FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL

R1

FISHERY By-Product:	**Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)**
LOCATION:	**Northeast Atlantic**
DATE OF REPORT:	**December 2016**
ASSESSOR:	**Deirdre Hoare**

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**
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Yr 2

1. Scope of Assessment	IFFO RS By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product	Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Northeast Atlantic
4. Fishery Method	Primarily bottom-trawl; also gill-net, longline, purse-seine
5. Outcome of Assessment	Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework in Norway 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.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
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.	
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 Norway, 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

Fishery management 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.

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.

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 2016 are as follows:

- IIIa, IV, EU waters of IIa, IIIb,c, Subdivisions 22-32: 31,284t
- VI, EU and international waters of Vb, XII and XIV: 5,948t
- Norwegian waters south of 62$_{o}$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.

R2 – R7

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.

H

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.

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. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 116,605 tonnes.

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. ICES advises that when the Norwegian management plan is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 150,000 t.

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. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, fishing mortality in 2017 should be no more than 0.30

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. ICES advises that when the Icelandic management plan is applied, catches in the fishing year 2016/2017 should be no more than 55,000 t.

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. 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. R8, R9		H

5. REFERENCES

R1 –Image of *Pollachius virens* by Dolgov, A., http://fishbase.org/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=1&ID=1343&what=species&TotRec=4

R2 - Norway Fisheries website, 'The Regulatory Chain': http://www.fisheries.no/resource_management/setting_quotas/The-regulatory-chain-/

R3 – 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

R4 – Norway Fisheries website, 'Control and Enforcement': http://www.fisheries.no/resource_management/control_monitoring_surveillance/Control_and_enforcement/

R5 – Institute of Marine Research, about: http://www.imr.no/om_havforskningsinstituttet/en

R6 – ICES advice, saithe, 2016:

- Subarea IV (North Sea), Division IIIa (Skagerrak), and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall): http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/sai-3a46.pdf
- Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic): http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/sai-arct.pdf
- Division Vb: http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/sai-faro.pdf
- Division Va (Icelandic saithe): http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/sai-icel.pdf

R7 – EU TACs, 2016: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0072&from=EN

R8 – IUCN redlist: http://www.iucnredlist.org/

R9 – CITES appendices: http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php