

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)
LOCATION:	North-East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name: UFI		
Address:		
Country: UK & Ireland	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
By-Product surveillance year 2016		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Conger eel (<i>Conger conger</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
North-East Atlantic		
4. Fishery Method		
Primarily bycatch by bottom trawls and demersal longline		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Approve byproduct		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although this is not applied specifically to conger eel. Fisheries management in general is supported by data collection and stock assessment, but species-specific research is extremely limited. The assessment team recommends that the approval of this byproduct material is maintained 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.
<i>Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but there is no evidence of these being applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment.</i>	
<p>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.</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 included 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 increased 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>Species-specific management: The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) state that there are no species-specific management objectives or management measures in place for conger eel in Europe.</p> <p>R2 – R7</p>	
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
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.
<i>Determination: Research is conducted to support fisheries management in the EU in general, but there is no evidence of any stock assessment or significant data collection activities with regards to conger eel specifically.</i>	
<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>While no ICES assessment is conducted specifically for conger eel, catch and landings data is collected. This species is common and is considered moderately abundant throughout its range. Given total FAO catch-landings of this species for the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic fishing grounds from 1954-2009 there seems to be a steady increase in numbers; starting in 1954 with 11,000 metric tons, and ending in 2009 with 17,229 metric tons, with a low of 8,400 metric tons in 1966 and a high in 1994 with 19,036 metric tons. The catch may be increasing however, this is not necessarily indicative of the population trend, and further monitoring is necessary for further assessment of this species.</p>		
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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: Conger eel has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern and therefore is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.</p>		H
<p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Conger conger</i> as a species of least concern and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Listed as Least Concern as it is a common and widespread species throughout its range. However, the species could be threatened by fisheries, as it is a highly appreciated targeted species by both commercial and recreational fisheries, with high vulnerability and very low resilience. Immature individuals are being fished in many countries, and decrease of landings are happening in some areas. These declines appear localized at this time, and there is no evidence that the population is declining at the regional level. Further research on the population trend of the species is encouraged.</p>		
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5. REFERENCES

- R1. Image of Conger conger by Robert A. Patzner: <http://www.fishbase.se/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=0&ID=301&what=species&TotRec=10>
- 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
- 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/marine-management-organisation>
- R7. Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R8. MCS fishfinder, conger eel: <http://www.fishonline.org/fish/149/Eel,%20Conger>
- R9. IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> Garcia, S. 2015. *Conger conger*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T194969A18982581. . Downloaded on **17 January 2017**.

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