

## Project-specific management conditions for cod (*Gadus morhua*) fishery with longlines in Subdivision Va, FAO 27 (Iceland and Faroes Ground)

The project-specific management conditions have been worked out from suggestions of the expert surveys 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Akureyri, Húsavík, Reykjavik in Iceland.

### 1. Expert meeting

*1.1 Besides the general regulations for sustainable fishery listed in Part B, project-specific management conditions are imposed on each fishery project. Taken together with the regulations under B. 2.-4., these special conditions constitute a catalogue of measures to be adopted in the management plan and quality assurance system of the project. The conditions are the result of an expert survey of each fishery project to be performed. Naturland decides whether to accept the list of experts proposed either by the fishery project or a third party and can, where justified, reject the list or ask for changes to be made. The experts on the list should cover the following fields:*

- scientific institutions which deal with the respective type of fishery (primarily for current information on the status of the stock and on the aquatic ecosystem)*
- fishing authorities (legal requirements, national and international development aims)*
- NGOs (social and ecological aspects)*
- organisations from the fishing and/or processing industries (technical, social and economic aspects).*

*1.2 To ensure that the regulations compiled in the project-specific management conditions are kept up to date, each expert survey is performed every two years at the minimum. In principle, the fishery project bears responsibility for the expert survey being performed according to schedule. This also holds true for the case that the project has to supply the experts with pertinent data for them to be able to assess the situation of a fishery. The project-specific management conditions for each individual fishery project must be approved by Naturland.*

source: Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery; Part B

**The following topics include the project specific management conditions:**

**1.2.** The next expert survey should take place in September 2020 the latest.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Observation of starry ray stock in Icelandic waters

## 2. Ecology

2.1 The project performs its fishing activities in such a way that integrity of the ecosystem is maintained long-term, concerning both the stocks of the economically relevant species as well as the other components of the ecosystem.

2.2 Subject of the evaluation is the geographical catchment area of the respective fishery project or the project's share in the total exploitation of a certain species.

2.3 In the case of species which only occur temporarily in the catchment area of the project, or which do not spend their whole life cycle there, an evaluation is made of whether the management form of the project were compatible with maintaining the total stock volume if this management form were adopted by all the enterprises involved in fishing this species in this way (exemplary character).

2.4 Even if the fishery project is proven to be managed in an exemplary sustainable manner, Naturland reserves the right not to certify the project, or to defer certification, if the total stock of a species should be critically jeopardized by other factors.

2.5 If no exclusively used geographic area can be attributed to the project (e.g. in deep-sea fishery), the evaluation is made based not only on the fishing practices of the project but also on the total situation of the stocks in question.

2.6 Practices which are generally deemed as detrimental or critical from an ecological point of view are prohibited. These include the following regulations in addition to the project-specific management conditions defined:

- catching marine mammals and ocean turtles
- catching sharks for their fins ("finning")
- the use of poisons and explosives in fishing
- damage to coral reefs (including cold-water corals)
- beam trawl fishing as well as demersal trawling on highly structured sea beds
- demersal trawling without suitable escape hatches to keep bycatches to a minimum.

2.7 The project-specific management conditions govern the following in particular:

- minimum size and maximum quantities
- equipment and techniques employed
- close seasons and sanctuaries
- avoidance or minimization of bycatches
- other measures which help to protect the aquatic ecosystem and/or individual species (e.g. protection of breeding colonies)
- protocols for monitoring of relevant pollutants, determination of specific alert/reporting values and threshold values.

source: Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery; Part B

### The following topics include project specific management conditions:

**2.4.** The basis for the assessment of the total stock categorized as "not critically endangered" is served by the Marine Research Institute of Iceland. The Ministry of Industries and Innovations bases its policy decisions on annual total allowable catch on the recommendations of the Marine Research Institute. Both, the spawning biomass and the fishing mortality of the

species, may not exceed two consecutive observations lower or above the fluctuation range around their target values.

