

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2016
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:		
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		
Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2		
4. Fishery Method		
Bottom trawl, gillnet, tangle net and longline		
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, but it is not applied to thornback ray specifically in the assessment area. Management is supported by some species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but there is significant room for reducing uncertainty. 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>	
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.

Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but these frameworks are not applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment to any significant extent.

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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:

There is limited evidence of any species-specific management measures applied to thornback ray in the area covered by this assessment. Annual quotas are set for three management areas, but are generic to all skates and rays and are not specific to thornback. These areas, and their associated TACs for 2015, are as follows:

- EU waters of IIa and IV: 1,256t
- EU waters of VIa, VIb, VIIa-c,e-k: 8,032t
- EU waters of VIId: 798t

Each of these TACs covers an assemblage of around 20 elasmobranch species, and ICES notes that they are likely to have different vulnerabilities to over-exploitation – although does not necessarily advocate the introduction of species-specific TACs. Fisheries are a mixture of target and non-target. ICES considers the current approach to be sub-optimal, and that management measures such as closed areas/seasons or effort restrictions may better

protect demersal elasmobranchs. There are some additional gear restrictions and other management mechanisms in place across all elasmobranchs, but no species-specific management measures.

Although outside the area covered by this assessment, it is worth noting that fishing for thornback ray is prohibited in Division IIIa.

R1 – R8

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 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.

Determination: Species-specific data collection is limited, and catches are still frequently not reported to the species level making even landings data unreliable. There remain significant improvements which are needed to improve the reliability of ICES advice.

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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 stock assessment and advice for thornback ray in five stock units relevant to the area covered by this assessment, as follows:

Subarea IV, and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and eastern English Channel)

The stock is categorised as data-limited and assessment is based on survey based trends. Input data includes: Annual landings since 2012, IBTS Q1 and Q3 Survey, UK Beam trawl survey, CGFS. A quota recommendation of 2110 tonnes is advised.

Divisions VIIa,f,g (Irish and Celtic seas)

A survey-based trends assessment is conducted using one bottom-trawl survey. No quantitative reference points are defined and the stock is categorised as data-limited. ICES reports that further work is required to refine landings data and workshops are required to compile and refine all available data.

Division VIIe (Western English Channel)

Biennial advice is produced using estimated landings, but no stock assessment is conducted. No reference points are defined and the stock is categorised as data-limited.

West of Scotland (Subarea VI)

A survey-based trends assessment is conducted using one bottom trawl survey. No reference points are defined and the stock is considered data-limited. ICES states that a large proportion of skates caught in the area are not reported to species level.

Other skates(including thornback ray) in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId)

<p>This report provides advice on skates and rays not covered by the other elasmobranch advice. No assessment is conducted and no reference points are defined. The assemblage is considered data-limited.</p> <p>R7, R8</p>		
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<p><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></p>		
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: Thornback ray has been categorised by the IUCN as ‘near threatened’, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.</i></p> <p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Raja clavata</i> as ‘near threatened’, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R9, R10</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, Thornback ray in the Northeast Atlantic, 2015:

- Subarea IV, and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and eastern English Channel): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/rjc-347d.pdf>
- Divisions VIIa,f,g (Irish and Celtic seas) advice for 2015 & 2016: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/rjc-7afg.pdf>
- Division VIle (Western English Channel) advice for 2015 & 2016: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/rjc-echw.pdf>
- West of Scotland (Subarea VI) advice for 2015 & 2016: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/rjc-VI.pdf>
- Other skates(including thornback ray) in Subareas VI and VII (excluding Division VIId) advice for 2015 & 2016: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/raj-celt.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

R9 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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