

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Horse Mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 1 of 5	CCM Code:
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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Key Contact: Frank Trearty	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
		IFFO RS By-Product surveillance 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Horse Mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Northeast Atlantic
4. Fishery Method		
		Pelagic trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and national 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>	
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 species under assessment. A 50% reduction in agreed TAC from 2014 to 2015 (carried forward to 2016) shows management’s commitment to following scientific advice therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

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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. 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:

Horse mackerel in EU waters is subject to four separate annual quotas. The areas and the associated quotas for 2016 were as follows:

- IIa, Iva, Vb, VI, VIIa-c, VIIIc-k, VIIIabde, XII, XIV: 105,021t
- IVbc, VIId: 11,650t
- VIIIc: 17,235t
- IX: 68,583t

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 and similar quotas for 2016. 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.

R2 – R7

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

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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. On behalf of the Pelagic Advisory Council and the EAPO Northern Pelagic Working Group, a research project on horse mackerel was initiated in 2015 with IMARES (the Netherlands) and University College Dublin (Ireland). Genetic and chemical analysis relevant for the separation between North Sea and western horse mackerel has been carried out but is not conclusive yet. More analyses are being carried out. Work is also ongoing to evaluate the feasibility of using historical catch rates of pelagic freezer-trawlers, based on skippers’ diaries as indicators of abundance. This information will be presented to the upcoming benchmark.

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. The Pelagic AC (PELAC) has been working actively with a number of scientists not only to resolve the scientific issues with the potential management strategies for horse mackerel, but also to identify additional data sources, particularly from the groundfish 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}.

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 4 of 5	CCM Code:
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R5, R6		
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>		
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: Horse mackerel has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern in its European Regional Assessment of the species.		H
The IUCN has categorised <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> as <i>Least Concern</i> , and it is not listed in the CITES appendices.		
R8, R9		

5. REFERENCES

- R1- Image of Horse Mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) by Johnny Jensen
<http://fishbase.org/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=1&ID=1365&what=species&TotRec=12>
- 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 – French Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Les-peches-maritimes-et-l-.html>
- R6 – ICES advice, horse mackerel 2016:
 - Divisions IIIa, IVb,c, and VIId (North Sea stock):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/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/2016/2016/hom-west.pdf>
 - Division IXa (Southern stock):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/hom-soth.pdf>
- R7 – EU fishing quotas 2016: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0072&from=EN>
- R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R9 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>