

FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| FISHERY: | Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>)- ICELAND |
| LOCATION: | Iceland-E. Greenland-Jan Mayen (ICES Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W) |
| DATE OF REPORT: | December 2015 |
| ASSESSOR: | Deirdre Hoare |

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| 1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Name: Icelandic Association of Fishmeal Manufacturers | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| Country: Iceland | | 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 | Assessment Days | Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification |
| Deirdre Hoare | Giles Bartlett | 3 | Surveillance |
| Assessment Period | 2015 | | |
| Scope Details | | | |
| 1. Scope of Assessment | | IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply – Issue 1 | |
| 2. Fishery | | Capelin (Mallotus villosus) | |
| 3. Fishery Location | | Iceland-E. Greenland-Jan Mayen (ICES Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W) | |
| 4. Fishery Method | | Purse seine / pelagic trawl | |
| Outcome of Assessment | | | |
| 5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating | | High | |
| 6. Sub Components of Low Compliance | | None | |
| 7. Information deficiency | | None | |
| 8. Peer Review Evaluation | | Maintain approval | |
| 9. Recommendation | | Maintain approval | |

| |
|---|
| 2. QUALITY OF INFORMATION |
| Good |
| 3. COMPLIANCE LEVEL ACHIEVED |
| High |
| Recommendation |
| Maintain approval |
| 4. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT |
| |
| Based on HIGH compliance findings |
| |
| Based on MEDIUM compliance findings |
| |
| Based on LOW compliance findings |
| |
| 5. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION |
| <p>There have been no significant changes in the management or scientific understanding of the Icelandic capelin fishery since the 2013 re-assessment. A benchmark of Icelandic stocks including Icelandic Capelin was carried out in early 2015. WKICE was set up to provide standards for assessing these stocks. Quotas continue to be set in line with advice, and the management objective of maintaining SSB above 400,000t is still estimated to be achieved. The assessment team recommend maintaining the approval of this fishery against the IFFO RS standard.</p> |
| HIGH Compliance |
| A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2 |
| MEDIUM Compliance |
| |
| LOW 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 | A1 | | | | |
| Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit | A2 | | | | |
| Management actions should be scientifically based | A3 | | | | |
| Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist | | B1 | | | |
| Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures | | B2 | | | |
| The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans | | | C1 | | |
| The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations | | | | D1 | |
| Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity | | | | D2 | |
| Management measures should ensure that fishing gear and fishing practices do not have a significant impact on non-target species and the physical environment | | | | D3 | |
| A framework for sanctions of violation of laws and regulations should be efficiently exists | | | | | E1 |
| A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established | | | | | E2 |

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

A1. *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.*

| | |
|---------------|--|
| LOW | An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is not established. |
| MEDIUM | An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the conservation of the stock. |
| HIGH | A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery for its conservation is established and works efficiently toward the conservation of the stock. |

Determination: There have been no substantial changes to the Icelandic fisheries management system, and so a high compliance rating remains appropriate.

Modern Icelandic fisheries management is based on the Fisheries Management Act of 1990, and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. The objectives of the Fisheries Management Act are to promote the conservation and efficient utilisation of the marine resources and thus to ensure stable employment and economic viability of fishing communities. The most recent version of the Fisheries Management Act was published in 2006 and includes:

- A commitment to the conservation and efficient utilisation of Icelandic fishery resources (Article 1).
- A commitment to set an annual TAC for each species “for which it is deemed necessary to limit the catch” (Article 3).
- A requirement for all commercial fishers to obtain a general fishing permit; vessels not fishing for an entire 12 month period will have their permit revoked (Article 4).
- An outline of the ITQ quota system (described in more detail in section D2, below) (Article 8).
- An outline of the methodology and responsibility for enforcement and monitoring of fishery regulations (Articles 17 & 18).
- An outline of penalties for transgressions (Articles 24 – 27). Iceland’s national fisheries science organisation is the Marine Research Institute (MRI). The MRI carries out wide ranging and extensive research on the status and productivity of the commercial stocks, and longterm research on the marine environment and the ecosystem around Iceland. For more detail on the legal and administrative framework for fisheries management in Iceland, please refer to the 2013 re-assessment

(R1).

