



FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY:	North Sea Sandeel
LOCATION:	ICES Sub Area IV (Denmark)
DATE OF REPORT:	29 th July 2011
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Rivercourt Business Centre, Riverlane, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

Issue No; 2; Issue Date; Nov 09

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1. Application Details and Summary of the Assessment Outcome			
Name: Foreningenfor Danmarks Fiskemel- og Fiskeolieindustri (Association of Fishmeal and Fishoil Manufacturers in Denmark)			
Address:			
Country: Denmark		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: Sam Peacock	Peer Reviewer: Mike Platt	Assessment Days: 1	Initial/Surveillance/Re-certification: Surveillance
Assessment Period	29 th July 2011		
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment:		IFFO Global RS Standard Issue 1.0	
2. Fishery		North Sea Sand Eel	
3. Fishery Location		ICES Sub Area IV	
4. Fishery Method		Bottom Trawl	
Outcome of Assessment			
5. Overall Fishery Compliance Rating		Medium/High compliance	
6. Sub Components of Low Compliance		None	
7. Information deficiency		None	
8. Peer Review Evaluation		Continue Approval Status	
9. Recommendation		Approve Fishery	

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2. Quality of Information
Good.

3. Compliance Level Achieved
MEDIUM-HIGH
Recommendation
Further information required.
4. Guidance for On-site Assessment
Based on High Compliance Findings
Based on Medium Compliance Findings
Key Stakeholders of the Fishery

5. Assessment Determination
<p>ICES now issues advice for 7 distinct Sandeel areas, and the management of the fishery recently adopted this approach in the setting of quotas. Thus the 2011 TAC is divided into seven regional TACs, which largely directly reflect ICES advice. The only exception is Area 3, where although a significant reduction in quota has been applied, the total remains above recommendations. Information provided confirms this to be a scientific catch, to make up for poor survey weather in December 2010.</p> <p>Other aspects of the science and management of the fishery remain largely unchanged since the time of the initial assessment.</p>

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 [Red Box] Medium Compliance [Yellow Box] High Compliance: [Green Box]

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6. Rationale of the Assessment Outcome

a. The Management Framework and Procedure

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE			References	Rating
		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.		
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>As at the time of the initial report, there is a fishery management framework at both European and National Danish levels for the implementation of measures and controls to support the conservation of the fishery.</i></p> <p>There has been no substantial change in the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which provides the main legal and administrative framework for Danish fisheries management, since the 2010 initial assessment. The CFP is implemented in the Danish fishing sector by Danish Ministerial Order.</p>	5,6	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	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>Since the original assessment, scientific advice has begun to divide the Sandeel population into seven distinct stocks. Management at the European level is still concerned with the management of the North Sea stock as a whole, but has also issued an individual TAC for each area.</i></p> <p>At the time of the original assessment, ICES advice treated the North Sea Sandeel population as one stock. However, since 2010 ICES has provided recommendations for seven distinct areas, to better reflect the stock structure and enable management to direct action to avoid local depletions. The EU issued an amendment in July 2010 to set individual quotas for each of these areas, effectively meaning the fishery is now managed as seven distinct stocks.</p>	1, 2	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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		a.iii .Management actions should be based on long-term conservation objectives	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>There is no evidence to suggest any significant changes since the original assessment in the time scale over which research and management actions are focused.</i></p> <p>The original IFFO fishery assessment concluded that while there was no specific scientific information available to fully develop a long-term management strategy for North Sea Sandeel, the approaches adopted by EU countries including Denmark were responsible. ICES notes that Sandeel is a short-lived species, and that the high natural mortality and small number of year classes in the fishery means that future population size is largely determined by incoming year classes.</p>	6,8	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

b. Stock Assessment Procedures and Management Advice

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		bi. Research in support of fisheries conservation and management should exist.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>Research and analysis in support of fishery conservation is carried out primarily by ICES. The fisheries science conducted by ICES includes consideration of the impact of the fishery on non-target species (particularly predators of Sandeels) and the physical environment, in addition to the Sandeel stocks themselves. Some minor changes have occurred since the original assessment, but ICES considers these to be improvements.</i></p> <p>Prior to 2010, ICES advice on the Sandeel fishery divided the stock into three regions, and made recommendations on the North Sea as a whole. Since 2010, ICES has analysed and made recommendations on seven separate Sandeel stocks in the North Sea. The quality of the regional assessments is considered much improved compared to the combined assessment for whole North Sea previously presented by ICES. This is mainly due to the fact that the present division of stock assessment areas better reflects the actual spatial stock structure and dynamic of Sandeel. Addition of</p>	3	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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	fishery independent data from dredge surveys has also improved the quality of the assessment. Application of the new statistical assessment model SMS-effort in combination with the area-based assessment has removed the retrospective bias in F and SSB for the most recent years. This is probably due to the robust model assumption of fishing mortality being proportional to fishing effort. Research to support fishery conservation exists, but importantly is also being constantly improved to ensure that ICES advice to the EU Commission is as accurate as possible.		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	b.ii Best scientific evidence available should be taken into account when designing conservation and management measures	References	Rating
LOW	Determination: <i>Management of the Sandeel stock continues to take into account ICES scientific advice in the design of conservation and management measures.</i> Management of North Sea Sandeel generally follows the advice of ICES, both in the setting of annual quotas and the closing of local fisheries in cases where stocks are found to be over-exploited.	1-4	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

