

# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

## IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Sole (Soleidae spp.)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>UK &amp; Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>February 2016</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Deirdre Hoare</b>

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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
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2015		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Sole (Soleidae spp.)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2		
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 2015 surveillance, there is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied to specifically to the sole stocks in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, and the level of data collection is now generally good enough for the fishery to score high compliance in section B. 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>	
<b>LOW</b>	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	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.
<b>HIGH</b>	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. The extent to which these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment varies from stock to stock, but as at the time of the 2015 surveillance the assessment team considers a high compliance rating to remain 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), 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:**

Sole in the area relevant to this assessment is subject to annual quotas in eight separate management stock regions. These management areas, and the associated TACs for 2015, are as follows:

- EU waters of IIa and IV: 11,900t
- VI, Vb, international waters of XII and XIV: 57t
- VIIa: 90t
- VIIb+c: 42t
- VIId: 3,483t
- VIIe: 851t
- VIIf+g:851t
- VIIh,j,k: 382t

These areas do not fully match the stock units for which ICES provides advice (see section B, below). Of these, sole in the North Sea (Subarea IV) and the Western Channel (Division VIIe) are subject to management plans; in the cases of the other stocks, there are no explicit management objectives. All European sole fisheries are subject to a minimum landing size.

R1 – R8

**B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

**LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE**

*B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.*

<b>LOW</b>	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
<b>HIGH</b>	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

***Determination: The level of stock-specific data collection and stock assessment varies between stocks; however the majority of stocks are subject to an annual analytical assessment and so on balance the assessment team considers it appropriate to upgrade the compliance rating to 'high'.***

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 provides advice for sole in the area relevant to this assessment as seven stock units, as follows:

*Subarea IV (North Sea)*

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catches, three survey indices, and one commercial index. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches, and in relation to the management plan. ICES states that age compositions of the landings are well sampled and the quality of the surveys is adequate.

*Division VIIa (Irish Sea)*

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and one survey index. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. Time-series are available of fishing mortality and SSB.

*Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland)*

No assessment is conducted, no quantitative reference points are available, and the stock is categorised as data-limited. Landings statistics are the only data available.

*Division VIId (Eastern Channel)*

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catches, 3 survey indices and 2 commercial indices. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. Time-series estimates of fishing mortality and SSB are available.

*Division VIIe (Western Channel)*

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch-at-age data, three survey indices, and two commercial tuning fleets. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. ICES reports that the new assessment methodology introduced in 2012 has improved the assessment significantly.

*Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea)*

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catches, one survey index, and three commercial indices. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and precautionary approaches. Time-series estimates for fishing mortality and SSB are available.

*Divisions VIIh-k*

An age-based analytical assessment indicative of stock trends is conducted using commercial catches and a commercial tuning index. The stock is categorised as data-limited and no reference points are defined. Time-series estimates of relative fishing mortality and relative SSB are available.

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.*

<b>LOW</b>	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	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.
<b>HIGH</b>	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

***Determination: Sole has not been categorised by the IUCN as data deficient; 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 is appropriate.***

M

The IUCN has categorised *Solea solea* as data deficient and it is not listed in the CITES appendices.

R9, R10

## 5. REFERENCES

- R1 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index\\_en.htm](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](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](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, sole in the Northeast Atlantic, 2015:
- Subarea IV (North Sea):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-nsea-reopen.pdf>
  - Division VIIa (Irish Sea):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-iris.pdf>
  - Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-7b-c.pdf>
  - Division VIId (Eastern Channel):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-eche.pdf>
  - Division VIIe (Western Channel):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-echw.pdf>
  - Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea):  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-celt.pdf>
  - Divisions VIIh–k:  
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/sol-7h-k.pdf>
- R8 – EU TACs, 2015: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG#ntr14-L\\_2015022EN.01003101-E0014](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG#ntr14-L_2015022EN.01003101-E0014)
- R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>