

FISHERIES SERVICES

ICELAND

Aquaculture

Veterinary Services

1. Please provide information on the extent to which services to the fishing industry are provided by the public or private sector. If the service is provided by public authorities, please state whether there is a cost recovery scheme in place, or how the service is paid for.

Iceland has operated national legislation specifically designed for the control of fish diseases since 1957. From that time the Fish Disease Committee has existed, which assists the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Fisheries, suggesting measures to prevent and control fish diseases. The Chief Veterinary Officer is the chairman of the committee. Since 1985 all fish farms in Iceland have been under obligatory and regular fish health surveillance. From 1993 Iceland has followed the European Union (EU) regulations and used the requirements laid down in Council Directive 91/67/EEC concerning the Animal Health Conditions Governing the Placing on the Market of Aquaculture Animals and Products and the disease control measures provided for in Directive 93/53/EEC introducing Minimum Community Measures for the Control of Certain Fish Diseases, as guidelines in the national fish health monitoring system. The surveillance structure is partly by regular "on site" health inspections, under the supervision of the Veterinary Officer for Fish Diseases, and partly by laboratory work conducted at the official Fish disease laboratory at Keldur in Reykjavík. The sampling and diagnostic procedures as given in Commission Decision 2001/183/EC are followed. When performing a health inspection special form of check-list is used and written report is sent back to the management of the farms as a feedback, with a copy to the District Veterinarian. Comments, and if necessary, respective actions taken by the Competent Authorities follows the report. The Agricultural Authority and the Directorate of Fisheries have signed a general agreement on their co-operation regarding control system for animal health and animal products. All service provided by public authorities must be paid by the aquaculture industry. The veterinary authority follows an official rate list and the cost is depending on size and dimension of the aquaculture establishment.

2. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

Yes, as explained in the answer above. All regulations are published and only domestic users are obliged to be under an official surveillance.

3. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

Yes, Icelandic legislations and regulations provide the enforcing authorities with a wide range of statutory powers and establish certain legal requirements for domestic fish farmers.

1. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

No, they must be monitored by Icelandic competent authority.

2. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

Yes, as explained in the answer given to the first question the control system and measures are according to the EEA agreement (agreement between Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein and the European Union), but also in conformity with Icelandic rules and in harmony with guidelines given by the International Animal Health Code published by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in Paris.

Research

1. *Please provide information on the extent to which services to the fishing industry are provided by the public or private sector. If the service is provided by public authorities, please state whether there is a cost recovery scheme in place, or how the service is paid for.*

Most of the research is done by the Marine Research Institute (MRI) and Matis ohf. Some research is done by individual experts but it is not a major factor.

Matis ohf. is a new public limited company owned by the government. One of the institutes that merged into Matis ohf (running from 1st of January 2007) is The Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories (IFL) which was an independent food research institute, operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Fisheries. All the responsibilities of IFL have now been transferred to Matis ohf. The same can be said about the two other institutional activities that merged into Matis, the laboratory of The Environment and Food Agency (RUST) and Food Research Keldnaholti (MATRA).

The mission at Matis is to carry out research, conduct tests, provide council and disseminate information to the government, interested parties in the food sector and consumers. Specialized fields include:

- processing technology
- biotechnology
- chemical and physical properties of food
- quality and safety of marine catches
- feed and feed technology for aquaculture
- environmental research

Matis's overall goal is to increase the value of marine catches and other food products through R&D, dissemination of knowledge and consultancy. By working closely with the food industry and universities in Iceland and abroad, Matis will promote the acquisition of knowledge and interactive transfer of knowledge between researchers and the industry.

Testing services

Matis provides the Icelandic fishing industry (food industry) specialized, accurate and rapid analytical testing services. Testing involves both chemical and microbiological analyses. The service also includes advice, help and guidance for problem solving within companies.

The most common tests are accredited according to the ISO 17025 standard. The aim is to be able to provide the clients with all their demands, including e.g. summaries of results over extended periods.

The testing services are paid for by the customers (industry, authorities etc.) and are run on competitive basis. There are other private competitive companies in Iceland that provide analytical services to the fishing industry.

1. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

The legislation (nr 68/2006) for the establishment of Matis ohf. states that the main aim of Matis is to perform research and innovation in cooperation with the food industry, authorities and consumers. There are also provisions in the legislation for Matis to provide necessary food safety services for competent food control authorities in Iceland

Matis participates in annual monitoring of the biosphere around Iceland since 1989. The project is overseen by the Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland in order to fulfill the OSPAR (Oslo and Paris agreement) and AMAP (Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program) agreements. Matis is the coordinator for the monitoring of marine biota. Domestic and foreign users are treated equally.

2. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

Both yes and no. The requirements of the Directorate of Fisheries are often the necessity for the service but often also as requirements of buyers of seafood.

3. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

Yes. The testing services for the competent food control authorities must be provided by accredited laboratories. Matis is accredited for 35 chemical or microbiological methods.

4. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

Yes, e.g. Codex Alimentarius, ISO and EU regulations.

