

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Pacific Thread Herring (<i>Opisthonema ssp</i>)
LOCATION:	Ecuador (FAO 77/87)
DATE OF REPORT:	September 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Ecuador	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Pacific Thread Herring (<i>Opisthonema ssp</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Ecuador (FAO 77/87)
4. Fishery Method		
		Purse seine
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Ecuador 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.

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 somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.

Fishery management framework:

The government body with responsibility for fisheries management in Ecuador is The National Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de Pesca de Ecuador INP). The primary legal instrument is the Fisheries and Fisheries Development Law (Ley de pesca y desarrollo pesquero 1974) which has been revised in 1985 (Law reforming the Fisheries and Fisheries Development Law, *Ley Reformatoria de la Ley de Pesca y Desarrollo Pesquero*), in order to include aquaculture among the activities it regulates. The law covers capture, aquaculture, processing and trade.

The National Council for Fisheries Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero*), which is a government body attached to the Ministry of Foreign Commerce, Industrialization, Fisheries and Competitiveness (*Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad*), is responsible for the development of the national fisheries policy, the approval of the fisheries development plans and programmes, and the yearly assessment of the results in order to allow authorities to make necessary changes. The council also determines which aquatic species can be exploited according to the technical reports of the National Institute for Fisheries (*Instituto Nacional de Pesca*), and issues the reports required by the Law and its Regulations.

The Ministry of Foreign Commerce, Industrialization, Fisheries and Competitiveness is in charge of the supervision and implementation of the national fisheries policy, via the Under Secretariat for Fishery Resources (*Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros*). The Under Secretariat for Fishery Resources fulfils the following functions: it ensures compliance with the laws and regulations concerning fisheries; drafts the fisheries development plans and programmes and submits them to the National Council for Fisheries Development for approval; supervises the activities to be performed by the fisheries public sector and coordinates its relations with the private sector; manages the fisheries financial credit and supervises its use; and approves the reports and plans submitted by the companies working in the fisheries sector. Lastly, the Directorate General for Fisheries (*Dirección General de Pesca*) is the specialized body of the Ministry responsible for the control and supervision of fisheries, hunting and harvesting of aquatic resources, the implementation of the fisheries programmes adopted by the Government, and the control of the industry and the trade of fish products.

Species-specific management:

Pacific thread herring (*Opisthonema libertate*), Slender thread herring (*Opisthonema bulleri*) and Middling thread herring (*Opisthonema medirastre*) are closely related (Hedgecock *et al.*, 1988) and difficult to differentiate morphologically, for that reason even though these are recognized separately in the fishery management plan, catch records are still pooled together in the fishery reports.

Management measures include registration of vessels, mandatory reporting of catches, closed areas, a 40% limit on landings destined for reduction purposes, vessels required to have refrigeration technology, observer program. The latest INP report (Canales *et. al.*, 2013) indicates that Pacific Thread Herring is over-fished and the

spawning biomass is below 40% and proposes a quota of 19,000 t for the next decade. Currently landings are fluctuating around 20,000 tonnes.

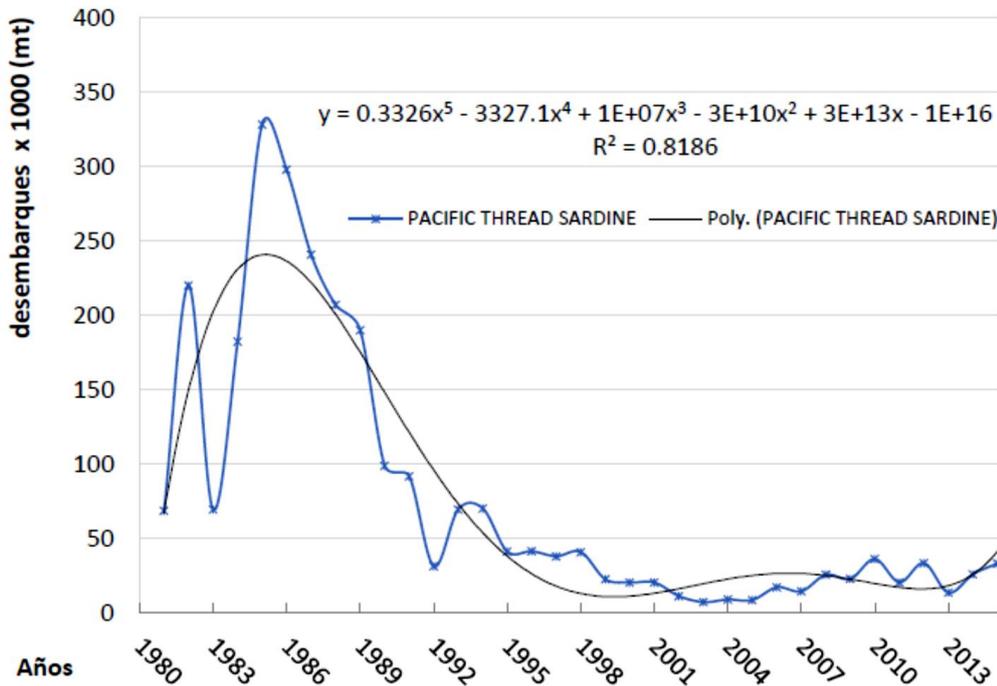


Figure 1. Landings data for Pacific Thread sardine

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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.

Scientific research and advice in support of the management of Ecuadorian fisheries is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (INP). The mission of the INP is ‘Providing services and advice to the fisheries-aquaculture sector through research and scientific-technical assessment of aquatic resources and ecosystems for sustainable management and for quality assurance and safety of fishery and aquaculture products in all phases of production’. This includes the development of stock-specific management plans and the planning and conducting of research in support of these functions.

Due to their similarity *Opisthonema spp* samples are taken together in the field. INP carried out monthly monitoring of the fleet ‘Programa de Peces Pelágicos Pequeños’ (Small pelagic fish programme) and produce technical reports that can be found on their website. Acoustic surveys are also carried out by the research vessel to estimate biomass and distribution.

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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: The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.</p> <p>The IUCN Red List has determined that <i>Opisthonema spp</i> are of Least concern. <i>Opisthonema bulleri</i> – least concern <i>Opisthonema libertate</i> – least concern <i>Opisthonema medirastre</i> – least concern</p> <p>R6</p>	

5. REFERENCES

R1- Fish Base *Opisthonema libertate* picture by Cotto Sánchez, P. P.

<http://www.fishbase.org/summary/speciessummary.php?genusname=Opisthonema&speciesname=libertate>

R2- FAO fisheries and aquaculture country page, Ecuador:

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

R3- Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca <http://www.institutopesca.gob.ec/valores-mision-vision/>

R4 - Barrilete-Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellow fin-aleta amarilla (*Thunnus albacares*) y Pinchagua (*Opisthonema spp*) evaluación breve de sus pesquerías, manejo y gestión sustentable. Sus subproductos y utilización en la elaboración de harina y aceite pescado por TADEL SA, September 2016 Franklin Isaac Ormaza Gonzalez PhD.

R5 – Small pelagic fish investigation INP <http://www.institutopesca.gob.ec/programas-y-servicios/peces-pelagicos-pequenos/>

R6 – IUCN Red List <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>