

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Norwegian lobster/langoustine (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2016
ASSESSOR:	Sam Dignan

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Dignan	Deirdre Hoare	1 st Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
1. Scope of Assessment		By-Product surveillance year -2015
2. Fishery By-Product		
2. Fishery By-Product		Norwegian lobster/langoustine (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		Northeast Atlantic
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Otter trawl, baited trap
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		Approve by-product

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the *Nephrops* stocks in the assessment area – although the discrepancy between biological stocks and management units appears to be increasing the risk of localised over-exploitation. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME	
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By-Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>	
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.
<p><i>Determination: Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the by-product stock under assessment. However, quotas are applied to larger units than those advised by scientific organisations and there is substantial evidence that management measures are not ensuring the maintenance of stocks above biomass reference points.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>The UK & Ireland are members of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.</p> <p>The CFP has undergone a series of updates, including the most recent reform which was implemented from 1st January 2014. The principal aim of the new CFP is to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. The 2014 reform also details the gradual roll-out of a landing obligation (prohibiting discards), which began in selected fisheries in 2015 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increases the role and importance of management at the regional level, and encourages more intensive stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The primary authorities with responsibility for implementing the CFP are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland, the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in England and Wales, and Marine Scotland, a Directorate of the Scottish Government, in Scotland.</p> <p>From 1st January 2016 Nephrops fisheries within EU waters are subject to landing obligations which aim to gradually eliminate the practice of discarding in EU fisheries.</p> <p>Species-specific management:</p> <p>Quotas are set for several Nephrops stock units, although these do not match the 33 Functional Units (FUs) for which scientific advice is provided (with the exception of FU16). While still to be confirmed the proposed TACs for each of the management units in 2016 are as follows (TACs for 2015 are presented in brackets):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIIa, EU waters of Subdivisions 22-32: 11,001t (5,318t) • EU waters of IIa and IV: 13,700t (17,843t) • Norwegian waters of IV: 1,000t (1,000t) • VI, Vb: 16,524t (14,190t) • VII: 19,534t (21,619t) 	

- FU16: TBC (1,850t)
- VIIIa,b,d,e: 3,899t (3,889t)
- VIIIc: 48t (60t)
- IX and X, EU waters of CECAF: 305t (254t)

There is an EU-wide minimum landing size (now termed Minimum Conservation Reference Size MCRS) of 20-25mm (45mm in Skagerrak/Kattegat). Roughly half of Nephrops FUs were considered to have biomass at or below MSY $B_{trigger}$, and many have estimated harvest rates above MSY. This represents substantial evidence that the current discrepancy between biological stocks and management units could be leading to localised overfishing.

R1 – R8, R10

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

Determination: Research in support of fisheries management exists, and appears to be sufficient to enable the informed management of the majority of Nephrops stock units.

Fisheries management in EU waters is supported by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). ICES utilises the best available scientific information collected by 20 member countries and others, and develops advice for the majority of commercially fished stocks in European waters.

Nephrops are assessed in European waters as 33 'Functional Units', each of which corresponds to a specific area of muddy habitat. ICES conducts stock assessments and makes quota recommendations for each of these FUs. However, TACs are set for a much smaller number of management areas which may contain multiple FUs. The level of scientific understanding varies between FUs but in general appears to be good. In many FUs the use of underwater television cameras allows the number of visible burrows per unit area to be converted into a total biomass estimate. The majority of FUs are assessed in relation to MSY $B_{trigger}$ with stock status also varying considerably between stocks.

R7, R8

C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.

LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

Determination: Norwegian lobster has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

The IUCN has categorised Nephrops norvegicus as a species of least concern.

R9, R10

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5. REFERENCES

- R1** – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R2** – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R3** – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R4** – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R5** – Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R6** – Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7** – ICES advice library: <http://www.ices.dk/publications/library/Pages/default.aspx>
- R8** – EU fishing quotas 2016:
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=27996&subweb=343&lang=en
- R9** – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R10** – Seafish responsible sourcing guide, Nephrops, 2013:
http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SeafishResponsibleSourcingGuide_nephrops_201310.pdf

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