

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Polartorsk / Polar Cod (<i>Boreogadus saida</i>)
LOCATION:	Barents Sea
DATE OF REPORT:	22/12/12
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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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:	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		
		Polartorsk / Polar Cod (<i>Boreogadus saida</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Barents Sea
4. Fishery Method		
		Uncertain; likely mid-water and bottom trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
Norway and the EU have robust legal and administrative frameworks in place for fisheries management. However, these frameworks do not appear to be applied directly to the species covered by this assessment. Some population and distribution data are collected during annual acoustic surveys, although scientific understanding of the stock appears limited overall. The assessment team considers approval of the byproduct material at a level of medium compliance to be appropriate at this time.

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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 that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established; however as at the time of the original assessment in 2011, the assessment team can find no evidence that there is any species or stock-specific management of polar cod fisheries.*

M

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.

Management of Polartorsk:

The assessment team is unable to find any evidence of specific management of European or Norway polar cod fisheries. The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) states that there has been no significant fishery since the 1970’s, but does not indicate any quotas or technical measures in place to manage the stock.

(R1 – R5)

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: *The assessment team was able to find evidence of some research in support of the management of the stock, and so considers a rating of medium compliance to be appropriate at this time.* **M**

ICES advice:

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) does not appear to publish advice specific to the polar cod.

Norway Institute of Marine Research:

The Institute of Marine Research (IMR) is Norway's largest centre of marine science. The aim of the research and management advice provided by IMR is to ensure that Norway's marine resources are harvested in a sustainable way. IMR's headquarters are in Bergen, but important activities are also carried out in Tromsø, at the research stations in Matre, Austevoll and Flødevigen and on board research vessels, which are at sea for a total of 1600 days a year. The Institute is heavily engaged in development aid activities through the Centre for Development Cooperation in Fisheries. The IMR recognises the polar cod as an important component of the arctic ecosystem, but does not appear to be conducting research specifically on the species at this time.

The IMR species page provides estimates of the current biomass and indicates that the population distribution and size is mapped by acoustic methods during an annual ecosystem survey in the autumn. There appears to be considerable uncertainty in the results of these surveys and thus research programmes have significant room for improvement.

Some limited species information is available from the FAO, although this appears to have been last updated over ten years ago, and does not provide fishery population or management information.

(R4, R6)

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 fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities. There have been no significant changes since the initial assessment, but the assessment team has downgraded the compliance level to 'medium' to improve consistency with other assessments where the byproduct species had not been classified by the IUCN.* **M**

The IUCN has not assessed *Boreogadus saida*.

(R7)	
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5. REFERENCES

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 – FAO species information, polar cod: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2233/en>

R5 – Institute of Marine Research (IMR) species information, polar cod:

<http://www.imr.no/temasider/fisk/torsk/polartorsk/en>

R6 – IMR, about: http://www.imr.no/om_havforskningsinstituttet/en

R7 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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