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

A2. *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.*

| | |
|---------------|---|
| LOW | Fisheries management is not concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and do not take into account any of the matters listed in ‘A1’. |
| MEDIUM | Fisheries management is concerned with matters listed in ‘A1’ but not entirely. Fisheries, in relation to ‘A1’ statement, should improve to ensure the long term conservation of the marine resource. |
| HIGH | Fisheries management should be concerned with the whole stock unit over its entire area of distribution and take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fishery removals • The biology of the species |

Determination: Neither the management unit nor the scientific understanding of the stock have changed since the 2013 re-assessment, meaning a high compliance rating remains appropriate.

Capelin in the Iceland/East Greenland/Jan Mayen area is considered by ICES to be a separate stock, and ICES has a good understanding of its distribution and life history. The design of management measures takes extensive account of the biology of the species. For example, as a precautionary measure to protect juveniles, all fishing with pelagic trawl has been banned in the Icelandic waters where juveniles are generally found, either separately or mixed with the adults. Additional temporary localised closures are enacted when high proportions of juveniles are detected in the catch. The timing of the fishery is also designed around protecting juveniles and the spawning stock. Fishery-dependent data include detailed landings information and are used in the formulation of management actions and the production of scientific advice. Discards and bycatch are not included in stock assessments, but based on observer data both are considered by ICES to be negligible.

