



FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian Spring-spawning) Herring (<i>Culpea harengus</i>) – minor assessment
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic (ICES Division Va, ICES Division Vb, ICES Sub Area IIa, ICES Sub Area IIb, ICES Sub Area IVa)
DATE OF REPORT:	7/10/11
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

Report Ref: Iceland Atlanto Herring

CCM Code:

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name: Icelandic Association of Fishmeal Manufacturers			
Address:			
Country:		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:	Assessment Days:	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification:
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	1	Surveillance
Assessment Period	Oct 2011		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:	Surveillance		
2. Fishery	Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian Spring-spawning) Herring		
3. Fishery Location	Northeast Atlantic(ICES Division Va, ICES Division Vb, ICES Sub Area IIa, ICES Sub Area IIb, ICES Sub Area IVa)		
4. Fishery Method	Purse Seine nets, Midwater pelagic trawls		
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating	HIGH		
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance	NONE		
7. Information deficiency	NONE		
8. Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with Surveillance Review		
9. Recommendation	Maintain Approval		

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2. Quality of Information
Good, primarily from ICES advice.

3. Compliance Level Achieved
HIGH
Recommendation
Approve fishery

4. Guidance for On-site Assessment
Based on High Compliance Findings
Based on Medium Compliance Findings
Key Stakeholders of the Fishery

5. Assessment Determination
Approve fishery. There have been no major changes in the legal or management framework of the stock at either the Icelandic or international levels. Management actions and quotas continue to reflect the long-term aims of the management plan, and adhere to ICES scientific advice.
HIGH COMPLIANCE
A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2
MEDIUM COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE					
	The Management Framework and Procedures	Stock assessment procedures and management advice	Precautionary approach	Management measures	Implementation
legal and administrative basis	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Management actions should be scientifically based	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance
The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance	Low Compliance
A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance
A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	Low Compliance	High Compliance

KEY: Low Compliance Medium Compliance High Compliance:

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6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome

a. The Management Framework and Procedure

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	a.i. The management of the fishery must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: Icelandic fisheries management continues to be supported by robust legal and administrative foundations.</p> <p>Iceland operates a structured, legal fisheries management system to ensure responsible fisheries, focusing on the sustainable utilization of the fish stocks and good treatment of the marine ecosystem. The fisheries management in Iceland is primarily based on extensive research on the fish stocks and the marine ecosystem, decisions made on the conduct of fisheries and allowable catches on the basis of scientific advice, and effective monitoring and enforcement of the fisheries and the total catch. These are the main pillars of the Icelandic fisheries management intended to ensure responsible fisheries and the sustainability of the ocean’s natural resources.</p> <p>For more details please refer to the original fishery assessment report.</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
	a.ii. Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account fishery removals and the biology of the species	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: The definition of the stock has not been changed since the original assessment, nor has there been any significant change in the understanding of stock distribution or biology.</p> <p>Fisheries management for the Atlanto-Scandian herring stock is concerned with the stock unit over its entire area of distribution, and within the Icelandic jurisdiction and quota takes into account all fishery removals. Research and information on the biology and distribution of the species continues to suggest that the stock unit</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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	used is appropriate. For more information, please refer to the original fishery assessment.	
	a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	Rating
LOW	Determination: <i>The fishery continues to be managed according to a long-term management plan with clearly defined objectives, considered by ICES to adhere to the precautionary approach.</i>	HIGH
MEDIUM	<p>The fishery is jointly managed by Iceland, Norway, the European Community, the Faroe Islands, and Russia with the responsibility for waters outside national jurisdiction falling to the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). A long term management plan was agreed in 1999. ICES has evaluated the plan and concludes that it is in accordance with the precautionary approach. The plan includes the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every effort shall be made to maintain a level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than the critical level (Blim) of 2 500 000 t. • For the year 2001 and subsequent years, the Parties agree to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of less than 0.125 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES, unless future scientific advice requires modification of this fishing mortality rate. • Should the SSB fall below a reference point of 5 000 000 t (Bpa), the fishing mortality rate referred to under paragraph 2, shall be adapted in the light of scientific estimates of the conditions to ensure a safe and rapid recovery of the SSB to a level in excess of 5 000 000 t. The basis for such an adaptation should be at least a linear reduction in the fishing mortality rate from 0.125 at Bpa (5 000 000 t) to 0.05 at Blim (2 500 000 t). • The Parties shall, as appropriate, review and revise these management measures and strategies on the basis of any new advice provided by ICES. 	
HIGH		

