

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)
LOCATION:	North – East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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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	Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	North- East Atlantic	
4. Fishery Method	Bycatch in beam trawl, otter trawl and static gear fisheries. Small targeted gillnet fishery.	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Maintain approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the turbot stock in the assessment area, although there is room for improvement. Species-specific data collection and stock assessment is limited. The assessment team recommends the continued approval of this by-product 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, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment. However, there are significant improvements which could be made, particularly to ensure management measures match the scientific recommendations.

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:

A single combined annual quota is set for turbot and brill in the EU waters of IIa and IV. In 2015 this TAC was set at 4,642t. ICES has stated that the combined TAC could lead to the over-exploitation of one of the stocks. Scientific advice is also provided for other stocks which are not currently subject to a TAC. Regulations aimed at restricting the total effort in other fisheries (for example cod, sole and plaice) are likely to directly impact this fishery.

R1 – R8

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.

Determination: Species-specific research and stock assessment activities are conducted on turbot, but there is a high level of uncertainty and all three ICES-assessed stocks are categorised as data-limited.

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 turbot in three separate stock units, as follows:

Subarea IV (North Sea)

The annual stock assessment is based on commercial catches, two survey indices and one commercial index. One reference point has been defined (FMSY) and estimates of recruitment and relative SSB are calculated. The stock is categorised as data-limited.

Division IIIa (Skagerrak-Kattegat)

An annual stock assessment is conducted based on commercial catches and two survey indices. No reference points are defined and the stock is considered data-limited.

Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea)

The annual stock assessment is based on commercial landings data and survey data from the Baltic International Trawl Survey. There are no reference points and the stock is considered data-limited.

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.

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.

Determination: Turbot has not been categorised by the IUCN; however the additional evidence described below leads the assessment team to believe the species is not at serious risk and so a high compliance rating is appropriate.

The IUCN has not categorised *Scophthalmus maximus*, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R9

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/marinemanagement-organisation>

R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R7 – ICES advice, turbot, 2014:

- Subarea IV (North Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/tur-nsea.pdf>
- Division IIIa (Skagerrak-Kattegat):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/tur-kask.pdf>
- Subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/tur-2232.pdf>

R8 – EU fishing quotas 2015: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.022.01.0001.01.ENG

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

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