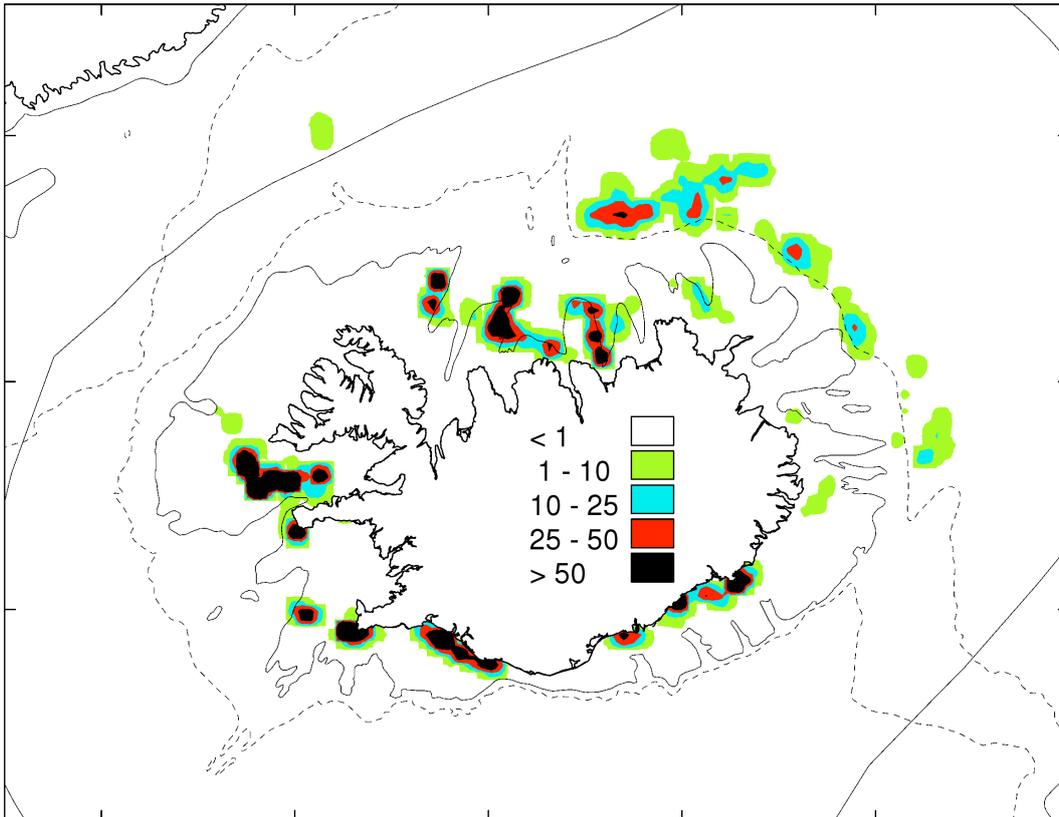


Figure 1. Fishing grounds in the 2013/2014 fishing season. Dark areas indicate highest catch (tonnes/nmi2). From the MRI advice, 2013/14 (R2).

R1, R2

| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | |
|--|---|
| <i>A3. Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives</i> | |
| LOW | Management actions are not based on long term management objectives. |
| MEDIUM | Management actions are based on long term management objectives. However the actions are not scientifically formulated. |
| HIGH | Management actions are based on long term management objectives, and actions are science based. |

Determination: Capelin continues to be managed using an escapement strategy which aims to ensure SSB is above 400,000t at the end of every fishing season. The most recent and historical estimates of SSB indicate that the approach is generally successful.

Since 1980 the TAC has been set in accordance with a 400,000t escapement strategy management plan. In June 1989 Greenland, Iceland and Norway signed an agreement on the division of the TAC between the countries. This agreement has been revised several times since then, most recently in 2003. ICES has not evaluated the management plan, but states that the escapement target of 400,000t can be “treated as preliminarily precautionary”. As most capelin die at age 3, ICES does not consider medium-term stock projections to be useful. Estimates of SSB have fluctuated around approximately 400,000t since the late 1990’s. Thus although the specifics have not been confirmed by ICES, an escapement-based approach appears to be appropriate for the short-lived capelin stock. For more detail on the management approach, please refer to the 2013 re-assessment (R1).