c. The Precautionary Approach

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	c.i The precautionary approach is applied in the formulation of management plans.	References	Rating
LOW	Determination: <i>The EU Common Fisheries Policy and the ICES scientific analysis both make use of the precautionary approach for the recommendation and development of fishery management decisions. ICES has arguably reduced some of the uncertainties in the research, and their region-based approach has now been adopted by policymakers through a legislative amendment.</i>	3,4,6,9	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

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		<p>The initial fishery report expressed concern that not all areas of uncertainty around recruitment, fishing activity and the entire stock were taken into account when designing fishery management measures. The stock dynamics of Sandeel are characterised by high natural mortality and highly variable recruitment, leading to considerable levels of uncertainty.</p> <p>Additional sources of uncertainty in the ICES recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of common, time-invariant natural mortality values over all areas. • Assumption of correspondence between commercial effort and fishing mortality. • Observations of effort are only available from Denmark (which also has the largest catches). • Age and length sampling uncertainty (as with any stock). • Assumption that maturity pattern in the forecast year is the long term average. <p>However, ICES considers the new, seven-region analysis to be considerably more robust than the previous North-Sea-wide approach. The precautionary approach is utilised throughout the entire ICES analysis. In July this year the seven-region approach to research was adopted into management measures, including the setting of area-based quotas.</p>		
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d. Management Measures

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		d.i The level of fishing permitted should be set according to management advice given by research organisations.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>This year in accordance with ICES advice, the traditional single Sandeel TAC was divided up into 7 ‘Sandeel area’ TACs. With the exception of Area 3, all of these were set according to ICES advice. ICES advised that there be no fishery in Area 3; however the TAC was set at 10,000t to allow scientific monitoring of the Sandeel population.</i></p> <p>In its February 2011 advice, ICES recommended that fishing effort should not increase in areas 5, 6 and 7 (see below) unless there was any evidence that this was sustainable. It recommended maximum catch limits for the other 4 regions.</p>	1-4, 9	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

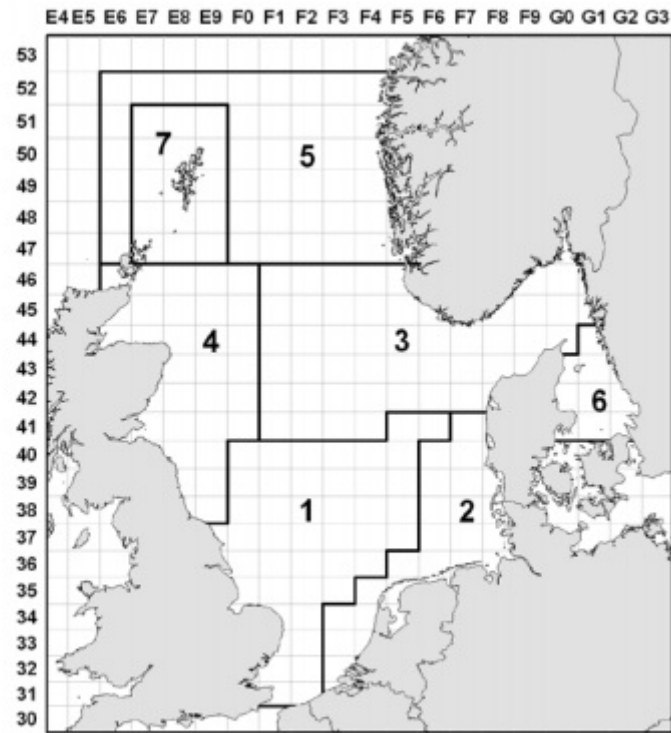
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Sandeel in Division IIIa and Subarea IV. Map of Sandeel Areas (SA).

