

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
LOCATION:	ICES Division Va (Iceland Grounds)
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2015
ASSESSOR:	Sam Dignan

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, 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:		
Address:		
Country: Iceland	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Dignan	Deirdre Hoare	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
		IFFO RS by-product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		ICES Division Va (Iceland Grounds)
4. Fishery Method		
		Mid-water trawl, purse seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain by-product approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There are robust fishery management frameworks in place in Iceland and the broader international context which are applied specifically to the mackerel stock in the assessment area, although Iceland is not a signatory to the international mackerel management plan. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends approving this by-product 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.	
<p><i>Determination: There is an effective fishery management framework in place in Iceland and the broader international context, which is applied specifically to the by-product species under assessment; however, Iceland is not a signatory to the international management plan and sets a quota independently.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework: 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: Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic is considered by ICES to be a single stock with three spawning components. International management is primarily co-ordinated through a management plan agreed in 2008 between Norway, the Faroe Islands and the EU; Iceland is not a signatory. Iceland sets an annual quota for mackerel, which in 2015 was 180,000 t (of a total of 906,000 t recommended by ICES). While ICES currently considers fishing mortality (F) to have been declining since the mid-2000s it remains above F_{pa}. In contrast SSB has increased since the early 2000s and has been above $MSY - B_{trigger}$ since 2009. ICES recommends total catches in 2016 should not exceed 667,385 t.</p> <p>R1 – R5</p>		M
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 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.	
<p><i>Determination: Management of the Icelandic mackerel fishery is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment activities.</i></p>		H

Fisheries management in Icelandic waters is supported nationally by the Marine Research Institute (MRI). The MRI carries out ongoing research on the status and productivity of commercial stocks, and long-term research on the marine environment and the ecosystem around Iceland. The results of this research are the foundations on which the majority of Icelandic fishery management decisions are made. Additional and international scientific advice is provided 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. Annual management advice is provided by both the MRI and ICES.

As noted in section A, mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic is assessed by ICES as a single biological stock with three spawning components (Southern, Western and North Sea). At the time of the 2014 surveillance assessment, mackerel was categorised by ICES as a data-limited stock. Since that time the stock has been benchmarked and is now subject to an age-based analytical assessment. The input data include catch data, tagging data and three survey indices. Reference points have been determined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches, and in relation to the international management plan. Time series estimates of fishing mortality and SSB are available. The new assessment was designed to take into account the uncertainty in the available data, including historical catches prior to 2000 and the lack of egg survey data prior to 1992.

R3 – R5

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.

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: Mackerel has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

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The IUCN has categorised *Scomber scombrus* as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R6, R7

5. REFERENCES

- R1** – Icelandic fisheries management: <http://www.fisheries.is/management/fisheries-management/>
- R2** – Marine Research Institute: http://www.hafro.is/undir_eng.php?ID=1&REF=1
- R3** – ICES advice 2014, in Subareas I – VII and XIV and Divisions VIIIa – e and IXa (Northeast Atlantic): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/mac-nea.pdf>
- R4** – ICES advice 2015, in Subareas I – VII and XIV and Divisions VIIIa – e and IXa (Northeast Atlantic): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/mac-nea.pdf>
- R5** – MRI advice, Marine Stocks 2014/2015 and prospects for 2015/2016 (mackerel) http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2015/english/mackerel_2015.pdf
- R6** – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R7** – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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