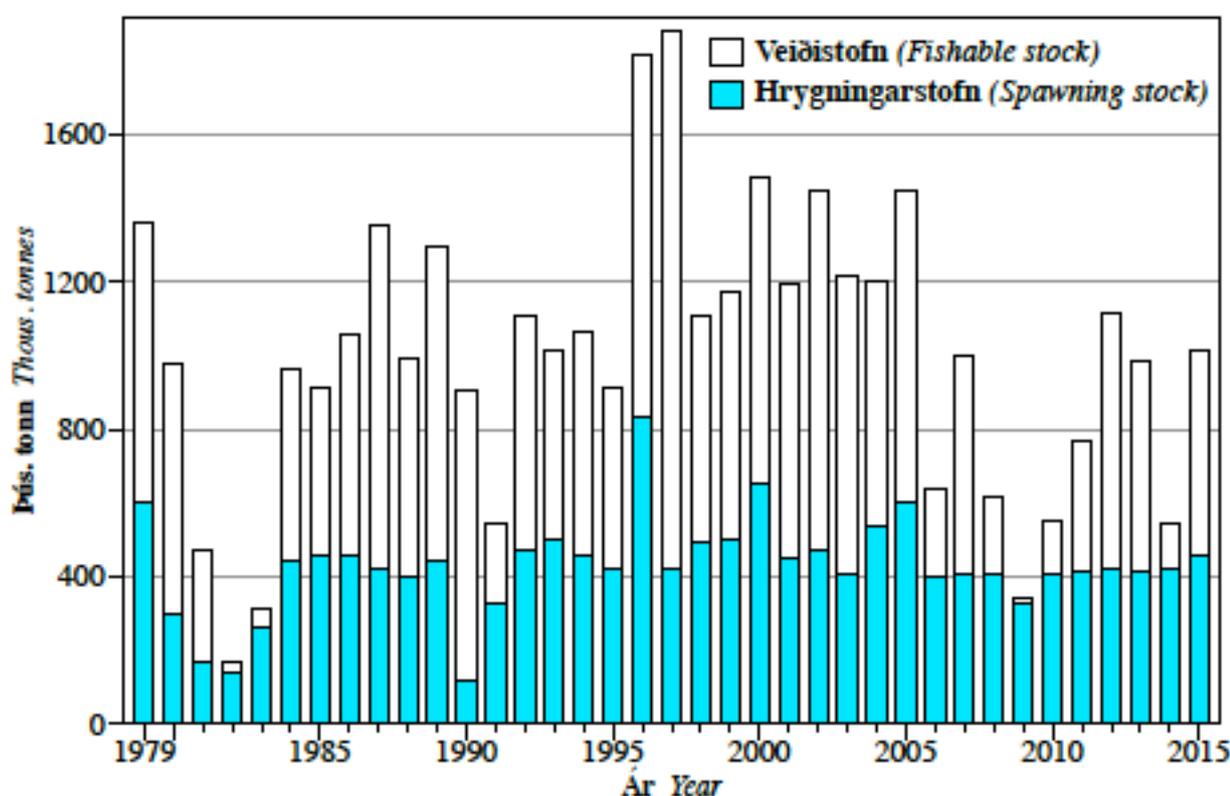


Figure 2. Abundance of the fishable capelin stock on the 1 January in the 1978/79–2014/15 fishing seasons, and the remaining spawning stock biomass at the end of each season. From the 2014/15 MRI advice (R2).

R1, R2

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B1. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| LOW | Research to support the conservation and management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment does not exist |
| MEDIUM | Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty. |
| HIGH | Research to support the conservation and the management of the stock, non-target species and physical environment exist, and existent research is considered most adequate for the long term conservation of the target, non-target and physical environment |

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Determination: The fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources identified in the 2013 reassessment continue to form the basis for ICES and MRI stock assessments.

ICES conducts an annual stock assessment and the MRI provides advice throughout the year based on the results of ongoing survey efforts. Data from a number of surveys (fishery-independent) and landings data (fishery-dependent) are available to ICES and the MRI, although the results of some non-stock-specific research efforts (such as estimates of bycatch and discarding) do not appear to be made available to ICES. The diagrams below show the most up-to-date estimates for various stock characteristics; for more detail on the source of these data please refer to the 2013 re-assessment (R1).

