

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)
LOCATION:	Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2015
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
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
Sam Peacock	Deirdre Hoare	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
IFFO RS By-Product surveillance		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId		
4. Fishery Method		
Beam trawl, otter trawl, gillnet		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Maintain byproduct approval		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

As at the time of the 2014 re-assessment, there is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, but there is limited evidence that this is applied specifically to the lemon sole stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment but significant improvements in the understanding of the stock could be made. The assessment team recommends maintaining 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.

Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, however the extent to which these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment remains limited. A medium compliance rating is still appropriate.

M

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:

Lemon sole in the area relevant to this assessment is managed as “Lemon sole in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions IIIa (Skagerrak-Kattegat) and VIId (Eastern Channel)”. There are no specific management objectives for the stock, but a combined EU TAC is set for Division IIa and Subarea IV for lemon sole and witch; in 2015 this TAC was set at 6,391t. There is no minimum landing size. Lemon sole is mainly a bycatch species in mixed fisheries, and ICES states that a TAC may not be appropriate as a management tool.

R1 – 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
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: Some species-specific research and stock assessment activities are conducted, but there is significant room for improvement to reduce uncertainty. The medium compliance rating awarded in the previous assessment remains appropriate.

M

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.

ICES advice is provided annually for lemon sole in the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Eastern Channel, although the 2014 advice was unchanged from 2013. A survey-based trends assessment is conducted using commercial catches and one survey index. There are no quantitative reference points defined. ICES states that a great deal of data are available but have not previously been analysed. The stock is categorised as data-limited.

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: Lemon sole 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 remains appropriate.

M

The IUCN has not categorised *Microstomus kitt*, and the species does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R9, R10

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/marine-management-organisation>

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R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R7 – ICES advice, lemon sole in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId:

- 2013: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/lem-nsea.pdf>
- 2014: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/lem-nsea.pdf>

R8 – EU fishing quotas 2015: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG

R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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