
FISHERY By Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By Product:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
LOCATION:	Iceland ICES (Division Va)
DATE OF REPORT:	10th December 2010
ASSESSOR:	Vito Ciccia Romito

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Rivercourt Business Centre, Riverlane, 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: Fishmeal Association of Iceland		
Address:		
Country:	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
Vito Ciccia Romito	Mike Platt	Surveillance

1. Scope of Assessment

1. Scope of Assessment	By product surveillance
2. Fishery By Product	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
3. Fishery By Product Location	Iceland ICES (Division Va)
4. Fishery Method	Handline, longline, gillnet fisheries, Danish seine and bottom trawl.
5. Outcome of Assessment	Highly compliant with IFFO RS Standard

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

Auditor to check that the fish by products used by the factory have had a fish by product surveillance

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Icelandic Cod is safe for use as by product under the IFFO RS Standard

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

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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 conservation 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 conservation of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is established and works efficiently toward the conservation of the stock.

Determination: *A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is established and works efficiently toward the conservation of the stock.*

Biology and distribution

Cod (*Gadus morhua*) can grow quite large; the largest individual measured in Icelandic waters was 186 cm long and 17 years old. Common size in catches is much smaller, or in the range of 45 to 85 cm long in most fishing gear. Age of maturity is variable between years and areas. The cod spawns all around Iceland, but the largest and most important fishing grounds are off the south-western coast. (*Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture*).

Management framework and procedure

Icelanders have structured a fisheries management system to ensure responsible fisheries, focusing on the sustainable utilization of the fish stocks and good treatment of the marine ecosystem (*Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture*). According to Icelandic law the total allowable catch (TAC) is set by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and this decision should be based on scientific advice from the Icelandic Marine Research Institute (MRI). The present comprehensive fisheries management system is based on Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs). The Ministry is supported by the Marine Research Institute, the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratory (IFL) and the Directorate of Fisheries. The Directorate is responsible for implementing legislation on fisheries management. It collects and publishes data and other fisheries statistics. It issues fishing permits to vessels and allocates catch quotas. Other duties include imposing penalties for illegal catches. The Directorate supervises the transfer of quotas and quota shares between fishing vessels, controls the reporting of data on the landings of individual vessels and monitors the weighing-in of catches (*Directorate of Fisheries*).

Since 1994, TACs for the Icelandic cod stock have been based on a 25% harvest control rule with four amendments on the catch stabilizer. **The Icelandic Government has adopted a management plan for the Icelandic cod stock for the next five fishing years based on a 20% exploitation rate.** The main objective of the management plan is to **ensure an increase the size of the cod stock towards the size that generates maximum sustainable yield and that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) will with high probability (>95%) be above the 220 kt by the year 2015.** In the advice given by the MRI account is taken of fishing mortality in the calculation. The restriction in the TAC in the last two fishing years is estimated to have resulted in significant reduction in fishing mortality, the 2009 value is lower than has been observed in the last 5 decades (ICES 2010).

H

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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<i>B. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.</i>	
LOW	Research to support the conservation and management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exist, and existent research is considered most adequate for the long term conservation of the target, non-target and physical environment

Determination: *Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exist, and existent research is considered most adequate for the long term conservation of the target, non-target and physical environment*

Data and methods

The data used in the assessment are **landings-at-age and two age-structured survey indices**. The analytical assessment is based on landings and survey data using a forward based statistical catch-at-age model, implemented in AD model builder. Landings-at-age data as well as survey indices are considered reliable. The modeling setup is the same as last year. This year both the spring and the fall survey indices are used in the final assessment, last year only the spring survey was used. Immigration from Greenland is taken into account in the assessment. This includes an estimate of immigration of the 2003 year-class, at age 6 in 2009 (ICES 2010).

Management measures relevant to ecosystem effects of the fishery

As mentioned above, **large areas within the Icelandic EEZ are closed for fishing, either temporarily or permanently**. These closures are aimed at protecting juveniles and spawning fish and protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems. Restrictions on the use of gear are also in effect. Thus the use of **bottom trawl and pelagic trawl is not permitted inside a 12-mile limit measured from low-water line along the northern coast of Iceland**. Similar restrictions are implemented elsewhere based on engine size and size of vessels and large bottom trawlers are not permitted to fish closer than 12 nautical miles to the shore. It is the policy of the Icelandic government to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs; cold-water corals and hydrothermal vents), from significant adverse impact from bottom contacting gear. **Known cold-water coral reefs and hydrothermal vents are protected through permanent closures**.

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: *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.*

5. REFERENCES

- R1. Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
<http://www.fisheries.is/management/>
- R1.2 <http://www.fisheries.is/main-species/cod/>
- R.2 Directorate of Fisheries
<http://www.fiskistofa.is/>
- R.3 Marine Research Institute
http://www.hafro.is/index_eng.php
- R.4 ICES.2010. Report of the North-Western Working Group, 27 April 4 May 2010. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:07.
www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/cod-iceg.pdf