

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)
LOCATION:	North East Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
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	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
	By-Product surveillance year: 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product		
	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
	North East Atlantic	
4. Fishery Method		
	Mixed trawl	
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 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 is maintained 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.
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2017 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIa and IV: 2,639t • Vb, VI, international waters of XII and XIV: 5,682t • VII: 13,099t • VIIIa,b,d,e: 1,295t • VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1: 1,013t <p>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.</p>	
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R2 – R9		
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.	
<p><i>Determination: Stock-specific research and assessment activities are conducted, but could be significantly improved to reduce uncertainty in the management of several megrim stocks.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>ICES advice is provided for four stock units, as follows:</p> <p>Divisions IVa and VIa</p> <p>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. Inaccurate and missing age data prevents the development of an age-based assessment for this stock. In order to undertake an age-based approach in the future, depth- and sex-stratified age data from the surveys and catch data used in the current assessment model would be required. Due to incomplete discards data, historical discard levels (1985–2012) have been assumed to have declined, from 30% at the beginning of the time-series to the current estimate of 15%. Estimates since 2013 are based on observed discards. The IBTS survey input data was revised in 2014; this led to a moderate revision in the trends in F/FMSY and B/BMSY in the 2015 assessment. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in each of the years 2016 and 2017 should be no more than 8,567 tonnes.</p> <p>Division VIb (Rockall)</p> <p>MSY proxy reference points were estimated in early 2016 (ICES, 2016b) using landings data. These proxies were updated using catch data from 1991 onwards, derived from discard rates and including the 2016 survey data (ICES, 2016a). The updated proxies do not change the perception of the harvest rate or stock biomass relative to reference points. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 379 tonnes.</p> <p>Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b,d</p> <p>This is the first time since 2006 that ICES has provided advice based on an analytical assessment of this stock. Previously, the advice was based on a category 3 assessment (ICES, 2012, 2015). Discard issues noted in previous advice have been resolved in the recent benchmark (ICES, 2016b). The annual assessment is based on commercial catches, two fishery independent survey indices, and two commercial survey indices. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 16,021 tonnes.</p> <p>Divisions VIIIc and IXa</p>		M

<p>ICES considers that management of the two megrim species under a combined TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to overexploitation of either species. Therefore, this year’s advice is based on the single-species FMSY. The annual age-based assessment is conducted using commercial catches, one fishery-independent survey index and two commercial indices. Four reference points have been defined: FMSY, Fpa, B_{trigger}, and Bpa. Time-series for recruitment, fishing mortality and SSB estimates are available. ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach that catches in 2017 should be no more than 211 tonnes.</p> <p>R8</p>		
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>		
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>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.</p> <p>The IUCN has not categorised <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R10</p>		M

5. REFERENCES

- R1- Image of *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* by Sánchez Delgado, Francisco
<http://fishbase.org/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=0&ID=28&what=species&TotRec=7>
- R2- About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R3- CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R4- Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R5- Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>
- R6- Marine Management Organisation (About):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marinemanagement-organisation>
- R7- Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R8- ICES advice, Megrim, 2016:

Divisions IVa and VIa:

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/meg-4a6a.pdf>

Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa, b, d:

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/mgw-78.pdf>

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Division VIb (Rockall):

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/meg-rock.pdf>

Divisions VIIIc and IXa:

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2016/2016/mgw-8c9a.pdf>

R9- EU fishing quotas 2017: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R2285&from=EN>

R10- IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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