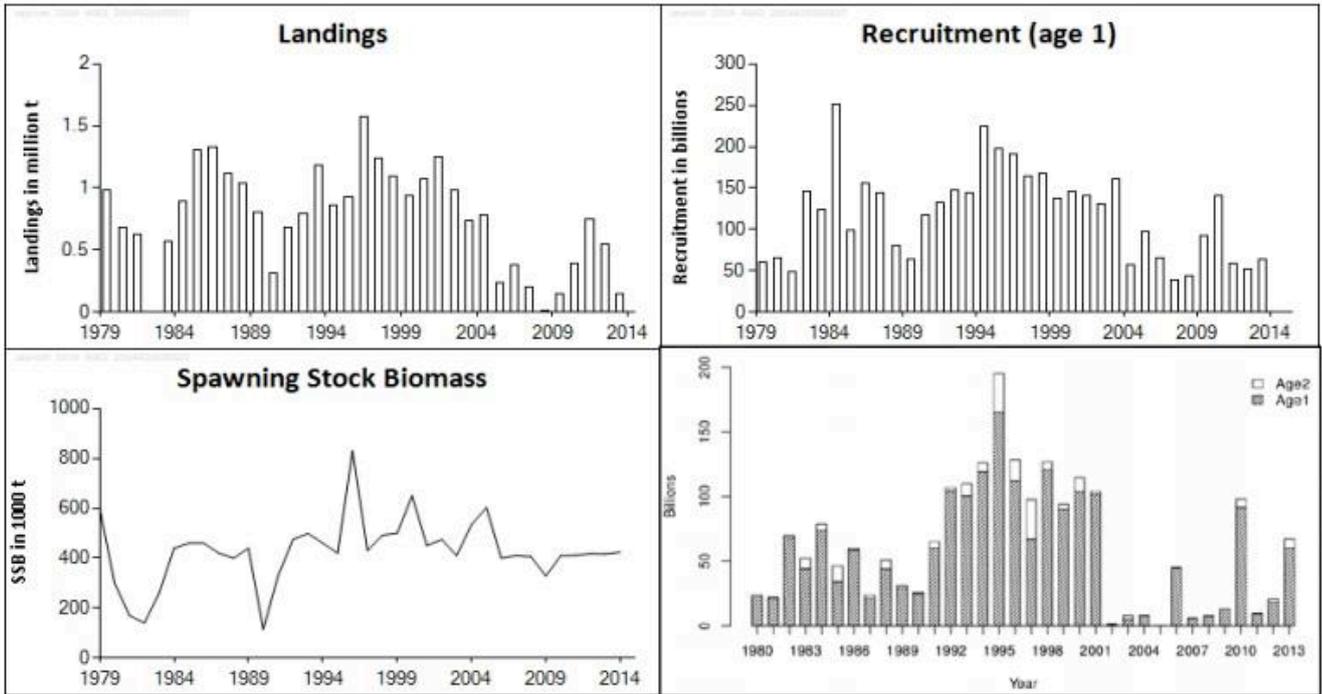


Figure 3. Capelin in Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W (Iceland–East Greenland–Jan Mayen area). Landings and assessment results (weights in thousand tonnes). Acoustic index of immature capelin at ages 1 and 2 (numbers in billions) from autumn surveys. From the ICES advice, May 2014 (R3).

