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# FISHERY By Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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

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<b>FISHERY By Product:</b>	<b>Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)</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>18/02/2011</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Vito Ciccia Romito</b>

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Rivercourt Business Centre, Riverlane, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864			
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**1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

<b>Name:</b> United Fish Industries/Welcon	
<b>Address:</b> [REDACTED]	
<b>Country:</b> Ireland	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Tel. No.</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax. No.</b>
<b>Email address:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Applicant Code</b>
<b>Key Contact:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Title:</b> [REDACTED]

**Certification Body Details**

<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification</b>
Vito Ciccia Romito	Mike Platt	Surveillance

**1. Scope of Assessment**

<b>1. Scope of Assessment</b>	By product surveillance
<b>2. Fishery By Product</b>	Plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> )
<b>3. Fishery By Product Location</b>	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)
<b>4. Fishery Method</b>	Beam trawlers.
<b>5. Outcome of Assessment</b>	Approved

**2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT**

**Auditor to check that the fish by products used by the factory have had a fish by product surveillance.**

**3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION**

**Plaice by products are approved for IFFO RS.**

## 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: A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.*** H

#### **Administrative and legal management framework EU/UK**

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the fisheries policy of the European Union (EU). It allocates quotas from which member states are allowed to catch different amounts and species of fish. England, Scotland, Wales and the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are member states and respond to the CFP. The most important areas of action of the common fisheries policy are: laying down rules to ensure Europe's fisheries are sustainable and do not damage the marine environment (fishing effort limitations, catch limits, technical measures). The CFP provides national authorities with the tools to enforce these rules and punish offenders, as well as monitoring the size of the European fishing fleet to prevent it from expanding in an unrealistic way. The CFP provides, funding and technical support for initiatives that can make the fishing industry efficient. The CFP will also negotiate on behalf of EU countries within international fisheries organisations and with non-EU countries around the world, therefore helping producers, processors and distributors get a fair price for their seafood. The final function of the CFP is to provide funding for scientific research and data collection, to ensure a sound basis for policy and decision making (R1).

#### **Compliance**

Enforcement is the responsibility of each member state, but there is a community level inspection service to ensure that each member state enforce the rules within their own country (R1). **The Marine Management Organization (MMO) is responsible for enforcing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in England.** Their role includes active management of fishery quotas within the overall limits set each year by the European Commission (R2). **Marine Scotland is the directorate of Scottish Government (SG) responsible for marine and fisheries issues in Scotland including the enforcement of marine and fisheries law and world class scientific and research work (R3).** **The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority in Ireland** ensures that the marine fish and shellfish resources from the waters in **Ireland's EEZ** are exploited legally. The authority's main mission is to apply Sea Fisheries Conservation and Seafood Safety legislation in a fair and consistent manner (R4). Finally, the **Welsh Assembly Government assumes full responsibility for the management and enforcement of sea fisheries that surround Wales (R5).**

#### **Management plans for Plaice**

The EU management plan for North Sea plaice and sole (Council Regulation (EC) No. 676/2007) results in a TAC of 73 400 t and an effort increase of 12% in 2011. A catch of 73 400 t can be considered precautionary for 2011, given it is well below the catch according to the precautionary approach, resulting in a larger spawning stock biomass and a smaller fishing mortality compared to the precautionary approach option.

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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 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.
<b><i>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.</i></b>	
<b>Stock Assessment</b>	
<p>The assessment is an age based analytical assessment with 6 survey indices and annual egg production estimate of spawning stock biomass. The assessment is not very precise because discards form a substantial part of the total catch and cannot be well estimated from the low number of annual sampling trips, but most importantly due to the large differences in abundance observed in the different regions of the North Sea. The different survey tuning series in different areas of the North Sea indicate opposite trends in the most recent development of the stock both in terms of recruitment and SSB. The change in distribution of juvenile plaice further offshore has resulted in conflicting estimates of abundance between the survey inshore and the offshore surveys. This is resulting in a <b>persistent underestimation of recruits revised upwards</b> in subsequent years as signals of abundance in old age classes come through. The estimated increase in SSB is due to an increase in plaice observed in the survey in the north-western part of the North Sea. The surveys in the south-eastern part indicate that the stock has increased less (R7-8).</p>	
C. STOCK STATUS	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<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>	
<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.
<b><i>Determination: The fish by product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.</i></b>	
<p>Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) is not in the IUCN Red list and the fishery has an established management framework (as illustrated in section 4A).</p>	

## 5. REFERENCES

R1. European Commission, Fisheries, Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/intro/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/intro/index_en.htm)

R2. Marine Management Organization, Monitoring and Enforcement.

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/index.htm>

R3. Scottish Government. Marine and Fisheries Compliance.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Compliance>

R4. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

<http://sfpa-ie.access.secure-ssl-servers.biz/index.php?q=about-us>

R5. Welsh Assembly Government. Fisheries.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/foodandfisheries/fisheries/?lang=en>

R6. ICES Areas.

[http://www.ices.dk/aboutus/icesareas/ICES\\_areas\\_Arc9\\_Weuro\\_300.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/aboutus/icesareas/ICES_areas_Arc9_Weuro_300.pdf)

R7. Plaice in Subarea IV (North Sea). ICES Advice 2010

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/ple-nsea.pdf>

R8. Plaice in Divisions VIIh k. ICES Advice 2010.

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2010/2010/ple-7h-k.pdf>