

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:	Northeast Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	22/12/13
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, 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:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product surveillance	
2. Fishery By-Product	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Northeast Atlantic	
4. Fishery Method	Primarily bottom-trawl; also gillnet, longline, purse-seine	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Maintain approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

The robust legal and administrative frameworks of Norway and the EU, identified in the previous and initial assessments, remain in place, and saithe stocks are specifically managed. There is substantial research on the stock, including analysis of survey and landings data, and the species is not considered by the IUCN to be at risk. Saithe fisheries in the North Sea and North-East Arctic have been certified by the MSC. As there have been no significant changes since the time of the previous assessment, the assessment team recommends that this byproduct remain approved with a high compliance level.

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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: *There have been no substantial changes to the Norwegian fishery management framework since the previous assessment, which continues to be applied specifically to the saithe fishery.* 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.

Management of Saithe:

For North East Arctic saithe Norway sets the TAC as a unilateral quota after advices from ICES and the Institute of Marine Research. ICES classifies the stock as having full reproductive capacity and to be currently harvested with sustainability. Catches are stable and have, since 1995, been below the precautionary limit. Norway shares part of the unilateral TAC with other countries. ICES has evaluated a proposed Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for setting the annual fishing quota for Northeast Arctic saithe and concluded that it is consistent with the precautionary approach.

For North Sea saithe, the EU and Norway adopted a management plan in 2006. ICES evaluated the plan in 2008 and concluded that it is in agreement with the precautionary approach. In Norwegian waters, minimum catching size is 32 cm, and minimum mesh size in trawl and Danish seine is 120 mm. Discarding of commercial species is not permitted in Norwegian waters. As at the time of the previous assessment, ICES advice has been followed in respect to TAC-setting in recent years.

(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 to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate (albeit with some room for improvement). There have been no major changes in the research or assessment activities conducted on this stock since the previous assessment.

ICES advice:

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) provides annual advice on quotas and management of saithe in Subarea IV (North Sea), Division IIIa (Skagerrak), and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall). The advice makes use of multiple models, based on international catch and survey data. The 2012 advice made use of three survey datasets and three commercial landings datasets, but did not include discards or bycatch. The assessment identifies and takes into account uncertainties and incomplete data. ICES states that the assessment would improve if data on the geographical distribution of the catches were available annually from all major fishing nations.

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 IMS conducts research to support Norway fishery management decisions, but does not appear to be currently conducting research specifically on saithe.

(R5, 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.	
<p>Determination: Saithe remains un-assessed by the IUCN redlist but several fisheries have been certified against the MSC standard.</p> <p>The IUCN has not assessed <i>Pollachius virens</i>. However, it is listed on the MSC website as a ‘fish to eat’ and there are several MSC-certified fisheries worldwide.</p> <p>(R6, R7)</p>		H

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 – Norway Fisheries website, Saithe: http://www.fisheries.no/ecosystems-and-stocks/marine_stocks/fish_stocks/saithe/
- R5 – Institute of Marine Research, about: http://www.imr.no/om_havforskningsinstituttet/en
- R6 – ICES 2013 Saithe Advice: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sai-3a46.pdf>
- R7 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>