

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)
LOCATION:	South Africa
DATE OF REPORT:	30/12/11
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Quayside Business Centre, Riverlane, 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: South Africa	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial assessment
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		South Africa
4. Fishery Method		
		Pelagic trawl (purse seine).
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
The South African authorities have in place a robust system for the management of fisheries, and apply the system specifically to the sardine stock. Management decisions are backed by considerable research. The stock is not currently deemed at risk of over-exploitation.

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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: An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and applied directly to the South African sardine stock. H

Fishery management framework:

The legal foundation for the management of South African fisheries, including fisheries for sardine, anchovy and round herring, is the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18, 1998) of South Africa. The South African fishing industry is managed and regulated by the Fisheries Management Branch (FMB) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The FMB is the primary implementer of the Marine Living Resources Act, and its aims include the maintenance and restoration of the productive capacity and biodiversity of the marine environment, ensuring the protection of human health, and promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources.

The Branch conducts research and monitoring on anchovy, amongst other stocks, including biannual research surveys, manned field stations, and creating Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) to gather state and invited outside specialist scientists to assess the status of the various pelagic stocks. The FMB uses this research to make recommendations regarding management measures, including total allowable catches (TACs) and fishery closures. The specific SWG relevant to the anchovy stock is the Small Pelagic Scientific Working Group, which provides advice and recommendations to ensure the sustainable utilisation of South Africa's small pelagic fish resources.

Management of the sardine fishery:

The South African sardine stock is managed in combination with other small pelagic species, including anchovy, redeye round herring, and horse mackerel. The DAFF issues an annual TAC for each seasonal fishery, along with vessel licenses and implementing other management measures.

(R1-3)

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: Management of the sardine stock, as part of the small pelagic fishery, is supported by a range of fishery dependent and fishery independent research. H

Information collected from pelagic landing sites includes the catch weight, species composition, and catch location (grouped into 10 × 10 mile blocks). Catch location data are used to monitor spatial trends in fishing patterns and from those infer distribution patterns of pelagic species. Additionally, these data may be used in conjunction with other data sources to derive spatial ecosystem indicators such as an index of spatial biodiversity and the exploited fraction of the ecosystem surface for the pelagic fishery.

Catch-at-age and weight-at-age data for both anchovy and sardine are generated from age-length keys derived from commercial catch samples, and are required for the stock assessment models. Biological data have been used to construct time series of indicators that characterise the state of the target stock and the fisheries they support.

Observers on boats have been deployed in the pelagic fishery since 1999, to provide data relating to catch weight and locality, catch composition, and length frequencies of important species, in addition to collecting some biological data.

Vessel monitoring systems are presently on board every pelagic vessel and provide data on location (with a temporal resolution of six hours), but are currently only used for compliance purposes to ensure that vessels do not fish in restricted areas.

A hydroacoustic survey programme to estimate pelagic fish biomass has been carried out annually since 1984. These surveys cover much of the continental shelf around South Africa. Ichthyoplankton data have also been used more broadly to study other life history characteristics of the small pelagic species, such as spawning habitat and nursery areas.

(R3 & 4)

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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 currently deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.</p> <p>The IUCN has not assessed <i>Sardinops sagax</i>. The WWF, through the South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative, states that the broad consensus amongst experts is that management procedures for the sardine stock are generally effective. Other sardine fisheries have been certified by the MSC.</p> <p>(R5, R6)</p>	

5. REFERENCES

- R1 – South Africa Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: <http://www.daff.gov.za/>
- R2 – South Africa OMP-08: Provided by client.
- R3 – South African Marine Living Resources Act, 1998: http://www.saflii.org/za/legis/num_act/mlra1998256.pdf
- R4 – Hutchings, L. et al, 2009: *Marine fisheries monitoring programmes in South Africa*. South African Journal of Science 105
- R5 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R6 – SASSI species profile, sardine: <http://www.wwfsassi.co.za/?m=5&s=5&idkey=839>