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Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



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Fishery Under Assessment	Whelk (<i>Buccinum undatum</i>) IVb/c, VIIa, VIIe & d, VIII/f/g Irish Sea, NE Coast Scotland, England
Date	December 2019
Assessor	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Pelagia (UK) Grimsby				
Address:				
Country:		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global Ltd		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Vito Romito	0.5	Surveillance 1	By-product
Assessment Period	2019			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	UK, Ireland
Main Species	Whelk (<i>B. undatum</i>)
Fishery Location	Irish Sea; NE Coast: Scotland. England
Gear Type(s)	Pots
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	NONE
Peer Review Evaluation	APPROVE
Recommendation	PASS

Assessment Determination

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU; UK & Ireland levels, although this does not appear to be applied specifically to whelk stocks to any significant extent.

Management in the UK is supported by technical measures (fishing gear restrictions, dimensions of grading equipment) provided for through bye-laws published by each Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA). In Ireland removals from the fishery are monitored and controlled by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).

In 1994 a size limit of 50 mm was introduced for conservation purposes. A range of conservation measures are theoretically available to ensure sustainable management of a whelk fishery. A conservation regime might be managed by covering pots with a suitable mesh size permitting the escape of animals smaller than the prescribed size limit.

There is a currently a Europe-wide minimum landing size of 45mm applied to whelk (this has been increased to 70mm in the Isle of Man). There are no quotas set for the species. The species has no planktonic larval phase and adults have limited mobility, making localised over-exploitation a significant risk. There is no current information available on stock assessments; harvest control rules or biological reference points for whelk in the assessment area.

The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken. The fishery was assessed using the risk-based Productivity, Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) approach as per IFFO-RS v 2.0 procedures for Category D species. The fishery passes this assessment.

Whelks have not yet been assessed according to the IUCN Red List (website accessed 09.12.19) and are not on the current CITES list of endangered species (website accessed 09.12.19)

The assessment team recommends the approval of whelk as by product material for the production of fishmeal and fish oil as per the IFFO-RS V 2.0 standard.

Peer Review Comments

The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken. The fishery was assessed using the risk-based Productivity, Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) approach as per IFFO-RS v 2.0 procedures for Category D species. The fishery passes this assessment. The peer reviewer agrees with the approval recommendation of whelk as by product material for the production of fishmeal and fish oil as per the IFFO-RS V 2.0 standard.

Notes for On-site Auditor

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

This assessment template uses a modular approach to assessing fisheries against the IFFO RS standard.

Whole Fish

The process for completing the template for a **whole fish** assessment is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table, to determine which categories of species are present in the fishery.
2. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses M1, M2, M3: Management.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY A SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clauses A1, A2, A3, A4 for **each** Category A species.
4. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY B SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete the Section B risk assessment for **each** Category B species.
5. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C species.
6. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete Section D.
7. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses F1, F2, F3: Further Impacts.

A fishery must score a pass in **all applicable clauses** before approval may be recommended. To achieve a pass in a clause, the fishery/species must meet **all** of the minimum requirements.

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The ‘% landings’ column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the ‘bycatch’ or ‘minor’ species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The ‘stock’ column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The ‘management’ column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases, it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Whelk	<i>B. undatum</i>	ICES IVb/c, VIIa, VIIe & d, VIII f/g	n/a	UK, Ireland	D

CATEGORY D SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. In a by-product assessment, Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In both cases, the comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

The process for assessing Category D species involves the use of a Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) to further subdivide the species into ‘Critical Risk’, ‘Major Risk’ and ‘Minor Risk’ groups. If there are no Category D species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Productivity and susceptibility ratings are calculated using a process derived from the APFIC document “Regional Guidelines for the Management of Tropical Trawl Fisheries, which in turn was derived from papers by Patrick *et al* (2009) and Hobday *et al* (2007). Table D1 should be completed for each Category D species as follows:

- Firstly, the best available information should be used to fill in values for each productivity and susceptibility attribute.
- Table D2 should be used to convert each attribute value into a score between 1 and 3.
- The average score for productivity attributes and the average for susceptibility attributes should be calculated.
- Table D3 should be used to determine whether the species is required to meet the requirements of Table D4. A species which does not need to meet the requirements of D4 is automatically awarded a pass.

- Table D4 should be used to assess those species indicated by Table D3 to determine a pass/fail rating.
- Any Category D species which has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Endangered or Critically Endangered, or which appears in the CITES appendices, automatically results in a fail.

D1	Species Name:		
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)	4.7-7.5	3
	Average maximum age (years)	12	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	140	3
	Average maximum size (cm)	15	1
	Average size at maturity (cm)	5,1-7.6	1
	Reproductive strategy	Demersal	2
	Mean trophic level	Carnivore	3
	Average Productivity Score		2.1
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery	25-50% in area fished	2
	Distribution	Not used	
	Habitat	Demersal	2
	Depth range	Not used	
	Selectivity	Not used (Pots)	
	Post-capture mortality	Alive after net hauled	2
	Average Susceptibility Score		2
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		PASS
	References:		
R1: Hildur Magnúsdóttir University of Iceland (Jan 2010). The common whelk (<i>Buccinum undatum</i> L.): Life history traits and population structure 57pp pdf			
R2: Irish fisheries investigations No 6 (2000) Edward Fahy et al: A second assessment of the whelk fishery <i>Buccinum undatum</i> in the southwest Irish Sea with particular reference to its history of management by size limit. 73pp			
R3: Haig, J. A; Pantin, J.R., Salomonsen, H, Murray, L. G. & Kaiser, M.J. (2015). The size at maturity for the common whelk, <i>Buccinum undatum</i> in Welsh waters, with an industry perspective on minimum landing sizes. Fisheries & Conservation report No. 50, Bangor University. Pp.44 http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk/wales/documents/50.pdf .			
R4: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Society: Species Management Plan for Whelk Technical Requirements: https://www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Technical-requirements.pdf			
R5: IUCN Red List https://www.iucnredlist.org/			
R6: CITES http://checklist.cites.org/#/en			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1.00 – 1.75	1.76 – 2.24	2.25 – 3.00
Average Productivity Score	1.00 – 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 – 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 – 3.00	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4