Research

1. *Please provide information on the extent to which services to the fishing industry are provided by the public or private sector. If the service is provided by public authorities, please state whether there is a cost recovery scheme in place, or how the service is paid for.*

The Marine Research Institute (MRI) conducts over 100 research projects each year, regarding various marine research and provides the Ministry of Fisheries with scientific advice based on its research on marine resources and the environment. About 60%-70% of the expenses of the Institute relate to the scientific based advice. There is a cost recovery scheme in place that covers several projects, e.g. research, namely the fishing fee and The Fisheries Project Fund (Icelandic: Verkefnasjóður sjávarútvegsins). In 2002, the *Fisheries Management Act* was amended to include a special fishing fee. This bill introduced into government policy the principle that parties granted rights to utilise natural resources should pay a fair price for such rights. This fee, which was put in effective as of the 2004-2005 fishing year, is imposed on annual quota allocations next year or landed catches but is calculated as special fee on the calculated aggregate profits of the fishing industry amounting initially to 6% of these calculated profits and increasing

to 9.5% in 2009. When fully in effect, this charge could, at current operating conditions, amount to an additional 2% of the gross revenues of the fishing sector.

2. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

The services provided by the MRI are limited by the funds it gets from the national budget. The institute provides research on common fishing stocks and the service is paid by Icelandic parties without the participation of foreign parties.

3. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

Yes, recommendations or advice on catch limits (TAC) for most of the major species e.g. cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, Greenland halibut, herring and capelin is provided annually by ICES while for several small stocks, e.g. some flatfish stocks, the advice is given by experts at MRI only and then sent to the authorities before they are issued.

4. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

No.

5. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

Yes.

Processing and Traders

Safety inspection (privately provided services)

The discussions at the 98th Session revealed a need for collecting information on services that are provided to the various elements of the fisheries value chain, with an emphasis on those services that are provided to the harvesting sector. The question that we are seeking answers to is safety inspection:

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The EU legislation concerning seafood safety is incorporated into the Icelandic legislation according to the EEA-agreement and the Directorate of Fisheries is the competent authority responsible for the enforcement of official controls. The Directorate uses services of privately owned inspection bodies who recover the costs of their services. There is a cost recovery scheme in place that covers several projects, e.g. enforcement, namely the fishing fee.

2. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

The services are restricted to official controls according to Icelandic legislation.

3. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

Yes

4. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

No

5. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

No, - but derived from the EEA agreement.

Harvesting

Enforcement

1. *Please provide information on the extent to which services to the fishing industry are provided by the public or private sector. If the service is provided by public authorities, please state whether there is a cost recovery scheme in place, or how the service is paid for.*

The Directorate of Fisheries (public company) has two surveillance departments, one in seafood safety and the other in monitoring fisheries. Every year funds from the national budget is divided to public companies and most of the Directorates work is paid with funds from the national budget.

2. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

All of the inspection and licenses issued by the Directorate are regulated; mostly by the Ministry of Fisheries with regulations supporting the Fisheries Management Act legislated by the parliament. All regulations are published in accordance with Icelandic laws and restrictions are published and advertised. Inspection on foreign vessels fishing on Icelandic grounds is regulated as well and both domestic and foreign users under inspection are treated equally.

3. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

Yes, all inspection service. The Directorate has also very active information services which are in some part regulatory obligation and some part pro-active services.

4. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

Inspection on Fisheries is only done by Icelandic authorities within the Icelandic Jurisdiction. Icelandic vessels fishing on foreign grounds may be under inspection by foreign inspection bodies.

5. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

In some cases yes, codex in the Seafood Safety Department and we do have some bilateral agreements to follow as well. It is not relevant for the Directorate to answer for multilateral environmental agreements.

Harbour and port services

1. *Please provide information on the extent to which services to the fishing industry are provided by the public or private sector. If the service is provided by public authorities, please state whether there is a cost recovery scheme in place, or how the service is paid for.*

Services to the fishing industry sector are provided by the public sector, which are municipalities. There is a cost recovery scheme in place which is stipulated by law.

2. *Is the provision of services regulated? If the provision of the service is restricted -- on what grounds? (E.g. environment, management, conservation, security). Are regulations and restrictions published? Are domestic and foreign users treated equally?*

Each harbour shall, according to the harbour act, have a regulation regarding among other things which activities are allowed in the harbour area. Restrictions are based on environmental, management and security aspects. Regulations should be published. Domestic and foreign users are treated equally and there are no restrictions on the provisions of services.

3. *Is the service provided as a regulatory obligation?*

The Harbour Act constitutes some activities that are to be provided and charged for. Each harbour is responsible for its scheme of charges. The main obligation is that harbours must allow every ship to call if there is no risk to peoples or the environment involved.

4. *When considering a service provider, can the user freely choose between domestic or foreign providers?*

The user can choose freely between domestic and foreign providers.

5. *Is the regulatory environment for the provision of a service (or a series of services) an outcome of internationally agreed measures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, RFMO provisions, multilateral environmental agreements)?*

The regulatory environment is in accordance with internationally agreed measures.