The target values for the status of the cod stock and the fishing mortality result from the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). (ICES advice, 2017)

**2.6.** The fishery of GPG will only use longlines for fishing the target specie cod.

## 2.7

**a)** The restrictions on the quotas for each member country are annually defined by the Ministry of Industries and Innovations. GPG acts according to the allocated quotas<sup>1</sup>.

**b)** The cod stock is not critically jeopardised by other factors.

**c)** The fishery is carried out exclusively with longlines.

The smaller vessels stay no longer than 20 hours at sea with approximately 10.000 hooks on the longline.

The bigger vessel stays no longer than 4 days at sea with approximately 26.000 hooks on the longline.

The bait used for the target specie is in compliance with internationally established sustainability standards. The size of the bait is optimized to conserve resources.

**d)** The fuel consumption of the small scale longline vessels in each fishing trip is on average around 300 litres. 40-60 litres per hour while sailing to the fishing grounds and 5-10 litres per hour during fishing.

**e)** The cod is caught at 100 – 300 m depth. The fishermen avoid areas where the juvenile fishes are situated to minimize the percentage of undersized fish in the catch.

**f)** The fishermen respect the extensive area closures to fishing which are in force for the protection of juvenile fish as well as the long-term closures of large nursery areas.

**g)** All commercial fish caught must be landed by the fishermen.

**h)** Bycatch of endangered species (Red List of IUCN / ETP - *endangered, threatened, protected species*) as well as non-quota fish species must be documented. The stock of starry ray in Icelandic waters is not critically jeopardized and will be monitored.

**i)** The fishermen respect the closure of vulnerable habitats with stony corals and thermal vents.

**j)** The fishermen are obliged to carefully reset the bycatch alive and undamaged.

**k)** Scientists and observers have the permission to accompany the fishing vessels for research purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> For 2017/2018 the total allowed catch for cod for Iceland was defined at 213 587 t, whereas GPG owns 1428 t. On top of this there is a community quota in Raufarhöfn of about 500.000 kg of cod + approx. 100.000 kg of other species.

I) Protocol for the monitoring of relevant environmental pollutants in the final product are shown in table I

**Table I**

Analyte	Interval	Sample material	Method	Detection limit	Alarm-value	Limit value
PCB	Once a year	Filet	§ 64 LMBG L 00.00/12 /-34	0,01 mg/kg	0,01	0,01 mg/kg
Cadmium	Once a year		DIN EN 15763	0,005 mg/kg	0,03	0,05 mg/kg
Mercury	Once a year		DIN EN 15763	0,01 mg/kg	0,05	0,5 mg/kg
Lead	Once a year		DIN EN 15763	0,01 mg/kg	0,15	0,3 mg/kg
Dioxins	Once a year		Ver.(EU) 252/2012, HRGC/HRMS	0,05pg/g – 0,5pg/g	1,75	3,5 pg/g
TBT	Once a year		HPLC-MS	0,01 mg/kg	0,01	0,01 mg/kg
Radiation	Once a year		§64 LFGB L 00.00-14	3 Bq/kg	50	100 Bq/kg
Total bacterial count	Once a year		ASU L 06.00-18, May 1984	< 10 <sup>2</sup> KbE/g	5x10 <sup>6</sup>	10 x 10 <sup>6</sup> KbE/g
Listeria monocytogen	Once a year		AFNOR Validation AES 10/03-09/00n° 1996/5014	undetectable in 25g	undetectable in 25g	undetectable in 25g
Salmonellae	Once a year		ASU L 00.00-20, December 2008	undetectable in 25g	undetectable in 25g	undetectable in 25g
Biogenic Amines	Once a year		§64 LFGB L 10.00-5 1999-1	5 mg/kg	150	300 mg/kg in Histamin

### 3. Social and economic sustainability of the fishery

*3.1 Naturland's standards governing social responsibility apply (ref. A.III. of these standards).*

