

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland – Ices Areas IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	February 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	Giles Bartlett	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
1. Scope of Assessment		IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2015
2. Fishery By-Product		
2. Fishery By-Product		Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		UK & Ireland – Ices Areas IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Beam trawl
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		Maintain byproduct approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

As at the time of the 2015 surveillance, there is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the plaice stocks in the assessment area. Management continues to be supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends maintaining 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. As at the time of the 2014 re-assessment, the only plaice stock subject to a management plan is North Sea plaice; however as this is where the majority of plaice is caught, a high compliance rating remains appropriate.

H

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. Plaice fisheries came under the regulation in 2016 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increased 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:

Plaice is subject to a number of regional annual quotas in the area covered by this assessment. These areas, along with the associated TAC for 2015, are as follows:

- IV, EU waters of IIa, IIIa excluding Skagerrak-Kattegat: 128,376t
- VI, Vb, international waters of XII and XIV: 658t
- VIIa: 1,098t
- VIIb+c: 74t
- VIId+e: 4,787t
- VIIf+g: 461t
- VIIh,j,k: 135t

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These areas broadly, though not precisely, match the geographical areas for which ICES advice is given. The majority of these management units has no specific management objectives, although plaice in the North Sea (Subarea IV) is subject to a 2-stage, precautionary sole and plaice management plan.

R1 – R8

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: As at the time of the 2015 surveillance, the level of scientific understanding varies between stocks, but the most important fishery occurs on the well-understood North Sea stock. A high compliance rating remains appropriate.

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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 seven plaice stocks relevant to the area covered by this assessment, as follows:

Plaice in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak)

Following a review of the stock structure of plaice in the North Sea and the Skagerrak, the two areas are now combined in one assessment. A large proportion of the catch in the western Skagerrak is considered to originate from the North Sea component of the stock, mainly in the summer on mixed feeding aggregations. Therefore, Skagerrak is now assessed together with the North Sea. The new stock definition is considered to have improved the quality of the assessment. An age-based assessment is conducted annually using commercial catch data and three survey indices. Reference points have been defined based on the MSY and PA approaches, and in relation to the management plan. Estimates of fishing mortality and SSB are available. ICES generally considers the assessment to be reliable.

Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)

An age-based trend assessment is conducted using commercial catch data and three survey indices. No reference points have been defined and the stock is categorised as data-limited. Although the trends are considered to be good indications of stock size, ICES reports a number of potential improvements to the assessment.

Plaice in Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland)

No assessment is conducted due to a lack of data. No reference points are defined and the stock is severely data-limited.

Plaice in Division VIId (Eastern Channel)

A trends-based assessment is conducted using commercial landings data and three survey indices. One reference point has been defined (F_{MSY}) and the stock is categorised as data-limited.

Plaice in Division VIle (Western Channel)

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catch data, two survey indices and three commercial indices. Reference points based on the MSY approach are in place, and ICES notes that there are several significant sources of uncertainty in the assessment.

Plaice in Divisions VII f,g (Celtic Sea)

A trends-based assessment is conducted using one survey index and two commercial indices. No quantitative reference points have been defined and the stock is categorised as data-limited.

Plaice in Divisions VII h-k (Southwest of Ireland)

An age-based analytical assessment is conducted using commercial catches and a commercial tuning index. No quantitative reference points have been defined and the stock is categorised as 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: Plaice has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of least concern, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.

H

The IUCN has categorised *Pleuronectes platessa* as a species of least concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.

R9, R10

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, plaice in the Northeast Atlantic, 2015:

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- Plaice in Divisions VIIb,c (West of Ireland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-7b-c.pdf>
- Plaice in Divisions VIIh–k (Southwest of Ireland):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-7h-k.pdf>
- Plaice in Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-celt.pdf>
- Plaice in Division VIId (Eastern Channel):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-eche-update.pdf>
- Plaice in Division VIle (Western Channel):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-echw.pdf>
- Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-iris.pdf>
- Plaice in Subarea IV (North Sea):
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/ple-nsea-reopen.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/>

R10 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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