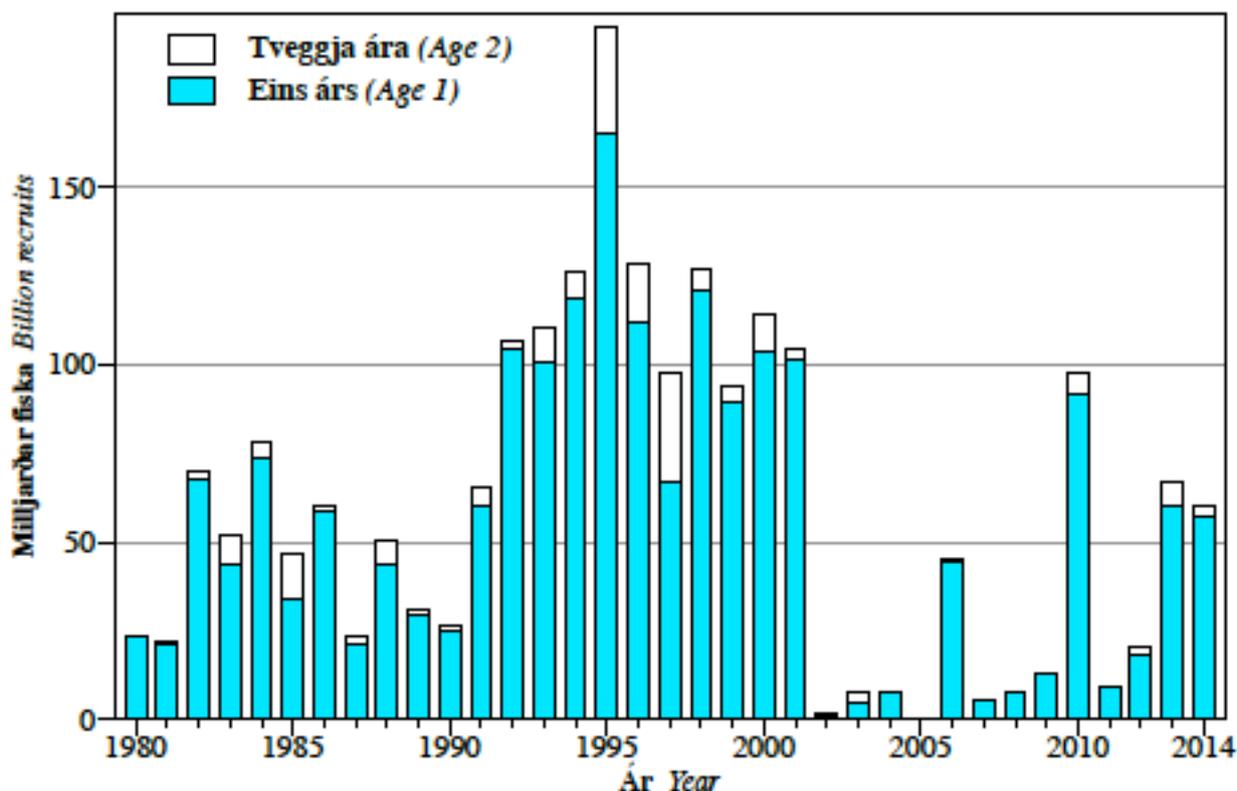


Figure 4. Acoustically measured number of immature age 1 and 2 capelin in autumn 1980–2014. From the MRI advice, 2014/15 (R2).

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B2. Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| LOW | Scientific advice is not taken into account when designing conservation and management measures. |
| MEDIUM | Scientific advice is taken into account, when designing conservation and management measures. However some areas of discrepancy are identified that could have a significant impact in the long term conservation of the marine environment. |
| HIGH | Scientific advice is taken into account, when designing conservation and management measures, in a comprehensively manner. |

Determination: ICES carried out a benchmark of Icelandic Stocks including Icelandic Capelin, WKICE was set up to provide standards for assessing these stocks. Therefore, lack of transparency is no longer an issue and a high compliance rating is appropriate.

Fishery management decisions are informed by the annual stock assessments conducted by ICES and the MRI, and by in-year advice which is provided by the MRI and updated to reflect survey results. In general, this advice has been followed, to the extent that the fishery was closed entirely in 2008/09, when biomass was estimated to be too low to ensure SSB would be above 400,000t if a fishery took place. In addition to following MRI quota recommendations, a number of technical measures have been implemented in the fishery in line with scientific advice, including minimum mesh sizes and closed areas.

R2, R5

C. THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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| <i>C1. The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.</i> | |
| LOW | The precautionary approach is not applied in the formulation of management plans. |
| MEDIUM | The precautionary approach is applied, however not all uncertainties are taken into account. |
| HIGH | The precautionary approach is applied, taking into account uncertainties relating to the dynamic of fish population (recruitment, mortality, growth and fecundity), and the impact of the fishing activities, such as discards and by-catch of non-target species as well as on the physical environment (Habitats). |

Determination: The fishery continues to be managed in line with the precautionary approach.

As mentioned previously the stock has been benchmarked since the time of the previous assessment. ICES has not evaluated the management plan, but states that the escapement target of 400,000t can be “treated as preliminarily precautionary”. There are no other reference points defined for the stock. ICES has recently expressed concern that the natural mortality estimates used in the TAC calculations may be too low, leading to higher TACs than sustainable. In response, the MRI applies a rule which means the initial TAC is set at 0t in any year where it would otherwise be set below 500,000t. Last year’s advice was based on a biomass escapement of 400 kt; this year’s advice is based on an initial TAC set with a very low probability of being higher than the final TAC. A final TAC is set with a >95% probability of SSB being greater than Blim. This represents a precautionary approach as it does not use the lack of an accurate mortality estimate as an excuse for inaction.

R1

D. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>D1. The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.</i> | |
| LOW | The level of fishing permitted is not set according to management advice given by research organisations. |
| MEDIUM | The level of fishing permitted is higher than management advice given by research organisations. However, the difference is not considered to have a significant impact of the sustainability of the stock |
| HIGH | The level of fishing permitted is set according to management advice given by research organisations. |

Determination: The level of fishing continues to be set in line with MRI advice, and landings remain within scientifically-recommended levels.

In most years, and every year since 2009, the TAC is set in line with the MRI advice, and where it has exceeded the advice historically the difference has been minimal (see table below). Final total landings have consistently been at or below the official quota. The final TAC for the 2014/15 season was set at 580,000t. Final landings were 517,000t, of which Icelandic vessels landed 354,000t.

