

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Red mullet (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-ICES Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	February 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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Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
		IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Red mullet (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-ICES Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
4. Fishery Method		
		Gillnet, bottom trawl
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, but there is no evidence this is applied specifically to the red mullet stocks in the assessment area. Management is supported by some species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but there are considerable gaps in the understanding of the stocks. The assessment team recommends 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.
<p><i>Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but there remains no evidence to suggest that these frameworks are applied specifically to red mullet.</i></p> <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 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> <p>Species-specific management: Although there is no evidence of any species-specific management, ICES advice for red mullet in the area relevant to this assessment suggests there are two stock units. Striped red mullet in Subareas and Divisions VI, VIIa–c, e–k, VIII, and IXa (Western area) has no specific management objectives and is not subject to a TAC. ICES states that there is preliminary data to suggest multiple biological stocks within the management area.</p> <p>The second stock, Striped red mullet in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions VIId (Eastern English Channel) and IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat), is also not subject to a management plan or TAC. There does not appear to be a minimum landing size or any other species-specific management measure in place for either stock.</p>	
<p>R2 – R7</p>	
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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.	
<p>Determination: ICES provides advice on the management of red mullet, but due to the limited available information this advice is extremely limited. A medium compliance rating remains appropriate.</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>ICES provides advice on the Western stock biennially, and on the Eastern stock every year. The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied to the Western Stock. For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is supporting information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. Currently there is no information on exploitation levels. The precautionary buffer was applied in 2013; therefore, it is not applied again this year. No analytical assessment can be conducted on the Western stock due to a lack of data, and no catch projections are available. There are no defined reference points and no biomass indicators or estimates.</p> <p>The Eastern stock was benchmarked in 2015. The benchmark concluded that recruitment estimates from the assessment for the most recent years were very uncertain, and could be substantially revised when more years of data were added. On the other hand, the SSB trend estimated by the assessment was considered to be a more reliable indicator of stock status than direct use of the survey indices. This stock is assessed using commercial catch data and one survey index. There are no defined reference points and the stock is considered by ICES to be data-limited.</p> <p>R8, R9</p>		M
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.	
<p>Determination: Red mullet has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R10, R11</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

- R1.** *Mullus surmuletus* Linnaeus, 1758: <http://www.marinespecies.org/photogallery.php?album=754&pic=34600>
- 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.** ICES advice, red mullet in the Northeast Atlantic, 2016:
- Striped red mullet in Subareas and Divisions VI, VIIa–c, e–k, VIII, and IXa (Western area):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/mur-west.pdf>
 - Striped red mullet in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Divisions VIIId (Eastern English Channel) and IIIa (Skagerrak–Kattegat): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/mur-347d.pdf>
- R9.** EU fishing quotas 2016: https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/tacs_en
- R10.** IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R11.** CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>