

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Polartorsk / Polar Cod (Boreogadus saida)
LOCATION:	Barents Sea
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2015
ASSESSOR:	Giles Bartlett

1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Norway	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Giles Bartlett	Deirdre Hoare	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
IFFO RS 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; probably exclusively bycatch likely trawling.		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Maintain approval		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework in Norway, but it is not applied specifically to Polar cod. Fisheries management in general is supported by data collection and stock assessment, but species-specific research is largely absent. The assessment team recommends approving this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.</p>

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.
<p><i>Determination: There is an effective fishery management frameworks in place in Norway, but this framework is not applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Species-specific management:</p> <p>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. ICES reports that polar cod is an abundant but commercially insignificant species.</p> <p>R1 – R5</p>	
B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE	

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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.	
<p><i>Determination: Norwegian fisheries management is supported by research and stock assessment activities in general, but there is no evidence these are applied specifically to Polar cod.</i></p> <p>Fisheries management in Norwegian waters is supported by the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). These bodies carry out stock assessments and provide management advice for stocks straddling EU and Norwegian waters, and most Norwegian commercial stocks. ICES utilises the best available scientific information collected by 20 member countries and others, and develops advice for the majority of commercially fished stocks in European waters.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>R5</p>		M
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>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.</i>		
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><i>Determination: Polar cod has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.</i></p> <p>The IUCN has not categorised <i>Boreogadus saida</i>, and it is not listed in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R6, R7</p>		M

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>