

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
LOCATION:	North- East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		North-East Atlantic
4. Fishery Method		
		Pelagic trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain byproduct approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the sprat stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, although there are significant improvements which could be made in the understanding of some NE-Atlantic sprat stocks. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.

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 are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.

Fishery management framework:

The UK & Ireland are members of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implement 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.

The CFP has undergone a series of updates, including the most recent reform which was implemented from 1st January 2014. The principal aim of the new CFP is to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. The 2014 reform also details the gradual roll-out of a landing obligation (prohibiting discards), which began in selected fisheries in 2015 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increases the role and importance of management at the regional level, and encourages more intensive stakeholder engagement.

The primary authorities with responsibility for implementing the CFP are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland, the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in England and Wales, and Marine Scotland, a Directorate of the Scottish Government, in Scotland.

Species-specific management:

Annual quotas are set for four sprat stocks in the North-East Atlantic. The stocks and their TACs in 2016 in brackets, 2017 are as follows:

- IIa, IV: (219,500t), 28,620t
- IIIa: (30,784t), 33,280t
- VIId,e: (5,150t), 4,120t

Other regulations vary between stocks, but include minimum mesh size and restrictions on the permitted percentage of herring bycatch per trip. Since 2005 EU vessels operating in the fishery have not been allowed to land unsorted catches.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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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: Research to support the management of the stocks exists, but significant improvements could be made to improve the reliability of the resulting advice for several of the management units.

Fisheries management in EU waters is supported by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). 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 stock management advice for sprat in five different units, as follows:

- Subarea IV (North Sea)
- Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat)
- Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea)
- Divisions VII d,e
- Subarea VI and Divisions VII a-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland)

Celtic Sea and West of Scotland

Advice for the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland is not considered to be dedicated to a specific stock, but rather to the species in a wider region where data are available. The stock structure of sprat in this region is unclear, and there is currently no TAC set. Scientific understanding varies considerably between the four ‘true’ stock units. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 3,500 tonnes in each of 2016 and 2017.

North Sea

Reference points are defined for the stock, including MSY (Fcap), MSY (Bescapement), Bpa, and Blim. The assessment is based on commercial catch data, three survey indices, annual maturity data, and natural mortalities from a multispecies model. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches from July 2016 to June 2017 should be no more than 125,541 tonnes.

Skagerrak – Kattegat

Reference points do not appear to be defined. The advice is based on a combined abundance index from three surveys, used as an indicator of stock size. The uncertainty associated with the index values is not available. There are concerns related to the accuracy of these abundance indices as analyses show that the survey may not cover the entire stock. As sprat has a very patchy distribution, the sampling in the surveys may not be appropriate. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, wanted catches from July 2016 through June 2017 should be no more than 9,773 tonnes.

Baltic Sea

Reference points are defined for the stock, including FMSY, Fpa, Flim, Btrigger, Bpa and Blim. The assessment is based on commercial catches, two acoustic surveys and natural mortalities from multispecies modelling. ICES

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advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 314 kt. ICES advises the consideration of a spatial management plan for the clupeid fisheries.

VIId,e

No reference points are defined. Assessment is based on a time-series of mid-water trawl LPUE (Landings per unit of effort) and landings statistics. This is categorised by ICES as a data-limited stock. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 3678 tonnes.

R7, R8

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: Sprat has been categorised by the IUCN as ‘least concern’ in its European assessment.

The IUCN has categorised *Sprattus sprattus* as ‘least concern’ in its European Regional assessment. The species is not listed in the CITES appendices. The MSC is currently assessing three sprat fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic.

R9, R10, R11

5. REFERENCES

R0 – Image of *Sprattus sprattus* from the GICIM Database of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle <http://dsipho.fr/gicim/sd00002/i2004-0589~p1.jpg>

R1 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm

R2 – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm

R3 – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm

R4 – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>

R5 – Marine Management Organisation (About): <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>

R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R7 – ICES advice, sprat 2016:

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- Subarea IV (North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/spr-nsea.pdf>
- Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/spr-kask.pdf>
- Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/spr-2232.pdf>
- Divisions VII d,e: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/spr-ech.pdf>
- Subarea VI and Divisions VII a-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/spr-celt.pdf>

R8 – EU fishing quotas 2015: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R0104&from=EN>

R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/198583/1>

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

R11 – Marine Stewardship Council Track a Fishery <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/@@search?q=sprattus+sprattus&search=>

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