

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (France)
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Name:		
Address:		
Country: France	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
Sam Peacock	Deirdre Hoare	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
IFFO RS By-Product re-certification		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Northeast Atlantic (France)		
4. Fishery Method		
Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl, purse seine		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Re-approve byproduct		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and France levels which is applied specifically to the whiting stocks in the assessment area – although there is a considerable discrepancy between the management units and the scientific stock units. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but improvements in the scientific understanding of the majority of stocks could be made. 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	
<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 species under assessment. However, the discrepancy between the management units and the scientific stock units means a medium compliance rating is appropriate.

M

Fishery management framework:

France is a member 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.

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 authority with responsibility for implementing the CFP in France is the Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture (*Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l’Aquaculture, DPMA*), within the government Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (*Ministère de l’Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l’Énergie*).

Species-specific management:

Quotas are set for whiting in six management areas relevant to this assessment. The management units and their TACs for 2015 are as follows:

- IIIa: 1,050t
- IV, EU waters of IIa: 13,678t
- VI, Vb, international waters of XII and XIV: 263t
- VIIa: 80t
- VIIb-k: 17,742t
- VIII: 3,175t

These do not fully match the stock units for which ICES provides advice (see section B). The majority of European whiting fisheries are not subject to a management plan (although one is in place in the North Sea), but a minimum landing size of 27cm is in place. The assessment team is not aware of any additional species-

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specific technical measures.
R1 – R5

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: The level of uncertainty in the stock assessments conducted in support of whiting fishery management varies considerably between stocks, but there are substantial gaps in some cases meaning analytical assessments are not possible.

M

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 species-specific stock assessment and advice for whiting in seven stocks relevant to this assessment, as follows:

Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat)

No analytical assessment is conducted; the only available indicators are catch statistics and age-based indices from surveys. No reference points are defined and the stock is categorised as data limited.

Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel)

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and two survey indices. No reference points have been defined but time-series estimates of fishing mortality and SSB are available. ICES reports that stock identity is an unresolved issue, but that stock trends appear to be well reflected by the assessment.

Division VIb (Rockall)

No assessment is conducted; the only input data are landings statistics. The stock is considered data limited and no reference points have been established.

Divisions VIIb,c,e-k

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and one survey index. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. ICES reports that the quality of input data is considered sufficient for the assessment of the stock, and the assessment itself appears to be quite robust to uncertainty.

Division VIIa (Irish Sea)

A trend-based assessment is conducted using two trawl survey indices. No reference points are defined and ICES considers the stock to be data-limited. The status of the stock is not known.

Division VIa (West of Scotland)

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An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and three survey indices. Reference points have been defined based on the precautionary approach but not based on MSY. ICES notes concerns over the level of coverage and reliability of some surveys.

Subarea VIII and Division IXa

No assessment is conducted; the only available data are landings statistics. The stock is categorised as data limited and no reference points have been determined.

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: Whiting is categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

H

The IUCN has categorised *Merlangius merlangus* as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R7, R8

5. REFERENCES

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 – French Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Les-peches-maritimes-et-l-.html>

R5 – ICES advice,

- Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2012/2012/whg-kask.pdf>
- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VII d (Eastern Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-47d.pdf>
- Division VI b (Rockall): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-rock.pdf>

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- Divisions VIIb,c,e–k: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-7e-k.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-iris.pdf>
- Division VIa (West of Scotland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-scow.pdf>
- Subarea VIII and Division IXa: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/whg-89a.pdf>

R6 – EU fishing quotas 2015: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG

R7 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R8 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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