
FISHERY By Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By Product:	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
LOCATION:	Iceland ICES (Division Va)
DATE OF REPORT:	13/12/2010
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		
2. Fishery By Product		Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
3. Fishery By Product Location		
3. Fishery By Product Location		Iceland ICES (Division Va)
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Bottom trawl, gillnet, jiggers and Danish seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		The Icelandic Saithe is Highly compliant to the 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 Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) is fit for use as by product.

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 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.*

Distribution

Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) is a typical migrating fish and makes both feeding and spawning migrations. Tagging experiments show migrations between the stocks. There are examples of extensive emigration of young saithe from the western part of the Norwegian coast to the North Sea and of older saithe from more northern areas to Iceland and the Faroe Islands. There are few examples of emigration from Icelandic waters.

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. The fisheries management 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. (*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 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. (*Directorate of Fisheries*).

MSY approach

Following the ICES MSY framework implies fishing mortality to be reduced to 0.28, resulting in landings of **40 000 t in 2011**, expected to lead to an SSB of 100 000 t in 2012. **In accordance with the Marine Research Institute (MRI) advice the Icelandic Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture has set quota for the species at 39 811 t for the 2011 fishing season** (*Directorate of Fisheries*)

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

A separable, forward projection, statistical catch-age model is used to fit the catch at age data from the commercial fleets (ages 3 14, years 1980 2009) and using the Spring bottom-trawl survey index (ages 3 10, year 1985 2010) as a tuning series. Commercial cpue from the most important fleets targeting saithe are available for 20 years or more. Although these indices have been explored for inclusion in the past, they were not considered for calibrating the assessment as they are not considered to be a reliable indicator of abundance.

Ecosystem considerations

According to Icelandic law, discards are prohibited. All catches must be landed. **This management measure should allow for a reasonable measurement of Icelandic bycatch amount and appropriate action (*Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture*).** Over the next few years priority will be given to map the distribution of benthic assemblages and habitats which are considered to be sensitive to trawling disturbances. Such information will be important in order to predict which species and habitats are being at risk of being damaged by fishing activities and for protection of important marine habitats in the future (MRI).



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.
<p>Determination: <i>The Saithe (Pollachius virens) fishery has an established management framework (see section a) and the species is not on the IUCN Red list.</i></p>	

5. REFERENCES

- R1. Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
<http://www.fisheries.is/management/>
- R1.2 <http://www.fisheries.is/main-species/codfishes/saithe/>
- R.2 Directorate of Fisheries
<http://www.fiskistofa.is/>
- R.2.2 <http://en.fiskistofa.is/heildastodur.php>
- R.3 Marine Research Institute
http://www.hafro.is/index_eng.php
- R.4 ICES 2010 2.4.4 Advice June 2010 ECOREGION Iceland and East Greenland Saithe in Division Va (Icelandic saithe).
<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/sai-icel.pdf>

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