

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Pacific thread herring (<i>Opisthonema libertate</i>)
LOCATION:	Mexico (Pacific)
DATE OF REPORT:	24/03/14
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 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:	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	David Garforth	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Pacific thread herring (<i>Opisthonema libertate</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Mexico (Pacific)
4. Fishery Method		
		Purse seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There are fishery management and research frameworks established at the national level. Pacific thread herring is managed under these frameworks as a component of the Pacific small pelagic stock. There are no species-specific management measures in place, and the assessment team found no evidence of species-specific research. The assessment team recommend the approval of this byproduct against the IFFO RS standard with a medium compliance rating.

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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: Mexico has a fully developed administrative framework for fisheries management. As Pacific thread herring is managed only as a component of the small pelagic stock, the assessment team considers a medium compliance rating appropriate.

Fishery management framework:

The government body with responsibility for fisheries management in Mexico is Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (*Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA*). The primary legal instruments are the Fisheries Law (*Ley de Pesca*) and the Regulation to the Fisheries Law (*Reglamento de la Ley de Pesca*). Based on the contents of these laws, the SAGARPA mission statement includes a commitment to “facilitate the competitive and sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country to increase the welfare of Mexicans”.

Within SAGARPA, the National Commission on Aquaculture and Fisheries (*Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca, CONAPESCA*) is directly responsible for management, co-ordination and policy development with regards to fisheries. Scientific advice is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Pesca, INP*, see section B), through which the National Fisheries Chart (*Carta Nacional Pesquera*) was developed. The Chart is an annually-updated summary of the status and scientific understanding of all commercial fishery resources in federal waters. The Chart is broadly divided between Pacific and Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Species-specific management:

O. libertate is managed as a component of the Pelagicos menores (small pelagic) stock, fished only in Pacific waters. Management measures in place include 160mm minimum landing size, limits on maximum seine capacity, and limited entry. There does not appear to be a TAC set for the fishery, although the INP does make recommendations (700,000t for all small pelagic species in the 2012 National Fisheries Chart).

References: R1-R4

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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.

Determination: Fisheries research in Mexico is conducted by a dedicated scientific organisation. The extent to which species-specific research is conducted could not be fully verified, and as such the assessment team consider a medium compliance rating to be appropriate.

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Scientific research and advice in support of the management of Mexican fisheries is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (INP). The mission of the INP is to “Coordinate and conduct scientific and technological research on fisheries and aquaculture resources with sustainability criteria for its management and conservation and promote research schemes with the participation and financial support from the sectors involved”. This includes the development of stock-specific management plans, the maintenance of the National Fisheries Charter, and the planning and conducting of research in support of these functions.

The level of species-specific data collection conducted on the Pacific thread herring could not be verified by the assessment team; however, the National Fisheries Chart includes annual estimates of total landings and species composition in the small pelagic fishery, and also makes recommendations for the level of fishing in future years.

R3, R4

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: The byproduct comes from a species which is not considered to be vulnerable or threatened.

Pacific thread herring has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern.

R5

5. REFERENCES

R1 – FAO fisheries and aquaculture country page, Mexico:

http://www.fao.org/fishery/legalframework/nalo_mexico/en

R2 – CONAPESCA mission and vision:

http://www.conapesca.sagarpa.gob.mx/wb/cona/cona_mision_y_vision_acerca

R3 – INP, about: <http://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/english>

R4 – National Fisheries Chart, 2012:

<http://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/documentos/publicaciones/CARTA%20NACIONAL%20PESQUERA/24082012%20SAGARPA.pdf>

R5 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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