

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)
LOCATION:	Northeast Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2015
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

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Certification Body Details

Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Bill Paterson	Initial

1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Northeast Atlantic
4. Fishery Method	Mixed trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve byproduct

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 megrim stock in the assessment area (although management measures differ from the scientific advice). Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, but there are significant sources of uncertainty in several stocks. The assessment team recommends 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, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment. However, there are discrepancies between the management approach applied and the scientific advice.

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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:

EU megrim fisheries are managed as five stock units, each of which is subject to an annual quota. The stocks and associated TACs for 2015 are as follows:

- IIa and IV: 2,083t
- Vb, VI, international waters of XII and XIV: 4,129t
- VII: 17,385t
- VIIIa,b,d,e: 1,716t
- VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: 1,377t

There is also a Europe-wide minimum landing size of 20cm. These management units do not match the stocks for which ICES advice is provided. The most recent ICES advice makes recommendations regarding the updating of management units.

R1 – R8

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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: Stock-specific research and assessment activities are conducted, but could be significantly improved to reduce uncertainty in the management of several megrim stocks.

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 advice is provided for four stock units, as follows:

Divisions IVa and VIa

Biennial advice is given based on a Bayesian state-space dynamic model. The input data include commercial landings and samples, and six fishery-independent survey indices. ICES states that although missing data prevent an age-based assessment, the outcomes are robust regarding the status of the stock relative to reference points. The defined reference points are F_{MSY} , $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim} .

Division VIb (Rockall)

ICES states that there is no analytical assessment for this stock, which is considered data-limited. No reference points are defined, and the qualitative assessment is survey trends-based and uses commercial landings and one survey index.

Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b,d

No reference points are defined and the annual assessment is based on commercial catches, two fishery-independent survey indices, and two commercial survey indices. No reference points are defined and the stock is categorised as data-deficient, but time series are available for relative recruitment, relative fishing mortality and relative SSB.

Divisions VIIIc and IXa

The annual age-based assessment is conducted using commercial catches, one fishery-independent survey index and two commercial indices. Three reference points have been defined: F_{MSY} , $B_{trigger}$, and B_{pa} . Time-series for recruitment, fishing mortality and SSB estimates are available.

R7

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: Megrim has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.

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

R9

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, Megrim, 2014:

- Divisions IVa and VIa: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/meg-4a6a.pdf>
- Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa, b, d:
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/mgw-78.pdf>
- Division VIb (Rockall): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/meg-rock.pdf>
- Divisions VIIIc and IXa: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2014/2014/mgw-8c9a.pdf>

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

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

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