The EU issued an amending regulation, setting area TACs largely in accordance with the ICES advice. Due to bad weather during the December 2010 scientific survey, insufficient data were collected in some areas. To facilitate the collection of additional survey data, the quota in Area 3 was set at 10,000t rather than 0 as recommended.

		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ICES Sandeel region</th> <th>Estimated 2010 landings(,000 tons)</th> <th>ICES recommended 2011 landings (,000 tons)</th> <th>Total community TAC, after EU amendment (,000 tons)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>286</td> <td>320</td> <td>320</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>31</td> <td>34</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>78</td> <td>0</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>0.26</td> <td>5-10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> <td>No Increase</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>No Increase</td> <td>0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> <td>No Increase</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ICES Sandeel region	Estimated 2010 landings(,000 tons)	ICES recommended 2011 landings (,000 tons)	Total community TAC, after EU amendment (,000 tons)	1	286	320	320	2	31	34	34	3	78	0	10	4	0.26	5-10	10	5	0	No Increase	0	6	0.1	No Increase	0.4	7	0	No Increase	0			
ICES Sandeel region	Estimated 2010 landings(,000 tons)	ICES recommended 2011 landings (,000 tons)	Total community TAC, after EU amendment (,000 tons)																																		
1	286	320	320																																		
2	31	34	34																																		
3	78	0	10																																		
4	0.26	5-10	10																																		
5	0	No Increase	0																																		
6	0.1	No Increase	0.4																																		
7	0	No Increase	0																																		
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.		References		Rating																															
LOW		Determination: <i>Robust mechanisms are in place to redirect fishing effort away from depleted Sandeel populations. The EU also continues to utilise an incentivised decommissioning programme. There has been no significant change since the original assessment.</i>		5,6	HIGH																																
MEDIUM																																					
HIGH			Denmark operates in accordance with the EU Regulations for capacity management through the Danish Directorate of Fisheries and activities towards managing capacity in the North Sea																																		

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	Sandeel fishery are compliant. For more information see the original fishery assessment.		
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.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>Sandeel is an important prey species in North Sea ecosystems, and overexploitation can have a significant effect on predator populations. The robust regional closure mechanisms identified by the original assessment are still in place, and so it appears that when science highlights non-target species impacts of the fishery, relevant action can be taken.</i></p> <p>In the light of studies linking low Sandeel availability to poor breeding success of kittiwake, all commercial fishing in the Firth of Forth area has been prohibited since 2000 (except for a short-term annual research fishery). This type of management action ensures that the indirect effects of the Sandeel fishery are kept to a minimum.</p> <p>There is also considered to be a low by-catch of other commercially exploited fish species by the Sandeel fishery, and the impact of the comparatively light trawl gear used on the physical environment is considered minimal.</p>	6-8	HIGH
MEDIUM			
HIGH			

e. Implementation

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	e.i There should be a framework for sanctions of violation of Laws and regulations.	References	Rating
LOW	<p>Determination: <i>Denmark operates in accordance with the EU framework for sanctions of violations of fishery laws and regulations. There is no change since the original assessment.</i></p>	5,6	HIGH
MEDIUM			

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HIGH		EU member states are required to apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against natural or legal persons engaged in IUU activities. The Danish fishing control system applies EU access regulations and administrates individual licensing. For more detailed information, see the original fishery assessment.		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		e.ii A management system for fisheries control and enforcement should be established.	References	Rating
LOW		<p>Determination: <i>The original fishery assessment reported that the EU Commission considered the Danish enforcement system to be robust and working efficiently. There is no evidence to suggest this has changed over the last year.</i></p> <p>The Danish Directorate of Fisheries is the competent authority with control and enforcement responsibilities. All Danish vessel must be registered and authorised individually. Vessels are inspected regularly and catches levels are monitored, both at sea and in port. For more detailed information, see the original fishery assessment.</p>	5,6	HIGH
MEDIUM				
HIGH				

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References

- 1: Scottish government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/species/fish/sandeels>
- 2: ICES Sandeel management advice for Division IIIa and subarea IV, February 2011: <http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/san-34.pdf>
- 3: ICES management advice, October 2010, Book 6 (North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/products/icesadvice/2010/ICES%20ADVICE%202010%20Book%206.pdf>
- 4: EU fishing TACs and quotas 2011: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2011_en.pdf
- 5: About the Common Fisheries Policy, Control and Enforcement: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control_enforcement_en.htm
- 6: About the Common Fisheries Policy, Managing a Common Resource: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp_en.htm
- 7: Country Note on National Fisheries Management System-Denmark
- 8: Fish Source North Sea Sprat: www.fishsource.com
- 9: COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 683/2011 of 17 June 2011 amending Regulation (EU) No 57/2011 as regards fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks.

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