*3.2 In addition, allowances have to be made for the situation of many fishermen in the developing countries. Fishery projects (resp. the processors or exporters of the fishery produce) bears responsibility not only for the fishermen to meet with fair working conditions (ref. A. III), but also for adequate living conditions out of working hours. Depending on socio-economic circumstances, those responsible must introduce the requisite measures in a suitable manner. These include especially:*

- *adequate board and lodging*
- *access to banking and insurance services*
- *health care*
- *schooling for the children*
- *transport possibilities*

*This is especially applicable if the fishermen and -women are not capable of fulfilling these basic needs from the sale of their products. This is the case, for example, when there is a glut or where seasonal yields fluctuate dramatically, and in cases of over-dependence on fishing as the sole source of income.*

*3.3 The project-specific management conditions govern, in particular:*

- *special social aspects, particularly in relation to the situation in developing countries*
- *measures designed to avoid conflicts with other users of the resources*

source: Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery; Part B

**The following topics include project specific management conditions:**

#### 3.3.

- a) All fisherman and workers are employed by GPG and receive at least the national minimum wage.
- b) The processing company in Raufarhöfn provides jobs for the people living in Raufarhöfn and secures their livelihood. Most of the work is done by the worker by hand.
- c) GPG supports financially social activities in Raufarhöfn and Húsavík.
- d) The whole fish and all leavings are being processed.
- e) The processing of the fish is exclusively taking place in Iceland.
- f) The food security is rated with an A which is the highest category for food security.

#### 4. Legal framework and management

*4.1 Fishing is performed in compliance with national and international law. The fishery project has to be able to produce the corresponding documents and proof in full and freshly updated.*

*4.2 The fishery project (or the processor or exporter of the fishing produce) is responsible for its staff and workers being familiar with the contents of these standards. Appropriate training sessions and material have to be provided to guarantee that the catalogue of measures is complied with.*

*Part B.; Regulations for sustainable capture fishery*

*Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery 05/2017 page 15 of 15*

*4.3 The management of the fishery project must be able to prove that the requirements laid down in the standards and the project-specific management conditions are implemented systematically, effectively and promptly at every level. This proof includes:*

- consistent records and analysis of the catch data*
- feedback between the current catch data and the fishing practice in place*
- knowledge of current national and international regulations and fulfilment of the duties arising therefrom*
- establishment of mechanisms guaranteeing regular communication between the project and the fishermen with regard to social matters*
- existence of and compliance with a development plan (e.g. for deficient issues)*

*4.4 The project-specific management conditions govern in particular:*

- obligatory documentation requirements and internal control system.*

source: Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery; Part B

#### The following topics include project specific management conditions:

**4.1** A central fishing vessel registry is maintained; only registered vessels that have been granted a fishing licence may engage in commercial fishing.

**4.2.** The CEO of GPG confirms with his signature that he will comply with the Specific Guidelines listed here and agrees to the notified or unannounced check by a control body.

**4.3** Before embarking on a fishing trip, the vessel 's operators must ensure that the vessel has quota registered which suffices for the expected catch.

**4.4.**

**a)** The fish can be traced back to the vessel by time and catch area.

**b)** Each landing is controlled and weighed in the harbor. Recording of vessel catch quotas and catches is done in the Fisheries Directorate 's central data base which is accessible to all; thus transparency is ensured.

## Appendix:

### ICES Advice 2017 for cod in Iceland

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/cod.27.5a.pdf>

**Table 1** Cod in Division 5.a. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. The expected range of realized harvest rate (HR) following the management plan ( $HR_{MGT}$ ) can be found in the North-Western Working Group report (ICES, 2017).

		Fishing pressure			Stock size		
		2014	2015	2016	2015	2016	2017
Maximum sustainable yield	$HR_{MSY}$	✓	✓	✓ Below	$MSY B_{trigger}$	✓	✓ Above trigger
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}, F_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓ Harvested sustainably	$B_{pa}, B_{lim}$	✓	✓ Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	$HR_{MGT}$	✓	✓	✓ Within expected range	$MGT B_{trigger}$	✓	✓ Above



List of participants:

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4.09.2018

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