
FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Silver smelt (<i>Argentina silus</i>)
LOCATION:	ICES Division Vb-Faroe Bank & Faroe Plateau inside FAO area 27
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2015
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, 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: Faroe Islands	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Giles Bartlett	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Silver smelt (<i>Argentina silus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		ICES Division Vb-Faroe Bank & Faroe Plateau inside FAO area 27
4. Fishery Method		
		Semi-pelagic demersal trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a legal and administrative management framework in place and applied to the greater silver smelt stock. Scientific research is carried out in support of the management of the stock, but could be substantially improved in several areas to reduce uncertainty. The species has not been assessed by the IUCN, but the Faroese fishery has been certified against the MSC standard.

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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 a legal and administrative framework in place and applied to the silver smelt fishery. Although there is no management plan, an informal TAC agreement and restricted fishery entry appears to have kept fishery removals at a sustainable level.

Faroese fishery management: The primary governmental body with responsibility for the management of Faroese fisheries is the Ministry of Fisheries and Natural Resources. The framework for the regulation of commercial fisheries, in domestic, foreign and international waters, is the Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994 and its subsequent amendments. Based on this legislation, detailed regulations are implemented governing vessel and fishing licences, area closures, gear and data requirements and other technical regulations for commercial fisheries. The stated objective of Faroese fisheries management is “to conserve and utilise marine fish stocks in order to ensure biological and economic sustainability and secure optimal socio-economic benefits from fisheries”. The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. Although Denmark is a member state of the European union, the Faroe Islands have chosen to remain outside the union, and as such negotiate their own trade and fisheries agreements with the EU and other countries.

Species-specific management: There is currently no internationally-agreed management plan or harvest control rule in place for the stock, nor is there a national Faroese management plan. There is an informal agreement between the fishing industry and the Faroese government that landings should not exceed 20,000t per year, which has been kept to since 2007. A new Executive order on management of silver smelt is in force as of May 6th 2014. In conformity with this Executive order the TAC and other specific regulations for the GSS fishery for 2015 was issued on 23rd March 2015. (Kunngerðablaðið A 2015 of March 23rd). The group quota for the six silver smelt fishery vessels was set for 14,400 tons a reduction by 10% over 2014 in accordance with the Havstovan advice. This reduction is also reflected in the fishing licence for each of the 6 allowed vessels. ICES reports that there is a minimum landings size (28cm) and a licensing system.

R1, R2, R3

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

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.

Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, but could be significantly improved to decrease uncertainty and ensure the informed management of the stock.

The silver smelt stock is considered by ICES to be data-limited. There are no reference points and the ICES

advice is based on two groundfish surveys only. ICES reports that the stock definition for greater silver smelt is unclear, and that there are a number of other improvements which could be made to sampling and other data collection efforts. However, there is also no evidence of a decline in biomass in Division Vb, and recent total landings (31,709t in 2014) have been very close to the ICES advice (31,300t in 2014).

R2

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: The byproduct comes from a fishery which has been certified against the MSC standard.

Silver smelt (*Argentina silus*) has not been assessed by the IUCN, but the Faroe Islands fishery has been certified as sustainable against the MSC standard (August 2012).

R3, R4

5. REFERENCES

R1 – Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries: <http://www.fisk.fo>

R2 – ICES advice, greater silver smelt, June 2015:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/arg-rest.pdf>

R3 - Lassen, H., and G. M. Pedersen, 2015. Surveillance Visit – Report for the Faroe Islands silver smelt fishery. DNV GL - Business Assurance, June 2015. 32pp https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/faroe-island-silver-smelt/assessment-downloads-1/20150616_SR_SME292.pdf

R4 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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