

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
LOCATION:	North-East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	31/10/14
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

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Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		North-East Atlantic (Norway)
4. Fishery Method		
		Pelagic trawl gear, purse seine nets and handlines.
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Cod in the North-East Atlantic is an internationally-fished species, with robust management and scientific infrastructure in place and applied to a large number of independently-managed stocks. Although cod has been categorised as vulnerable by the IUCN, a number of cod fisheries worldwide have been certified against the MSC standard.

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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: An administrative framework is in place and is applied specifically to cod in the North-East Atlantic. H

Administrative and legal framework:

The Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs is responsible for, amongst other activities, ensuring long-term, optimal exploitation of living marine resources; ensuring sound management of the marine environment; and progressing towards a profitable, self-sustained fisheries industry.

The regulatory system for fisheries management in Norway is an interactive and iterative process based on incremental changes, and is sometimes referred to as the regulatory chain. The chain has no set start or finish, but can rather be seen as a continuous process.

About 90 per cent of Norway’s fish stocks are shared with other states, and bilateral or multilateral negotiations for these stocks take place as the first stage of quota-setting. After these negotiations, the Directorate of Fisheries makes a proposal regarding the regulations for the upcoming year to a broad range of stakeholders. After this consultation, the Directorate of Fisheries recommends next year’s fisheries regulations to the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. The Ministry bases its final decision on outcomes from the quota negotiations with other states, discussions from the consultation process, the recommendation from the Directorate of Fisheries, as well as input from various fisheries industry organisations.

Enforcement:

Norwegian fisheries regulations are enforced at sea, when the fish is landed and when it is exported. At sea, the Coast Guard is responsible for inspecting fishing vessels and checking their catch against their log books.

Both Norwegian and foreign fishing vessels are subject to stringent controls in all Norwegian fishing waters. The Coast Guard performs more than 1800 inspections of Norwegian and the foreign vessels that fish in Norwegian waters annually. Vessels over 24 meters (15 meters for vessels from EU) are required to carry satellite transponders which make it possible to track their activity 24 hours a day.

Species-specific management:

Cod is managed as a number of distinct stocks in the North-East Atlantic, each of which is subject to an annual TAC and a variety of other management measures. The specific nature of management mechanisms in place and the nature (and effectiveness) of management plans varies between management units. The stocks include:

- Divisions VIIe-k (Celtic Sea cod). No specific management objectives, but a plan is under development. 2014 TAC was 6,848t.

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- Division IIIa East (Kattegat). Currently no directed fishery. 2014 TAC was 100t.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea). Currently no directed fishery. 2014 TAC was 228t.
- Division VIb (Rockall). Very limited fishery. 2014 TAC was 74t.
- Division Via (West of Scotland). Subject to the EU cod long-term management plan. 2014 TAC was 0t. ICES states that management measures have failed to constrain catches and the stock is overfished.
- Subdivisions 25-32 (Eastern Baltic Sea). Subject to a multi-annual management plan agreed in 2007, and evaluated by ICES as adherent to the precautionary approach in 2009. 2013 TAC was 68,700t.
- Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic Sea). Subject to a management plan agreed in 2007. The 2014 TAC was 17,000t.
- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic cod). Subject to a Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission plan since 2004. The 2014 TAC was 993,000t.
- Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters cod). Subject to a Norwegian rebuilding plan, evaluated by ICES in 2010 and found to be provisionally consistent with the precautionary approach. The 2014 TAC was 21,000t.
- Division Va (Icelandic cod). Subject to an Icelandic Government management plan (which was found precautionary by ICES) since 2009. The 2013/14 TAC was 215,000t.
- Inshore cod in NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod). No management plan. 2014 TAC was 15,000t.
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions VIId (Eastern Channel) and IIIa West (Skagerrak). Subject to an EU-Norway management plan. 2014 TACs were set at 27,800t in the North Sea, 4,000t in Skagerrak, and 1,600t in the Eastern Channel.
- Subdivision Vb₂ (Faroe Bank). Closed to fishing since 2009.
- Subdivision Vb₁ (Faroe Plateau). A management plan has been developed but not yet applied; TAC advice is based on the MSY approach. Landings are limited by time and area closures rather than TAC.

R1 – R4

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

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: Research is carried out in support of the management of the byproduct species under assessment.

H

As with management measures, the level of research and stock assessment varies considerably between stocks. However, ICES assesses most stocks on an annual basis and at a minimum, landings data are collected for all stocks. Most stocks are also the subject of fishery-independent surveys and other research.

- Divisions VIIe-k (Celtic Sea cod). Assessed annually, based on commercial catches, one combined survey index and one commercial index.
- Division IIIa East (Kattegat). Assessed annually based on commercial catches and four survey indices.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea). Assessed biennially, based on commercial landings and nine survey indices.
- Division VIb (Rockall). Assessed biennially based on official landings statistics.

- Division Via (West of Scotland). Assessed annually based on commercial catch and one survey index.
- Subdivisions 25-32 (Eastern Baltic Sea). Assessed annually based on commercial catches, two survey indices and one commercial index.
- Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic Sea). Assessed annually, based on commercial catches, two survey indices and one commercial index.
- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic cod). Assessed annually, based on commercial catches and three survey indices.
- Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters cod). Assessed annually, based on commercial catch, acoustic survey and one survey index.
- Division Va (Icelandic cod). Assessed annually, based on landings-at-age and spring and autumn survey indices.
- Inshore cod in NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod). Assessed annually, based on commercial landings data and one survey index.
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions VIId (Eastern Channel) and IIIa West (Skagerrak). Assessed annually, based on commercial catch and one survey index.
- Subdivision Vb₂ (Faroe Bank). Assessed whenever new survey results become available (closed since 2009).
- Subdivision Vb₁ (Faroe Plateau). Assessed annually, based on commercial catch and two survey indices.

R4, 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: Cod has been assessed by the IUCN red list and categorised as ‘vulnerable’. However, several cod fisheries have been certified against the MSC standard.

M

The IUCN has assessed *Gadus morhua* and categorised it as ‘vulnerable’. However, it is listed on the MSC website as a ‘fish to eat’ and there are several MSC-certified fisheries worldwide.

R7

5. REFERENCES

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R1 – Norway Fisheries website, ‘The Regulatory Chain’:

http://www.fisheries.no/resource_management/setting_quotas/The-regulatory-chain/

R2 – Norway Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs website: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fkd/The-Ministry-of-Fisheries-and-Coastal-Affairs.html?id=262>

R3 – Norway Fisheries website, ‘Control and Enforcement’:

http://www.fisheries.no/resource_management/control_monitoring_surveillance/Control_and_enforcement/

R4 – ICES cod advice, 2014 (all areas): <http://bit.ly/107H728> (From the ICES library,

<http://www.ices.dk/publications/library/Pages/default.aspx>).

R5 – Institute of Marine Research, about: http://www.imr.no/om_havforskningsinstituttet/en

R6 – EU fishing quotas 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2013_en.pdf

R7 – IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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