

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (France)
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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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:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
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		
		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		
		Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

As in the 2015 surveillance assessment, 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 in tonnes for 2016, 2017 are as follows:

Area	2016	2017
IIIa	1,031	1,031
IV, EU waters of IIa	12,610	14,703
VI, Vb, international waters of XII and XIV	213	0
VIIa	80	80
VIIb-k	22,778	pm
VIII	2,540	2,032

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

<p>landing size of 27cm is in place. The assessment team is not aware of any additional species-specific technical measures.</p> <p>R2– R6</p>		
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.	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>ICES provides species-specific stock assessment and advice for whiting in four stocks relevant to this assessment, as follows:</p> <p><i>Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel)</i></p> <p>An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and two survey indices. The MSY approach using the new FMSY replaces the EU-Norway management strategy for whiting in the North Sea used as the basis for advice in previous years. In an Interbenchmark in 2016, new natural mortality values were applied. The risk to fall below Blim was higher than 5% when using the harvest control rule FMGT, as proposed in the EU-Norway management strategy (0.15 without a Btrigger value). Therefore, the MSY approach is used with FMSY of 0.15 and an additional check whether SSB (2018) > Blim. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, total catches in 2017 should be no more than 23,527 tonnes.</p> <p><i>Divisions VIIb,c,e–k</i></p> <p>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. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 25,125 tonnes.</p> <p><i>Division VIIa (Irish Sea)</i></p> <p>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. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catch in 2017.</p> <p><i>Division VIa (West of Scotland)</i></p>		M

<p>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. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>R6, R7,8</p>		
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<p><i>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.</i></p>		
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><i>Determination: Whiting is categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.</i></p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R9, R10</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

R1 – *Merlangius merlangus* photo Decler, Misjel Source:

<http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=745&pic=3582>

R2 -About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm

R3 – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm

R4 – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm

R5 – French Directorate of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Les-peches-maritimes-et-l-.html>

R6 – ICES advice 2016:

- Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VIId (Eastern Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/whg-47d.pdf>
- Divisions VIIb,c,e-k: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/whg-7e-k.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/whg-iris.pdf>

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- Division VIa (West of Scotland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/whg-scow.pdf>

R7 – EU fishing quotas 2016:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2015/12/st15276_en15_pdf

R8 – EU fishing quotas 2017: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2016/12/TAC-quotas-2017_pdf/

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

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

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