

Baltic Sprat Fishery Improvement Project

Archive Date: November 2015

The Baltic Sprat FIP has been suspended due to insufficient interest from the supply chain in promoting improvements in this fishery because of small contribution to overall volumes of fishmeal and fish oil. The following report reflects the status of the FIP at the time SFP suspended work on the project.

Species: Baltic sprat (*Sprattus sprattus balticus*)

FIP Scope/Scale: Stock level

Fishery Location(s): [Russia](#), [European Union](#), [ICES Subdivision 22-32](#)

For map see

Stock	Stock link
Baltic Sea sprat	Baltic sprat - Baltic Sea

FIP Participants:

- [EWOS](#)
- [BIOMAR](#)
- [Skretting](#)

Sustainability Information:

See Summary tab in the links above

Date Publicly Announced: 2011

FIP Stage: 3, FIP is encouraging improvements

Current Improvement Recommendations:

- Improve catch reporting, namely of the bycatch of herring
- Support the development of a spatial management plan with long term objectives
- Support the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM)

Background:

Since the 1990s, trends in Baltic Sea sprat have been driven mainly by cod predation and variable but high recruitment success. Stock biomass was estimated at the long-term average, although it has been declining steadily since the late 1990s. However, fishing mortality has been increasing steadily and is above the precautionary reference. At the same time, cod biomass is increasing, and thus a decline in sprat stock is expected. The sprat fishery has a significant herring bycatch with possible underreporting occurring.

SFP recommends the following actions:

- Promote compliance in catch reporting particularly relating to herring bycatch levels
- Support long-term management objectives and measures, namely the development of the EU multiannual plan for pelagic stocks in the Baltic Sea
- Evaluate potential environmental impacts of the fishery
- Support the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Market/Significance of this fishery

Baltic Sea sprat is an important source fishery in the production of fishmeal and oil, and is significant for European salmonid aquaculture. The fishery is an important fishing opportunity for the Danish industrial fleet.

How the FIP started

Since 2008, SFP has worked with the fishfeed sector and the supply chain on reduction fisheries (i.e., those fisheries for which the catch is predominantly dedicated to non-human consumption) with a particular emphasis on those fisheries that supplied material to the aquaculture sector.

At the start of the program, four Northeast Atlantic reduction fisheries were identified as significant to European salmonid aquaculture, fisheries' status were reviewed, improvement needs identified, and actions proposed that the supply chain could take to improve the performance of these source fisheries.

In 2011, a formal SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group was created, a partnership of major fishfeed producers in Europe to support improvements in the sustainability of the management regime and address market sustainability requirements.

FIP Objectives:

- Improve catch reporting, namely of the bycatch of herring
- Support the development of a spatial management plan with long term objectives
- Support the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM)

Progress Update:

2008 – 2011

Characterized these fisheries on FishSource

2010

Engaged with aquaculture feed standards to establish FishSource as a key resource
Built awareness among processors and retailers of the significance of aquaculture feed sustainability to their wider ocean sustainability programs

2011

January – March

Updated SFP white paper, which summarized the status of the stock and improvement needs for the fishery and provides the basis for supply chain procurement policies and engagement

Provided actionable information to the supply chain via reports and briefing notes and developed sustainable seafood metrics

April – June

Created SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group

Second meeting of the SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group

July – September

Letter to the European Commission advocating better management and data collection

October – December

Third meeting of the SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group

2012

January – March

Created SFP Advisory Note, which summarized the status of the stock and improvement needs for the fishery and provides improvement recommendations

Summary workplan available publicly

April – June

Fourth meeting of the SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group

July – September

Detailed workplan available publicly

2013

April – June

Fifth meeting of the SFP European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group

2015

SFP suspended the FIP due to insufficient interest from the supply chain in promoting improvements in this fishery because of small contribution to overall volumes of fishmeal and fish oil.

Baltic Sprat FIP Detailed Information

Summary of Fishery Status:

Current Status	Status at beginning of FIP
SFP own estimate, based on data from FishSource:	
A score of >8 was given to stock status. Although there are no biomass reference points, stock biomass is above historical trends but decreasing since mid-1990s. Fishing mortality is above Fpa.	A score of >8 was given to stock status. Although there are no biomass reference points, stock biomass is above historical trends but decreasing since mid-1990s. Fishing mortality is above Fpa.

Fisheries Status Other Ranking Systems: Fishery has not been rated by other ranking system.

Progress Update:

Results/ FIP Stage	Indicator of Success	Scope/Scale	Specific Details	Date Achieved	List of Suppliers/ Organizations	Source
FIP is launched (Stage 1)	Sustainability evaluation is publicly available	All at stock level	SFP reduction fisheries white papers	March 2011		SFP White paper Baltic Sprat
			Fishery profile on FishSource – Baltic Sea sprat	January 2009		Baltic sprat - Baltic Sea
	Fisheries improvement recommendations publicly available		Improvement needs	2010 2011 2012		SFP Global Sustainability Overview of Fisheries Used for Fishmeal

						and Fish Oil
FIP is formed (Stage 2)	Suppliers are organized		Roundtable meetings: European Seafood Exposition in Brussels, Belgium, and in Edinburgh, UK European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group created	2010 April, June, October 2011 April 2012 April 2013	All FIP partners	
	Suppliers are evaluating this fishery		European Fishmeal and Oil Users Group are sponsoring and using FishSource	2009 2010 2011 2012	All FIP partners	SFP Global Sustainability Overview of Fisheries Used for Fishmeal and Fish Oil
FIP is encouraging improvements (Stage 3)	Workplan with annual improvement milestones publicly available	All at stock level	Workplan available FIP Detailed workplan	March 2013 January 2013		Workplan Detailed workplan
	Suppliers are engaging regulators		Letter to the European Commission	August 2011	All FIP partners	