

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	<i>Saithe (Pollachius virens)</i>
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2015
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare		Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		IFFO RS By-Product initial
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		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and Denmark levels which is applied specifically to the saithe stocks in the assessment area, although there is some evidence that several stocks are outside the reference points. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends approving this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.</p>

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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 is an effective fishery management framework in place in Denmark, and this framework is applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment. However, there is some evidence that these measures are not ensuring the long-term sustainability of saithe stocks.

M

Europe:

Denmark is a Member State of the European Union, and therefore in Community waters implements the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.

With regard to resource management, the CFP regulations comprise:

- A traditional management tool based on TACs and quotas;
- Technical measures relating to gear or catch;
- Effort-related management, based on vessel engine power and the number of days at sea.

The CFP also provides for the introduction of measures to rebuild, over a period of several years, stocks that are threatened in terms of sustainable harvesting, and for recourse to effort-related management rules to supplement TACs and quotas.

The CFP is periodically reviewed and reformed. The most recent CFP reform process was completed in 2013 and came into effect from the 1st January 2014. Key changes include:

- The introduction of an objective to ‘ensure high long-term fishing yields for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020’ (i.e. movement towards an MSY-based approach).
- The gradual (2015-2019) introduction on a fishery-by-fishery basis of a ‘landing obligation’, which effectively bans discarding.
- An overhaul of the management structure, including increased regionalisation and more extensive stakeholder consultation.

Denmark:

The responsible authority for monitoring and enforcing EU and national conservation policies is the Danish Agrifish Agency, which is a part of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, under the 1999 Fisheries Act. The Agency carries out inspection at sea and landings, as well as verification of EU marketing standards. The Ministry also works for Danish fisheries and aquaculture through

- Regulation and inspections of the fishing industry
- Support for research in fisheries and aquaculture production

- Support for the development of fisheries, the fish industry, fishery harbours and aquaculture
- Fish management and fishing license arrangements for recreational fisheries

The primary provider of scientific information and advice at the national level within Denmark is the National Institute of Aquatic Resources at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua). DTU Aqua’s stated mission is to conduct research, provide advice, educate at university level and contribute to innovation in sustainable exploitation and management of aquatic resources. DTU Aqua directly advises the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and other public authorities.

Species-specific management:

Saithe in the Northeast Atlantic is subject to a number of annual quotas applied by the EU, Norway and other countries in several different management units. Saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak are included in a single TAC set according to a joint Norwegian-EU management plan. Including this management unit, the EU management areas and their associated TACs for 2015 are as follows:

- IIIa, IV, EU waters of IIa, IIIb,c, Subdivisions 22-32: 66,006t
- VI, EU and international waters of Vb, XII and XIV: 6,848t
- Norwegian waters south of 62°N: 880t
- VII, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: 3,176t

These areas are similar, but not identical to, the stock units for which ICES provides advice (see section B). The extent to which the management measures in place are effective at ensuring the sustainable management of the fishery varies between stocks but in general there is some evidence that stocks are performing poorly compared to reference points.

R1 – R6

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: Species-specific stock assessment and data collection are conducted and appear to be adequate to allow informed management of the relevant saithe stocks.

Fisheries management in Danish waters is supported by DTU Aqua, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). These bodies carry out stock assessments and provide management advice for stocks in EU. 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.

ICES provides advice for saithe in the area covered by this assessment as four stock units, as follows:

Subarea IV (North Sea), Division IIIa (Skagerrak), and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data, 2 survey indices and 3 commercial catch indices. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary

approaches, and on the EU-Norway management plan. Time series estimates of fishing mortality, recruitment and SSB are available.

Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)

An analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and one survey index. Reference points have been defined based on the precautionary approach and the Norwegian management plan. Time series estimates of recruitment, fishing mortality and SSB are available back to 1960.

Division Vb

An analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data, commercial indices and annual maturity data from commercial catch during surveys. Reference points have been defined based on the precautionary and MSY approaches. Time series estimates of recruitment, fishing mortality and SSB are available back to 1961.

Division Va (Icelandic saithe)

A statistical catch-at-age assessment is conducted using catch-at-age data and the spring groundfish survey. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY approach, plus B_{pa}. Time series estimates of recruitment, fishing mortality and SSB are available back to 1980.

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.

Determination: Saithe has not been categorised by the IUCN; however the additional evidence described below leads the assessment team to believe the species is not at serious risk and so a high compliance rating is appropriate.

H

The IUCN has not categorised *Pollachius virens*, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. There are around 12 saithe fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic which have been certified against the MSC standard.

R7, R8

5. REFERENCES

R1 – DTU Aqua, “Mission, vision and tasks”: http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/english/About/Mission_vision

R2 – EU Common Fisheries Policy overview: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm

R3 – EU Common Fisheries Policy reform: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/index_en.htm

R4 – CFP control and enforcement overview: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control/index_en.htm

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R5 – Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, fisheries and aquaculture overview:
http://www.fvm.dk/fisheries_and_aquaculture.aspx?ID=15231

R6 - Danish Directorate of Fisheries, Control: <http://naturerhverv.fvm.dk/kontrol.aspx?ID=16792>

R7 – ICES advice, saithe, 2015:

- Subarea IV (North Sea), Division IIIa (Skagerrak), and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sai-3a46.pdf>
- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sai-arct.pdf>
- Division Vb: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sai-faro.pdf>
- Division Va (Icelandic saithe):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sai-icel.pdf>

R8 – EU TACs, 2015: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG

R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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