Batch Based Calculations of Sustainability Impact


Sustainable and responsible harvesting of fish is can only be shown to be achieved when good overall information about the sustainability of the stocks and environmental impact of harvesting is available. However this impact is poorly documented and the information is not currently easily available to stakeholders in the supply chains. A method for assessing the sustainability of fisheries is by using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Assessing the situation using this method can be a challenging process because of the many and complex data elements involved. In the context of a supply chain with multiple actors and batches which vary with input there are further challenges. In order to address these challenges a simpler tool which could be used internally by all actors in the supply chain would be advantageous.

Fuel usage is a major factor requiring consideration this being the fishing fleet’s single greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to fuel usage a number of other factors such as those related to economic and social impacts of harvesting seafood products need to be included when investigating sustainability. Environmental, economic and social impacts were also identified as being important when calculating and communicating the Sustainability Impact (SI) of products for stakeholder use.

A Batch based Calculation of Sustainability Impact (BCSI) was created by using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology together with expert and industry consultation. It has been possible to create a tool with a limited number of relevant factors which will allow companies to calculate the sustainability impact (SI) for their products on a batch level (a batch is often defined as a trip) see fig 1.

Stakeholders expect the BCSI tool to be easy to use in terms of input of data, easy to interpret, available through web applications and offer customisation options. The BCSI should be detailed enough to be reliable, simple enough for ease of interpretation and general scientific acceptance is desired.

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1 Nofima- The Norwegian Institute of Food Fisheries and Aquaculture Norway / MATOS Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D / Wageningen University, the Netherlands  2) The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology, PO-box 5401, 402 30 Göteborg, Sweden


Nofima AS, Munkebakken 9-13, Breivika, Postboks 6122 Longnus, NO-8291 Tromsø, Norway, Tel: + 47 77 62 90 00, www.nofima.no, post@nofima.no - Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research