Table 1. MRI quota recommendations (‘Rec. TAC’), final TAC, and landings data for Capelin 1984 – 2015. From the MRI advice, 2014/15 (R2).

| Vertíðir | Tillaga | Aflamark | Afli | Afli annarra | Afli alls |
|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Seasons | Rec. TAC | TAC | Íslendinga Landings (Iceland) | þjóða Landings (others) | Total landings |
| 1984/85 | 920 | 920 | 774 | 123 | 897 |
| 1985/86 | 1 280 | 1 280 | 987 | 325 | 1 312 |
| 1986/87 | 1 290 | 1 290 | 1 053 | 380 | 1 333 |
| 1987/88 | 1 115 | 1 115 | 912 | 204 | 1 116 |
| 1988/89 | 1 065 | 1 065 | 921 | 116 | 1 037 |
| 1989/90 | 900 | 900 | 666 | 142 | 808 |
| 1990/91 | 250 | 312 | 284 | 27 | 311 |
| 1991/92 | 740 | 740 | 635 | 47 | 682 |
| 1992/93 | 900 | 900 | 655 | 95 | 793 |
| 1993/94 | 1 250 | 1 250 | 1 001 | 178 | 1 179 |
| 1994/95 | 850 | 850 | 750 | 114 | 864 |
| 1995/96 | 1 150 | 1 150 | 883 | 46 | 929 |
| 1996/97 | 1 600 | 1 600 | 1 249 | 322 | 1 571 |
| 1997/98 | 1 265 | 1 265 | 940 | 260 | 1 245 |
| 1998/99 | 1 200 | 1 200 | 899 | 201 | 1 100 |
| 1999/00 | 1 000 | 1 000 | 844 | 90 | 934 |
| 2000/01 | 1 110 | 1 110 | 894 | 177 | 1 071 |
| 2001/02 | 1 300 | 1 300 | 1 051 | 198 | 1 249 |
| 2002/03 | 1 000 | 1 000 | 765 | 223 | 988 |
| 2003/04 | 875 | 875 | 575 | 167 | 742 |
| 2004/05 | 985 | 985 | 640 | 144 | 784 |
| 2005/06 | 215 | 238 | 193 | 45 | 238 |
| 2006/07 | 370 | 385 | 307 | 70 | 377 |
| 2007/08 | 207 | 207 | 149 | 54 | 203 |
| 2008/09 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| 2009/10 | 150 | 150 | 111 | 40 | 151 |
| 2010/11 | 390 | 390 | 322 | 68 | 390 |
| 2011/12 | 765 | 765 | 585 | 162 | 747 |
| 2012/13 | 570 | 570 | 464 | 87 | 551 |
| 2013/14 | 160 | 160 | 111 | 31 | 142 |
| 2014/15 | 580 | 580 | 354 | 163 | 517 |

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

D2. Where excess fishing capacity exist, mechanisms should be in established to reduced capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| LOW | Mechanisms to allow for recovery of the stock to sustainable levels are not established. |
| MEDIUM | Mechanisms to allow for recovery of the stock to sustainable levels are somehow established. However there is no evidence of the efficiency of the methods used. |
| HIGH | Mechanisms are established to reduce capacity to allow for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels and there are evidences of recovery. |

Determination: Annual quotas remain the primary mechanism for limiting fishing effort in Iceland. As there have been no major changes since the 2013 re-assessment, a high compliance rating remains appropriate.

The main instrument in Icelandic fisheries and fleet management is a system based on Individual Tradable Quota (ITQs), which has been in place in its current form since 1990. During the past 15 years there has been no specific fleet management system in Iceland; fishing licenses are readily available for anyone with a seaworthy vessel, and no decommissioning schemes are in place. Under the ITQ system, each vessel is allocated a certain share of the TAC of the relevant species. Decommissioning occurs indirectly, as companies

increase their share of the TAC by buying out vessels and thus receiving the quota attached to those vessels.
R1

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

D3. 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 | There are no management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. |
| MEDIUM | There are management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. However it is not science based. |
| HIGH | There are management measures to prevent the impact of the fishing methods and fishing practices on non-target species and the physical environment. Measures are based on scientific information. |

Determination: The impacts of the fishery on non-target species and the physical environment remain minimal. There have been no significant changes since the 2013 re-assessment.

