

Press Release

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Haddock, Saithe and Golden Redfish in Iceland enter certification process

FAO-ISO based certification to verify responsible fisheries management and good treatment of marine resources

Encouraged by the successful outcome and market recognition of certified Icelandic cod, three more Icelandic fisheries have now made application to the Iceland Responsible Fisheries certification programme. This application is an important step for the seafood industry in Iceland, to seek further verification of sustainable use of the marine resources in Icelandic waters and thus strengthen the competitiveness of seafood products from Iceland.

The collective interests in **Icelandic Haddock, Saithe and Golden Redfish** have submitted applications to have their fisheries assessed under the Programme. Applications were received by the independent certification body, Global Trust, from stakeholders in the fishing industry in Iceland; The Federation of Icelandic Fishing Vessel Owners (LÍÚ), The Federation of Icelandic Fish Processing Plants (SF) and The National Association of Small Boat Owners, Iceland (NASBO). These stakeholders are united under the Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation. Global Trust has initiated a review in order to validate each application for full assessment purposes.

Important step for the industry

All fisheries occur within the Icelandic 200 mile EEZ and are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Fisheries for Iceland. Each application is supported by the interests of all Icelandic fishers and processors. If successful, applicants will receive one certificate for each fishery which will be available to all Icelandic fishing companies, gears and regions.

‘Iceland recognizes the importance of responsible fisheries management. Seafood is our heritage, our livelihood and our future. Utilizing Iceland’s rich marine resources in an efficient and responsible manner that ensures our future is at the very heart of our management policy. Now, through the Iceland Responsible Fisheries Programme, we have the mechanism to demonstrate this in a manner recognized by our valuable supply chain partners and global stakeholders in seafood’, states Gunnar Tómasson, chair of the Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation and Manager of production and marketing at Thorbjorninn in Grindavik.

Requirements and international standards

The IRF certification programme complies with the strictest international standards. It is based on the articles and minimum substantive criteria described in the [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries](#) and [FAO Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products](#). Certification by the Programme confirms responsible fisheries management and good treatment of marine resources.

All three fisheries that now enter the certification process will be subjected to the same rigor of ISO 65 based assessment procedures as were carried out during the cod certification. Global Trust will

appoint an expert, competent assessment team to undertake the assessment and progress up-dates will be made available on www.responsiblefisheries.is.

The requirements for the certification of a fishery include:

- Adoption and implementation of a structured fisheries management system. The objective is to limit the total annual catch (TAC) from the fish stocks so that catches confirm to levels permitted by the relevant authorities.
- Fish stock shall not be overfished and this shall be verified through scientific research and assessment by international experts.
- Implementation of an effective legal and administrative framework for the fishery, with compliance ensured through effective mechanisms for monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement.
- Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem are limited by the application of a specified approach.

Further information and up-dates will be made available at www.ResponsibleFisheries.is as the assessment progresses.

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About Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation

The Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation owns and operates the brand of Iceland Responsible Fisheries. The Foundation was established in February 2011 by three associations in the Icelandic seafood industry: Federation of Icelandic Fishing Vessel Owners (LÍÚ), National Association of Small Boat Owners (LS) and Federation of Icelandic Fish Processing Plants (SF). The Foundation took over the operation and management of the IRF certification programme from the Fisheries Association of Iceland. The foundation operates on a cost basis, as a non-profit organisation. The Foundation's role is to make and maintain contracts for the certification programme, to promote and communicate with stakeholders. A technical committee of the Foundation is responsible for all the technical work, specifications and certification, as well as communication with certification bodies and public bodies accordingly. Dr. Kristján Thórarinnsson is the Chairman of the Technical committee.

About Promote Iceland

An agreement has been made with Promote Iceland (www.islandsstofa.is) about marketing and promotion of the IRF programme. Promote Iceland - Islandsstofa has the basic objective of strengthening Iceland's good image and reputation abroad, bringing together in one voice the promotion of Iceland in addition to supporting the competitiveness of Icelandic industries in foreign markets and attract foreign tourists and investments into the country.

Promote Iceland operates a seafood advisory committee that sets the aims and reviews the marketing plan of the programme on a regular basis. The committee is comprised of people from the fishing companies, processors and marketing and sales companies, as well as a person from the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Chairman of the marketing committee is Eggert Benedikt Gudmundsson, CEO of HB Grandi.

About Global Trust

Global Trust Certification offers a comprehensive range of recognised and accredited certifications and standards services to international seafood businesses.

Since 1998, Global Trust has delivered ISO accredited certification for a variety of seafood programmes now spanning across 23 countries and it remains independent of these sometimes competing programmes. The programmes now include Certified Quality Salmon, Trout and Mussels, GAA Best Aquaculture Practice (BAP), Organic Aquaculture, Seafood Trust Eco-Standard, Label Rouge, GlobalGAP, MSC Sustainable Fisheries, Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme, Irish Seafood Stewardship, FAO Responsible Fishery Management, IFFO Responsible Supply, as well as the supply chain standards of chain of custody and BRC, etc.

Global Trust is both ISO and ISEAL-based (ASI) accredited as independent and competent.