

Background to Certification in Ireland & Where We Are Now

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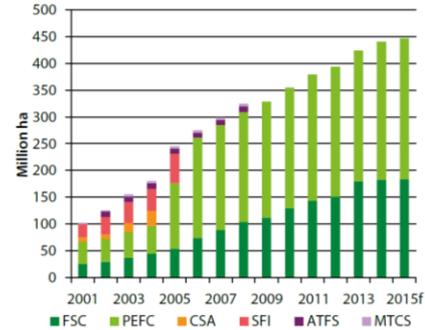
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This presentation will provide a brief background to SFMI, an overview of certification, and our hope for today's conference.



Who is SFMI?



Certification – it's still here!



Where to from here?

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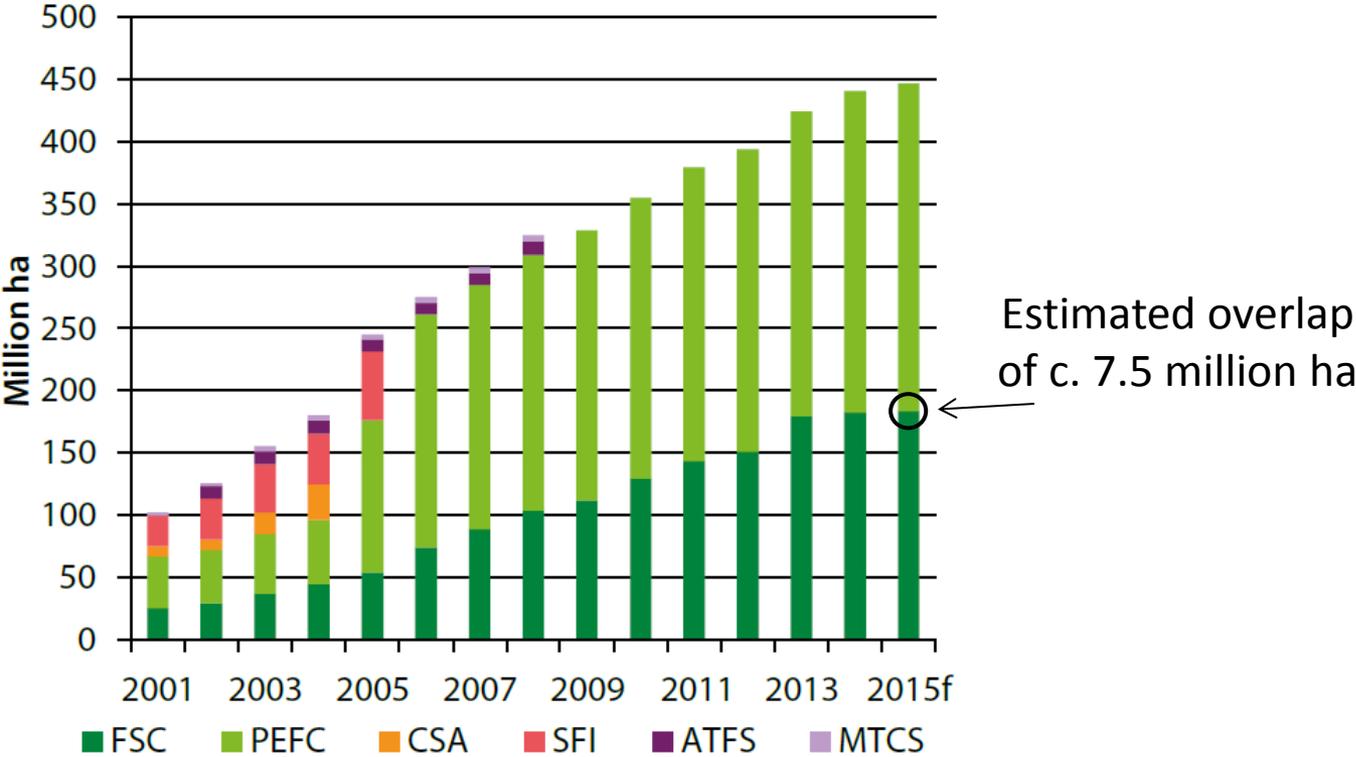
Mission statement:

“Promoting sustainable management of Ireland’s forests through information, advocacy and education on independent forest management certification schemes”

SFMI has an interesting history.



Despite early expectations, certification is still going strong over 20 years later.



Source: Forest Products Annual Market Review 2014-15

Having a choice of scheme seems ideal but it is only practical when all links are in place.



FSC



PEFC



The future for SFMI



Where to from here?

The future for SFMI

Options 1 – remain as we are today

Option 2 – expand membership, progress certification awareness and standard development in Ireland

The Irish FSC Standard will expire in 2017.

From FSC International:

“Those countries, which do not have a registered standard development group will be depending on Certification Bodies developing Interim National Standards based on International Generic Indicators. Currently we are discussing advanced proposals with the CBs identifying which CB is taking up which country. According to current plan, Control Union will transfer the Irish national standard to an Interim National Standard, unless a chamber balanced Standard Development Group is registered.”



*Updated info (June 16):
Soil Association now the
CB appointed to this task*

Revising the Irish (FSC) Standard requires a significant level of input in terms of expertise, time and resources.



Putting the pieces together

PEFC Ireland is in a more 'stable' position.

1. Functioning Forum for Irish Standard Review
2. Standard valid until 23 December 2016

Looking to the future, is a single standard for Ireland a more realistic option than maintaining two separate ones?

FSC + PEFC



“IRL-WAS” ???

We have several hopes for today's conference.

1. Education and understanding of certification for private owners
2. Expansion of the SFMI membership
3. Expressions of interest in the revision of the Irish FSC standard

Thank you for your attention