

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</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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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:	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		
Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2		
4. Fishery Method		
Fixed and drift nets, long-lines, troll and bottom trawl		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Approve by-product		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU, UK & Ireland levels which is applied specifically to the sea bass stocks in the assessment area, although there is some evidence that these are insufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but significant improvements in quantity and quality of data could be made. The assessment team recommends approving this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard, with a medium compliance rating.

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 is no evidence that these frameworks are applied specifically to the by-product stock under assessment.</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: Article 10 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2016/72 details measures on Sea bass fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to fish for sea bass in ICES divisions VIIb, VIIc, VIIj and VIIk, as well as in the waters of ICES divisions VIIa and VIIg that are more than 12 nautical miles from the baseline under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom. It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to retain on board, tranship, relocate or land sea bass caught in that area. 2. From 1 January to 30 June 2016, it shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to fish for sea bass and to retain on board, relocate, tranship or land sea bass caught in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ICES divisions IVb, IVc, VIId, VIIe, VIIf and VIIh; (b) waters within 12 nautical miles from baseline under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom in ICES divisions VIIa and VIIg. 1. By derogation from the first subparagraph, the following measures shall apply in the areas referred to in that subparagraph: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Union fishing vessel deploying demersal trawls and seines (2) may retain on board catches of sea bass that do not exceed 1 % of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board; (b) in January 2016 and from 1 April to 30 June 2016, Union fishing vessels using hooks and lines, and fixed gillnets (3) may fish for sea bass and retain on board, relocate, tranship or land sea bass caught in that area not exceeding 1,300 kilograms per any vessel per month. 	

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2. From 1 July to 31 December 2016 it shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels using hooks, lines and fixed gillnets to fish for sea bass in quantities exceeding 1,300 kilograms per any vessel per month and for Union fishing vessels using other gears to fish for sea bass in quantities exceeding 1,000 kilograms per any vessel per month in the following areas:
 - (a) ICES divisions IVb, IVc, VIId, VIle, VIIf and VIIh; (b) waters within 12 nautical miles from baseline under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom in ICES divisions VIIa and VIIg.
3. During that period, it shall also be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to retain on board, relocate, tranship or land quantities of sea bass exceeding the quantities set in the first subparagraph caught in those areas.
4. The catch limits set in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not be transferable from one month to another or between vessels. Member States shall report to the Commission catches of sea bass per type of gear not later than 20 days after the end of each month.
5. For Union fishing vessels using more than one gear in a single calendar month, the lowest catch limit set in paragraph 3 for either gear shall apply.
6. From 1 January to 30 June 2016 in recreational fisheries in ICES divisions IVb, IVc, VIIa and from VIId to VIIh, only catch-and-release fishing for sea bass, including from shore, shall be allowed. During this period, it shall be prohibited to retain on board, relocate, tranship or land sea bass caught in that area.
7. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, not more than one specimen of sea bass may be retained per fisherman per day during the following periods and in the following areas:
 - (a) from 1 July to 31 December 2016 in ICES divisions IVb, IVc, VIIa and from VIId to VIIh; (b) from 1 January to 31 December 2016 in ICES divisions VIIj and VIIk.
8. ICES provides stock assessment and advice for two stocks: Divisions IVbc, VIIa,d-h (west of Scotland and North Sea); and Divisions VIa, VIIb+j (west of Scotland and Ireland). There is no management plan in place for either stock. There has been a moratorium on commercial fishing by Irish vessels since 1990, and as a result incidental catch is discarded.

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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><i>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.</i></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 for seabass in two stock units relevant to this assessment:</p> <p>Divisions IVbc, VIIa, and VIId–h (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, English Channel, and southern North Sea) An age- and length-based analytical assessment is carried out using commercial landings data, one pre-recruit survey, and one bottom-trawl survey. One reference point has been defined (F_{MSY}). ICES considers the data adequate for providing quantitative advice. ICES advises that a management plan is needed.</p> <p>Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj (West of Scotland and Ireland) No stock assessment is conducted due to a lack of data. ICES states that it is not possible to provide commercial catch advice as the only information available is the official landings total. No reference points are defined and the stock is categorised as data-limited.</p> <p>R7</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><i>Determination: Seabass has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.</i></p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R8, R9</p>		H

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>
- R6. Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7. ICES advice, European Seabass, 2016:
 - Divisions IVbc, VIIa, and VIId–h (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, English Channel, and southern North Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/bss-47.pdf>
 - Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj (West of Scotland and Ireland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/bss-wosi.pdf>
- R8. IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R9. CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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