With some minor exceptions it is required by Icelandic law to land all catches. Consequently, no minimum landing size is in force. To prevent the removal of juvenile and spawning fish Iceland implements various technical measures such as mesh size regulation, real-time, temporary and permanent area closures. Icelandic legislation (557/2007) states that all fishing vessels must keep a Fishery Log-book. Birds and Mammals that are caught in fishing gear are to be reported and recorded in the Fishery Log-book. ICES states that capelin plays a key role in the marine ecosystem in this area and is by far the most important pelagic fish stock in Icelandic waters. It is not clear to what extent the ecosystem impacts of capelin removals are factored into scientific advice or management decisions. Direct effects on habitat and seafloor are typically minimal for pelagic gears, although occasional contact is known to occur and, in these cases, can potentially cause damage to fragile ecosystems (e.g. corals). R1

E. IMPLEMENTATION

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

E1. There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| LOW | A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations do not efficiently exist. |
| MEDIUM | A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations do exist but do not work efficiently. |
| HIGH | A framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations exists and is proven to be efficient. |

Determination: As at the time of the 2013 re-assessment, there is a robust framework in place for sanctioning violations of fishery laws and regulations in Iceland.

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 of the said vessel of individual species, the relevant fishing company must obtain an additional catch quota for the relevant species. Penalties are outlined in Articles 24-27 of the Fisheries Management Act, including:

- Violations of the Act shall be prosecuted according to the Criminal Proceedings Act.
- Violations against the Act shall be liable to fines, and cases of serious or repeated deliberate violation shall be liable to imprisonment for up to six years.
- Fines may vary between ISK 400,000 (US\$3,200) and ISK 8,000,000 (US\$65,000), depending on the nature and scope, and whether it represents a repeat offence.

R1

| | |
|--|---|
| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | |
| <i>E2. A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.</i> | |
| LOW | A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is not established. |
| MEDIUM | A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is established but do not work efficiently. |
| HIGH | A management system for fisheries control and enforcement is established and work efficiently. |
| <i>Determination: Effective fisheries control and enforcement mechanisms remain in place in Icelandic fisheries.</i> | |
| <p>Day to day administration and enforcement of the Fisheries Act and related legislation is in the hands of the Directorate of Fisheries, a government body responsible to the Minister of Fisheries. The Directorate is also responsible for the continuous monitoring of compliance with the Act. The Icelandic Coast Guard, responsible to the Minister of Justice, monitors fishing activities in Icelandic waters, including surveillance of areas closed for fishing and inspection of mesh sizes and other gear related practices. Under a bilateral agreement between Iceland and the European Union (EU), Icelandic inspectors are required on board all EU fishing vessels in Icelandic waters.</p> | |
| R1 | |

7. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

8. REFERENCES

R1 – IFFO RS Iceland Capelin re-assessment, August 2013: <http://www.iffo.net/files/iffoweb/approved-rawmaterials/whole-fish/final-iceland-capelin-re-assessment-august-2013ds.pdf>

R2 – MRI Capelin advice:
http://www.hafro.is/Astand/2015/english/capelin_2015.pdf

R3 –ICES Capelin advice for 2014/2015 (May 2014):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/cap-icel.pdf>
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cap-icel.pdf>

R4 - IFFO RS Iceland Capelin surveillance October 2014: <http://www.iffo.net/files/iffoweb/approved-raw-materials/whole-fish/iceland-capelin-surveillance-october-2014dg.pdf>

R5 - Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Icelandic Stocks (WKICE) 2015
http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2015/WKICE%202015/wkice_2015_final.pdf

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