

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)
LOCATION:	UK and Ireland
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 1 of 5	CCM Code:
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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Key Contact: Frank Trearty	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
	By-Product surveillance – Year 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product		
	Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
	UK and Ireland	
4. Fishery Method		
	Dredge, hand raking	
5. Outcome of Assessment		
	Approve by-product	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is little change in the legislation or state of the mussel resource since the last assessment. There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although there is only limited evidence of any technical measures applied specifically to mussel. The level of scientific understanding varies between mussel beds, and it is not clear at what level stock assessments should be conducted. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product 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.

Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but there is limited evidence of these being applied specifically to the by-product stock under assessment.

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Fishery management framework:

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.

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.

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.

Species-specific management:

The majority of species-specific regulation for mussels relates to water quality and food safety, and is aimed at ensuring a high quality of product rather than the sustainability of mussel fisheries. There are minimum landing sizes in place, which vary between 45mm and 51mm around England and Wales. There are no quotas in place. Approximately 26,000t of mussels are produced in the UK annually, although it is not clear what proportion of these are wild harvest. Catch-and-grow mussel fisheries in Ireland and the UK are subject to more stringent regulations including in some areas move on rules related to catch composition, minimum biomass of available seed prior to the commencement of fishing and rules related to re-laying areas for on-growing. There is a MSC fishery certified in Ireland and Northern Ireland. To manage the fishery in these cases, the management takes into account the appropriate assessment in some areas and studies of stocking density and carrying capacity.

R2 – R8

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>	
LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 3 of 5	CCM Code:

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.	
<p>Determination: Scientific understanding of mussels varies considerably from bed to bed. There appear to be significant improvements which could be made in the overall scientific basis for mussel fishery management.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There is no evidence of any research or stock assessment conducted on mussels at an international level. Locally, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) conduct stock assessments within their jurisdictions around the UK and seed mussel surveys are conducted in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The details of these assessments vary considerably, with some stocks fairly well understood and others extremely limited. It was not clear to the assessment team the extent to which it is appropriate to consider individual mussel beds as stock units in this way, or whether a broader national or international approach is needed.</p> <p>R7</p>		M
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.	
<p>Determination: Mytilus edulis has not been categorised by the IUCN; however the species has earned approval against the MSC standard in several European fisheries and it is widely farmed. It is very unlikely to be at immediate risk of over-exploitation.</p> <p>The IUCN has not categorised <i>Mytilus edulis</i>, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices. However, there are several mussel fisheries around Europe which have been certified against the MSC standard, and the species is widely farmed.</p> <p>R8</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

- R1** – Image of *Mytilus edulis* by Decler, Misjel
<http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=1954&pic=34382>
- R2** – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R3** – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 4 of 5	CCM Code:

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- R4** – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R5** – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R6** – Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R7** – Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R8** – Seafish responsible sourcing guide, mussels, 2011:
http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SeafishResponsibleSourcingGuide_mussels_201109.pdf
- R9** – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 5 of 5	CCM Code:

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