=&Region=-1&Species=40&Period=316&submit1=Submit+Query&mode=2>

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

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