

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Atlantic Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
LOCATION:	Iceland ICES (Division Va)
DATE OF REPORT:	26/02/2012
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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: 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
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
By-Product surveillance		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Iceland ICES (Division Va1/Va2)		
4. Fishery Method		
Mid-water trawl or purse seines		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Maintain approval		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the national level, although the extent to which is applied specifically to mackerel could be improved. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, although there is substantial room for improvement in the data available to ICES. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct be maintained.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

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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	There is no satisfactory legal and management framework for fisheries in the region.	
MEDIUM	An administrative and legal framework that underpins management of fisheries in the region is established, but it is not directly applied to the byproduct stock under assessment.	
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management for fisheries in the region is established and applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.	
<p>Determination: <i>There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels. However, due to the limited way in which these frameworks appear to be applied specifically to mackerel, the assessment team considers a rating of medium compliance appropriate.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>Modern Icelandic fisheries management is based on the Fisheries Management Act of 1990, and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. The objectives of the Fisheries Management Act are to promote the conservation and efficient utilisation of the marine resources and thus to ensure stable employment and economic viability of fishing communities. In other words, the aim is to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries while emphasising the economic benefits of the fisheries sector. The fisheries management system in Iceland is primarily based on extensive research on the fish stocks and the marine ecosystem, decisions made on the conduct of fisheries and allowable catches on the basis of scientific advice, and effective monitoring and enforcement of the fisheries and the total catch. Research is carried out within Iceland by the Marine Research Institute and internationally by ICES. These are the main pillars of the Icelandic fisheries management intended to ensure responsible fisheries and the sustainability of the ocean’s natural resources. Management of those stocks subject to international prosecution is facilitated by Iceland’s membership of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).</p> <p>Species-specific management:</p> <p>Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic is managed as a single stock. A management plan was agreed by Norway, Faroe Islands, and the EU in October 2008. ICES has evaluated the plan and concluded that it is precautionary; however, since 2009, there has been no international agreement on TAC and Iceland is not a signatory of the management plan.</p>		M
R1 – R3		

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
LOW	Research to support the management of regional fisheries does not exist.	
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of regional fisheries exists; however research programmes are not specifically directed at the byproduct stock under assessment.	
HIGH	Research specifically targeting the byproduct stock under assessment is carried out in support of sustainable fisheries management.	
<p>Determination: <i>Research is carried out specifically to support the management of the species under assessment; however ICES reports several major improvements which could be implemented and on balance the assessment team considers a rating of medium compliance to be appropriate.</i></p> <p>ICES conducts annual stock assessments and provides advice on mackerel in the assessment area. Assessment is based on several survey indices and fishery-dependent data. ICES reports that there could be substantial improvements in the data available, such as new quantitative and more reliable data sets, time-series of abundance indices, and improved quality of catch data.</p> <p>R2</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>		
LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered by the IUCN.	
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. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN and no additional information is available.	
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN but other sources of evidence (e.g. MSC certification) demonstrate that the species is not critically at risk.	
<p>Determination: <i>As at the time of the initial assessment, mackerel remains a species of least concern on the IUCN redlist.</i></p> <p>The IUCN redlist has categorised <i>Scomber scombrus</i> as a ‘species of least concern’.</p> <p>R4</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

R1 – Icelandic fisheries management: <http://www.fisheries.is/management/fisheries-management/>

R2 – ICES mackerel in the North-East Atlantic advice, 2012:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2012/2012/mac-nea.pdf>

R3 – EU fishing quotas 2012: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2012_en.pdf

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

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