

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	<i>Sole (Soleidae sp)</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		Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
		Byproduct re-certification
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Sole (<i>Soleidae sp</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)
4. Fishery Method		
		Beam trawl, otter trawl, gillnet
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 in general is applied specifically to sole in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection although there is some room for improvement in the level of understanding of stocks. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard with a medium 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. While management measures and objectives vary between stocks, all seven relevant fisheries are subject to an annual TAC, and two of the largest fisheries (by landings) are subject to a long-term management plan. The assessment team considers a high compliance rating to be appropriate.*

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 sole stocks relevant to the area covered by this assessment. The level and type of management varies considerably between stocks. All European sole fisheries are subject to a minimum landing size.

- Subarea IV (North Sea): Managed according to a two-stage management plan for North Sea sole and plaice, which was evaluated by ICES in 2010 and found to be precautionary. An annual TAC is set for the stock, which in 2013 was 14,000t.
- Division VIId (Eastern Channel): No specific management objectives, management advice is provided by ICES on the basis of the MSY approach. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 5,900t.
- Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea): No specific management objectives, management advice is provided by ICES on the basis of the MSY approach. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 1,100t.
- Divisions VIIh-k: No specific management objectives. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 402t.
- Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): No specific management objectives. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 42t.

- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): No specific management objectives. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 140t.
- Division VIIe (Western channel): Managed according to a management plan agreed in 2007. The plan has not been evaluated by ICES. An annual TAC is set, which in 2013 was 890t.

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; however, in general, the level of understanding of stocks appear to be somewhat insufficient for ensuring accurate and reliable management advice. On balance the assessment team considers a medium compliance rating appropriate.*

M

The level of research and the reliability of the stock assessment vary between stocks. However all but one are subject to annual stock assessment and management advice.

- Subarea IV (North Sea): Assessment is based on commercial catches, two survey indices and one commercial index. Discards cannot be quantified and so total catches cannot be calculated.
- Division VIId (Eastern Channel): Assessment is based on commercial catches, three survey indices and two commercial indices. Fishing mortality has always been above F_{MSY} , and has been above F_{pa} since 2005.
- Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea): Assessment is based on commercial catches, one survey index and two commercial indices. Spawning-stock biomass has been above $MSY B_{trigger}$ since 2001. Fishing mortality has decreased from F_{lim} in 2003 to F_{MSY} in 2005 and remained there until 2011. In 2012 it increased to above F_{pa} .
- Divisions VIIh-k: Assessment is based on commercial catches only. Fishing mortality and SSB are estimated but there are no defined reference points. The stock is considered data-limited.
- Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): Advice is biennial. Catches in the area are too low to support the collection of information necessary to perform a stock assessment.
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): Assessment is based on commercial catches and one survey index. The 2013 SSB is the lowest observed in the time-series. The fishing mortality has shown a declining trend since the mid-1980s; it has been relatively stable in recent years, but remains well above the F_{MSY} proxy.
- Division VIIe (Western channel): Assessment is based on commercial catch-at-age data, three survey indices and three commercial tuning fleets. Fishing mortality has fluctuated around F_{MSY} since the early 1990s and is estimated to have been below F_{MSY} since 2009. SSB has been around $MSY B_{trigger}$ for about two decades, with an increase since 2009.

R6

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: None of the European sole species has been categorised as vulnerable by the IUCN redlist, but as several are data deficient or not assessed, the assessment team considers a compliance rating of medium to be appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has awarded a variety of different categorisations to the various <i>Soleidae</i> species, but none have been found to be vulnerable.</p> <p>R8</p>		M

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, June 2013:

- Subarea IV (North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-nsea.pdf>
- Division VIIId (Eastern Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-eche.pdf>
- Divisions VIIIf,g (Celtic Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-celt.pdf>
- Divisions VIIh-k: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-7h-k.pdf>
- Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-7b-c.pdf>
- Division VIIa (Irish Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-iris.pdf>

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- Division VIIe (Western channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/sol-echw.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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