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b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.	Rating
LOW	<p>.Determination: <i>Research in support of the management of the fishery continues to be carried out.</i></p> <p>ICES provides annual advice on the management of the fishery based on several fishery and non-fishery survey indices. Fishery independent data includes 8 survey indices of which 3 have not been continued in recent years; active surveys are 1 larval survey, 3 recruit surveys and 1 survey covering the adult stock. Catch at age data form the main fishery index. The International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas in May is the most important survey in the assessment and is expected to remain the main basis for future assessments.</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>Fishery management continues to follow the long-term management plan identified in the original assessment. The plan has been independently verified by ICES as adherent to the precautionary approach and following best scientific evidence.</i></p> <p>The current target fishing mortality of 0.125 is in the range of fishing mortalities (0.1-0.2) that would lead to MSY and a low risk of the stock falling below B_{lim}. The estimate of F_{MSY} is 0.15. The existing management plan is hence in conformity with the ICES MSY framework.</p> <p>Following the long term management plan agreed by EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia implies a TAC of 0.988 million tonnes in 2011.This is expected to lead to an SSB of 6.77 million tonnes in 2012.</p> <p>For more information, including a detailed explanation of the scientific basis of the management plan, please refer to the original fishery assessment.</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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c. The Precautionary Approach

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.	Rating												
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The management plan has been reviewed by ICES as adhering to the precautionary approach. The management plan continues to form the basis for management decisions.</i></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rationale</th> <th>Implied Landings, 2011 (million tonnes)</th> <th>Implied F(2011)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Maximum Sustainable Yield</td> <td>1.17</td> <td>0.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Precautionary Approach</td> <td>1.17</td> <td>0.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management Plan</td> <td>0.988</td> <td>0.125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 1 – TACs and F-values implied by following each rationale for determining 2011 fishing effort. From the ICES advice, 2010.</p> <p>The international management plan was reviewed by ICES in 2007 and found to adhere to the precautionary principal. For 2011, the precautionary approach recommended a total TAC (across all member states) of 1.17 million tonnes, whereas following the management plan would lead to a TAC of 0.988 million tonnes (See table 1, above). The eventual TAC for 2011 was set to follow the management plan, representing a catch significantly below that considered precautionary.</p> <p>Figure 1 shows the spawning stock biomass for the fishery, and illustrates how the SSB currently remains considerably above B_{pa}.</p> <p>Infection caused by <i>Ichthyophonus</i> has recently been observed in Icelandic summer spawning herring; however, during the surveys there were no indications of high prevalence of <i>Ichthyophonus</i> in the Atlanto-Scandian Herring stock.</p>	Rationale	Implied Landings, 2011 (million tonnes)	Implied F(2011)	Maximum Sustainable Yield	1.17	0.15	Precautionary Approach	1.17	0.15	Management Plan	0.988	0.125	HIGH
Rationale		Implied Landings, 2011 (million tonnes)	Implied F(2011)											
Maximum Sustainable Yield		1.17	0.15											
Precautionary Approach	1.17	0.15												
Management Plan	0.988	0.125												
MEDIUM														
HIGH														

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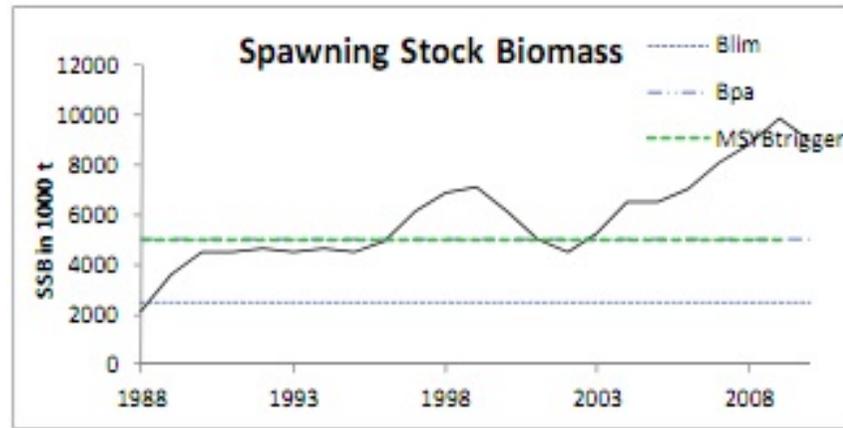


Figure 1 - Historical SSB for Atlanto-Scandian Herring. From the ICES advice 2010.

