

# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

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



<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Indian Ocean (UK &amp; Ireland)</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		
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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance year 2015
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Indian Ocean (UK & Ireland)
4. Fishery Method		
		Longline, pelagic gears
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain byproduct approval

## 2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

## 3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is an effective fishery management framework in place at the international level, but there is no evidence of it being applied specifically to the by-product stock under assessment. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends the continued 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 is an effective fishery management framework in place at the international level, but there is no evidence of it being applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.**

**Fishery management framework:**

As a widely distributed and highly migratory species, management of swordfish in the Indian Ocean is coordinated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). The IOTC has 32 signatories, including the UK and Ireland (through the EU). The objectives of the IOTC are to encourage cooperation on research and management of Indian Ocean large pelagic species, including swordfish. The Commission can implement a range of technical measures to species within its remit, based on the recommendations made by the scientific committee. The most significant currently active resolutions, in relation to the swordfish fishery, are “Resolutions 12/11 – on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties” and “Resolution 10/08 – concerning a record of active vessels fishing for tunas and swordfish in the IOTC area”. Together, these resolutions require the identification of all vessels fishing for IOTC species, and restrict signatories from increasing their total capacity.

**Species-specific management:**

Although the management measures described above do apply to vessels targeting swordfish, there do not appear to be any species-specific measures in place.

R1 – R8

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

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>	
<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: Research to support the management of the stock exists, and is likely to be sufficient to ensure the informed management of the stock.**

The decisions made by the IOTC are informed by recommendations made by its scientific committee. The most recent stock assessment for swordfish was conducted in 2014, and provides a comparison of two swordfish stocks against defined reference points.

**Indian Ocean swordfish**

The main Indian Ocean swordfish stock is currently considered to be neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. MSY has been calculated as 39,400t, with landings in 2014 totalling 34,822t (Average catch 2010-2014: 28,494t). Other provisional reference points include  $F_{MSY}$  and  $SB_{MSY}$ .

**Southwest Indian Ocean swordfish**

The secondary swordfish stock is currently considered to be overfished but not subject to overfishing. MSY has been calculated to stand at 9,860t, with landings in 2014 totalling 8,276t (Average catch 2010-2014: 7,661t).  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  have also been estimated.

Recommendations for both stocks are based on catch and cpue data.

R3

**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: Swordfish has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.**

The IUCN has categorised *Xiphias gladius* as a species of least concern.

R4

**5. REFERENCES**

R1 – About the IOTC: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc>

R2 – IOTC structure: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>

R3 – IOTC report, status of the Indian Ocean swordfish, 2015:

[http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species\\_summaries/english/Swordfish%20Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Swordfish%20Executive%20Summary.pdf)

R4 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>