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# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT 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>Horse Mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Northeast Atlantic (France &amp; Denmark)</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>December 2015</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Deirdre Hoare</b>

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**1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>Country:</b> France & Denmark	<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Tel. No.</b>	<b>Fax. No.</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	<b>Applicant Code</b>	
<b>Key Contact: :</b>	<b>Title:</b>	

**Certification Body Details**

<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>	SAI Global (Ireland)	
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification</b>
Deirdre Hoare	Giles Bartlett	Surveillance

**1. Scope of Assessment**

<b>1. Scope of Assessment</b>	IFFO RS By-Product surveillance
<b>2. Fishery By-Product</b>	Horse Mackerel ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )
<b>3. Fishery By-Product Location</b>	Northeast Atlantic (France & Denmark)
<b>4. Fishery Method</b>	Pelagic trawl
<b>5. Outcome of Assessment</b>	Maintain approval

**2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT**

**3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION**

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU, France and Denmark levels which is applied specifically to the horse mackerel stocks in the assessment area, although there is some evidence that these are insufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but significant improvements in quantity and quality of data could be made. The assessment team recommends approving 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 species under assessment. A 50% reduction in agreed TAC from 2014 to 2015 shows managements commitment to following scientific advice therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.***

H

**Fishery management framework:**

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.

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.

**France:**

The primary authority with responsibility for implementing the CFP in France is the Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture (*Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l’Aquaculture, DPMA*), within the government Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (*Ministère de l’Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l’Énergie*).

**Denmark:**

The responsible authority for monitoring and enforcing EU and national conservation policies is the Danish Agrifish Agency, which is a part of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, under the 1999 Fisheries Act. The Agency carries out inspection at sea and landings, as well as verification of EU marketing standards. The Ministry also works for Danish fisheries and aquaculture through

- Regulation and inspections of the fishing industry
- Support for research in fisheries and aquaculture production
- Support for the development of fisheries, the fish industry, fishery harbours and aquaculture
- Fish management and fishing license arrangements for recreational fisheries

The primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level within Denmark is the National Institute of Aquatic Resources at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua). DTU Aqua’s stated mission is to conduct research, provide advice, educate at university level and contribute to innovation in sustainable exploitation and management of aquatic resources. DTU Aqua directly advises the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and other public authorities.

**Species-specific management:**

Horse mackerel in EU waters is subject to four separate annual quotas. The areas and the associated quotas for 2015 were as follows:

- Ila, IVa, Vb, VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIabde, XII, XIV: Denmark 8,320t, France 3,341t, TAC 85,732t
- IVbc, VIId: Denmark 5,519t, France 458t, TAC 15,200t
- VIIIc: France 211t, TAC 13,572t

TACs have historically, and recently, been set somewhat above the scientific advice. There is also a discrepancy between the geographical areas for which advice is provided and those for which quotas are set, with ICES advice provided for three stock units. The North Sea stock is estimated to be stable at a low level and catches in recent years have been declining slowly with an average around 23 kt (2011–2013), dropping to 13.4 kt in 2014. ICES advised significant reduction in catches for 2015. This led to a nearly 50% reduction in the agreed TAC (2014 to 2015) for this stock. The Western stock is considered to be fished just below FMSY, and SSB is just above  $MSY_{Btrigger}$ . The Southern stock is considered to be fished at an appropriate level, with SSB at the long-term average.

R1 – R5

**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: Species-specific research is conducted in support of horse mackerel fishery management, although there are significant improvements which could be made to the quality and quantity of information available to ICES.***

M

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.

As noted in section A, ICES advice for horse mackerel is provided for three stocks as follows:

*North Sea stock*

No reference points are defined and no quantitative assessment can be conducted. In 2015 an additional survey index was provided (the French CGFS survey in Division VIId). This additional survey indicates the abundance in the main fishing area for this stock (Division VIId). Both surveys are very uncertain and individual years are not indicative of trends. To improve the knowledge base for North Sea horse mackerel, a project has been initiated

in 2015 by the Pelagic Freezertrawler Association (PFA) together with IMARES and University College Dublin. The project aims to provide additional information on stock boundaries and mixing between North Sea and Western horse mackerel, and to explore or develop potential new abundance indices for North Sea horse mackerel.

*Western stock*

Advice is based on commercial landings with ages from catch sampling, one triennial egg survey index, and one tuning index. MSY-based reference points are defined for the stock and a quantitative assessment is conducted. Work is ongoing with the development of a fisheries-independent abundance or recruitment index through combining a number of international bottom trawl surveys.

*Southern stock*

Advice is based on commercial landings with age and length frequencies from catch sampling, one combined pelagic trawl and bottom trawl survey index, and maturity data from both sources. One reference point is defined,  $F_{MSY}$ .

R5, R6

**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: Horse mackerel has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.***

M

The IUCN has not categorised *Trachurus trachurus*, and it is not listed in the CITES appendices.

R7, R8

**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 – French Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Les-peches-maritimes-et-l-.html>

R5 – ICES advice, horse mackerel 2015:

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- Divisions IIIa, IVb,c, and VIId (North Sea stock):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/hom-nsea.pdf>
- Divisions IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIa–c, e–k, and VIIIa–e (Western stock):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/hom-west.pdf>
- Division IXa (Southern stock):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/hom-soth.pdf>

R6 – 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)

R7 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R8 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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