d. Management Measures

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The total international TAC for 2011 was set according to the management plan, and therefore adheres to scientific advice.</i></p> <p>Since 2007, the total TAC for all nations participating in the fishery has been set according to the ICES advice. The 2011 TAC was set at 988,000t, which represents an adherence to the management plan, and is considerably lower than TAC recommendations derived from a precautionary or MSY approach. ICES considers the SSB in 2011 to be well above B_{pa}.</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

	Advice for 2011		
	Management Objective (s)	Landings in 2011	
	MSY approach with caution at low stock size	Less than 1.17 million tonnes	
	Cautiously avoid impaired recruitment (Precautionary Approach)	Less than 1.17 million tonnes	
	Cautiously avoid impaired recruitment and achieve other objective(s) of a management plan (e.g., catch stability)	Less than 0.988 million tonnes	
	ICES management advice for three management objectives for 2011. From the ICES advice, 2010.		
	<p>In September 2011 ICES released the advice for 2012, recommending a TAC of 833,000t, again reflecting the management plan objectives. Final TACs are agreed by participating nations early in the year in question.</p> <p>For more information and historical TAC and landing data, please refer to the original assessment.</p>		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.ii Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.		Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The capacity-reducing mechanisms identified in the original assessment continue to be functional and effective.</i></p> <p>Iceland operates a vessel registration, licensing and permit system which is necessary to obtain quota within the Individual transfer quota system. The Marine Policy focuses on economic utilisation of stocks. The system acts to create disincentives for allowing excess capacity in fisheries. Other technical measures, including season, permanent and temporary closures act to manage effort and capacity within the permitted fleet.</p>		HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	d.iii Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment.	Rating
LOW	.	HIGH
MEDIUM	<p>Determination: <i>There are management measures in place to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. There have been no significant changes since the original assessment, either in measures or scientific recommendations.</i></p>	HIGH
HIGH	<p>There are various technical measures in place to ensure the protection of small fish and vulnerable habitats, such as regulations on the type of fishing gear allowed in different areas and the closing of fishing grounds. There are also rules for the minimum mesh size and the use of small-fish sorting grids to allow juvenile herring and non-target species escapement.</p> <p>Within the Icelandic EEZ the Directorate of Fisheries operates an observer program and a reporting system for fishermen allowing temporary closure of areas if the inter-mixture of saithe, itself a quota species managed by Iceland, falls outside of allowable by-catch limits. The temporary closure system is used extensively throughout Iceland for the majority of quota species.</p> <p>For more detailed information please refer to the original assessment.</p>	HIGH

e. Implementation

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The original assessment identified an efficient framework of sanctions for violations of laws and regulations. There have been no major changes since that time.</i></p> <p>The legal and administrative framework consists of laws and regulations that specify and allow the Ministry through the services of the Directorate to prosecute and charge fines through the Courts of Iceland for infringement of fishery regulations.</p> <p>Breaches of the law and regulations on fisheries management are subject to fines or revoking of the fishing permit, irrespective of whether such conduct is by intent or negligence. Major or repeated intentional offenses are subject to up to six years imprisonment. If the catch of a vessel exceeds the allowable catch, the relevant company or individual must obtain an additional catch quota for the relevant species. If this is not done within a certain timeframe, the fishing permit may be revoked as well as a charge having to be paid for the illegal catch.</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>The original assessment concluded that an effective management system was in place. There have been no significant changes since that time.</i></p> <p>All commercial fisheries are subject to authorization by the Directorate of Fisheries. The Iceland Coast Guard, which falls under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, monitors the fisheries of vessels</p>	HIGH
MEDIUM		
HIGH		

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	<p>operating in Icelandic waters, as well as monitoring closed areas.</p> <p>There are also strict requirements for the keeping of e- logbooks on-board all fishing vessels and they must be made available for fishery inspectors.</p> <p>The Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for monitoring and inspecting vessels both at sea, through an observer programme and ashore, through a network of official landing sites where all catches are registered by officials who report to a central database. Thus 60 ports of landings in Iceland send electronic data daily to the Directorate. A total of approximately 50.000 landings are registered in the system every year.</p> <p>All vessels must be registered, licensed and the Directorate issues fishing permits and allocates catch quotas.</p>	
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References

ICES Norwegian Spring-spawning Herring advice 2010:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/her-noss.pdf>

ICES Norwegian Spring-spawning Herring advice 2011:

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/her-noss.pdf>

IFFO fishery assessment report, Atlanto-Scandian Herring, 12th April 2010 (Global Trust Certification):

<http://www.iffonet.net/downloads/IFFO%20RS/Whole%20Fish/Iceland%20-%20Atlantic%20Herring.pdf>

Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture: <http://www.fisheries.is/management/government-policy/responsible-fisheries/nr/62>

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