

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	28/02/2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country:	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	David Garforth	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment	Byproduct re-certification	
2. Fishery By-Product	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)	
4. Fishery Method	Beam trawlers.	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve byproduct	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to plaice in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. Although the level of stock-specific management and research varies considerably between stocks, the large majority of landings are from the well-managed and well-understood North Sea fishery. The assessment team therefore recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard with a high compliance rating.</p>

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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	There is no satisfactory legal and management framework for fisheries in the region.
MEDIUM	An administrative and legal framework that underpins management of fisheries in the region is established, but it is not directly applied to the byproduct stock under assessment.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management for fisheries in the region is established and applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.

Determination: *There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment. Although no management plan has been developed for most plaice stocks, the large majority of landings are in the North Sea fishery which is subject to a long-term management plan. The assessment team considers that on balance a high compliance rating is appropriate to reflect this ratio.*

H

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), starting in 2015 and eventually encompassing 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, and the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in the UK.

Species-specific management:

There are seven plaice stocks within the area covered by this assessment. The level and type of management applied varies considerably between stocks. All plaice fisheries are subject to a minimum landings size and gear restrictions, in addition to stock-specific annual TACs.

- Subarea IV (North Sea): Managed according to a two-stage management plan for sole and plaice, which was evaluated by ICES and found precautionary in 2010. Plaice in Subarea IV is subject to an annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 97,100t. Landings have been generally in line with scientific advice in recent years.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): No specific management objectives. Subject to an annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 1,627t.
- Division VIIe (Western Channel): No specific management objectives. Subject to an annual combined TAC with Division VIId, below; in 2013 this was set at 6,400t.

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- Division VIId (Eastern Channel): No specific management objectives Subject to an annual combined TAC with Division VIId, below; in 2013 this was set at 6,400t.
- Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea): No specific management objectives. Subject to an annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 370t.
- Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland): No specific management objectives. Subject to an annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 141t.
- Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): No specific management objectives. Subject to an annual TAC, which in 2013 was set at 74t.

R1 – R7

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 regional fisheries does not exist.
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of regional fisheries exists; however research programmes are not specifically directed at the byproduct stock under assessment.
HIGH	Research specifically targeting the byproduct stock under assessment is carried out in support of sustainable fisheries management.

Determination: *Research is carried out specifically to support the management of the species under assessment. Although the majority of stocks have some weaknesses with regards to research or data, the large majority of landings occur in the well-understood North Sea fishery. As in section A, above, the assessment team considers a high compliance rating appropriate to reflect this.*

H

All the plaice stocks in areas covered by this assessment are subject to annual stock assessment by ICES, with the exception of plaice in Divisions VIIb,c, which is subject to biennial advice. The level of scientific understanding and research conducted on stocks varies considerably.

- Subarea IV (North Sea): Assessment is based on commercial landings, age and length frequencies, and three survey indices. ICES states that the stock is well within precautionary limits, has increased in the past ten years, and has reached a record-high level in 2013. Recruitment has been around the long-term average from 2007 onwards. In recent years, fishing mortality has been estimated below F_{MSY} .
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): Assessment is based on commercial landings, age and length frequencies, and three survey indices. The stock is considered to be data-limited, although some potential reference points have been defined.
- Division VIIe (Western Channel): Assessment is based on commercial catches, two survey indices and three commercial indices. Limit reference points have been defined and SSB is estimated, although a lack of discard data prevents calculation of total catch.
- Division VIId (Eastern Channel): Assessment is based on commercial landings, three survey indices and one commercial index. No reference points have been defined and the stock is considered data-limited. SSB estimates are available.
- Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea): Assessment is based on commercial catches and one survey index. Discards are substantial but included in the assessment. No reference points have been defined and the stock is considered data-limited.
- Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland): Assessment is based on commercial catches. No firm reference points have been defined, although potential reference points are available. No absolute estimates of SSB are available and the stock is categorised as data-limited.

R6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): No assessment is conducted as catches in this area are too low to support the collection of necessary information. Landings have been around 30-40t since 2005 and even historically have rarely exceeded 200t. 	
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 by the IUCN.	
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. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN and no additional information is available.	
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN but other sources of evidence (e.g. MSC certification) demonstrate that the species is not critically at risk.	
<p>Determination: Plaice has been categorised by the IUCN redlist as a species of least concern.</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> as a ‘species of least concern’.</p>		H
R8		

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): <http://marinemanagement.org.uk/about/index.htm>

R6 – ICES advice, 2013:

- Subarea IV (North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-nsea.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-iris.pdf>
- Division VIIe (Western Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-echw.pdf>
- Division VIId (Eastern Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-eche.pdf>
- Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-celt.pdf>

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- Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-7h-k.pdf>
- Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/ple-7b-c.pdf>

R7 – EU fishing quotas 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2013_en.pdf

R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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