

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Edible crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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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
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
	By-Product surveillance year 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product		
	Edible crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
	UK & Ireland	
4. Fishery Method		
	Pots & trawls	
5. Outcome of Assessment		
	Maintain approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, and the UK framework is applied specifically to the edible crab stocks around the country. Management is supported by some species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but significant improvements could be made to reduce uncertainty. 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.
<i>Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.</i>	
<i>Fishery management framework:</i>	
<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. 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>	
<i>Species-specific management:</i>	
<p>A range of management measures are in place for edible crab in each of the main UK stocks, including minimum landing sizes, restrictions on vessel length, permit schemes, escape gaps in traps, and towed gear restrictions. Specifics vary considerably around the UK, particularly minimum landings sizes. There are no TACs in place. The main stocks and their associated landings in 2011 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western English Channel – 4,567t • Celtic Sea – 2,074t • Eastern English Channel – 384t • Southern North Sea – 1,999t • Central North Sea – 1,993t • Hebrides and Sule – 12,000t total in Scotland • Clyde, South Minch – 12,000t total in Scotland • Orkney, North Coast & East Coast – 12,000t total in Scotland <p>The crab fishery in Ireland, is regulated by the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each vessel must hold a polyvalent or pot fishing licence. Such vessels, if they are over 10m in length, must declare landings in an EU logbook. 2. The MLS is 130mm carapace width between 48-56°N and 140mm north of 56°N 3. Fishing effort by Irish vessels, over 15m in length in ICES area VI and VII, is limited to 465000 and 40960 kilowatt days per annum respectively (Council Regulation (EC) 1415/2004). Activity by vessels over 10m in length is limited to 63198 kW days in the Biological Sensitive Area (1954/2003) of Area VII. 	

- 4. Landing of crab claws greater than 1% of the total weight of the catch on board is illegal
 - 5. Crabs cannot be captured in either the commercial or recreational fishery by SCUBA.
 - 6. Crabs can be captured recreationally without licence. No effort cap or bag limit applies to this catch but it cannot be sold commercially.
- R2 – R9

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.

Determination: Research to support the management of the stock does exist, but there are significant improvements which could be made in regards to stock definitions and data collection to improve the reliability of assessments.

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. However, there are currently no international stock assessments carried out for edible crab; assessments in the UK are carried out by CEFAS (in England and Wales) and by Marine Scotland (in Scotland). Reference points are defined in both regions; the CEFAS assessment takes into account both FMSY and Flim, and the Marine Scotland assessments are based solely on FMSY. Assessments in Ireland are carried out by BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara).

There are significant uncertainties with regards to stock structure, and the ICES crab working group is developing an international approach to European crab assessment. There are also some concerns that landings and effort data may be inaccurate, particularly due to the lack of information on the number of pot hauls per trip. Projects such as ACRUNET and Gap2 have facilitated fishery dependent data which has increased data on stocks in the Greater Celtic Sea and English Channel. In England and Wales Project Inshore has high-lighted gaps in data and management with regard to the MSC Standard for Edible crab.

R10 – R12

C. STOCK STATUS	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>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.</i>	
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: Edible crab has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.

The IUCN has not categorised *Cancer pagurus*, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R13

5. REFERENCES

- R1.** Image of *Cancer pagurus* by Hans Hilewaert:
<http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=717&pic=34506>
- 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.** Seafish responsible sourcing guide, crabs and lobsters, 2013:
http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SeafishResponsibleSourcingGuide_CrabsLobsters_201309.pdf
- R9.** Oliver Tully, Martin Robinson, Eimear O'Keefe, Ronan Cosgrove, Owen Doyle and Bridget Lehane, 2006. The Brown Crab (*Cancer pagurus* L.) Fishery: Analysis of the resource in 2004 - 2005. Fisheries Resource Series, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Sea Fisheries Board), Dun Laoghaire, Ireland Vol. 4, 2006, 48pp
<http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/bimNo%204%20The%20Brown%20-%20Crab%20Cancer%20pagurus%20L%20-%20Fishery%20Analysis%20of%20the%20resource%20in%202004-2005%20.pdf>
- R10.** The ACRUNET project: <http://www.acrunet.eu/acrunet-about>
- R11.** The Gap2 project: <http://gap2.eu/category/case-studies/uk-brown-crab/>
- R12.** Project Inshore: <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/fishing/project-inshore>
- R13.** IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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