

# FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

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



<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</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>28/02/2014</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, 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		
Name:		
Address:		
Country:	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	David Garforth	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
		Byproduct re-certification
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Seabass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)
4. Fishery Method		
		Fixed and drift nets, long-lines, trolling and bottom trawls.
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. However, there is almost no species-specific management applied to seabass, and scientific understanding of the two relevant stocks is very limited. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard with a medium compliance rating.

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<b>4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME</b>	
<b>A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE</b>	
<b>LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE</b>	
<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>	There is no satisfactory legal and management framework for fisheries in the region.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	An administrative and legal framework that underpins management of fisheries in the region is established, but it is not directly applied to the byproduct stock under assessment.
<b>HIGH</b>	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management for fisheries in the region is established and applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.
<p><b>Determination: <i>There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but these frameworks are not applied in any meaningful way at the species level in the case of seabass.</i></b></p> <p><b>Fishery management framework:</b></p> <p>The UK &amp; 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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), starting in 2015 and eventually encompassing 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, and the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in the UK.</p> <p><b>Species-specific management:</b></p> <p>There are two seabass stocks relevant to the area covered by this assessment. European sea bass in Divisions IVbc, VIIa, and VIId–h (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, English Channel, and southern North Sea) is not subject to any specific management objectives and no TAC is set. ICES recommends that tailored management measures be developed for both targeted and bycatch seabass fisheries, to avoid the decline in biomass likely to result from current increasing fishing mortality and low recruitment. There has been a moratorium on commercial fishing for seabass in Irish fisheries since 1990, and any seabass bycatch on Irish vessels is discarded. ICES recommended that 2014 landings should not exceed 2,707t.</p> <p>The second stock is European sea bass in Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj (West of Scotland and Ireland). As with the Eastern stock, there is no TAC set and no specific management objectives. ICES does not necessarily advocate the introduction of a TAC, but recommends the implementation of input controls. ICES recommended that 2014 landings should not exceed 18t.</p>	
<b>M</b>	

R1 – R7

**B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

**LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE**

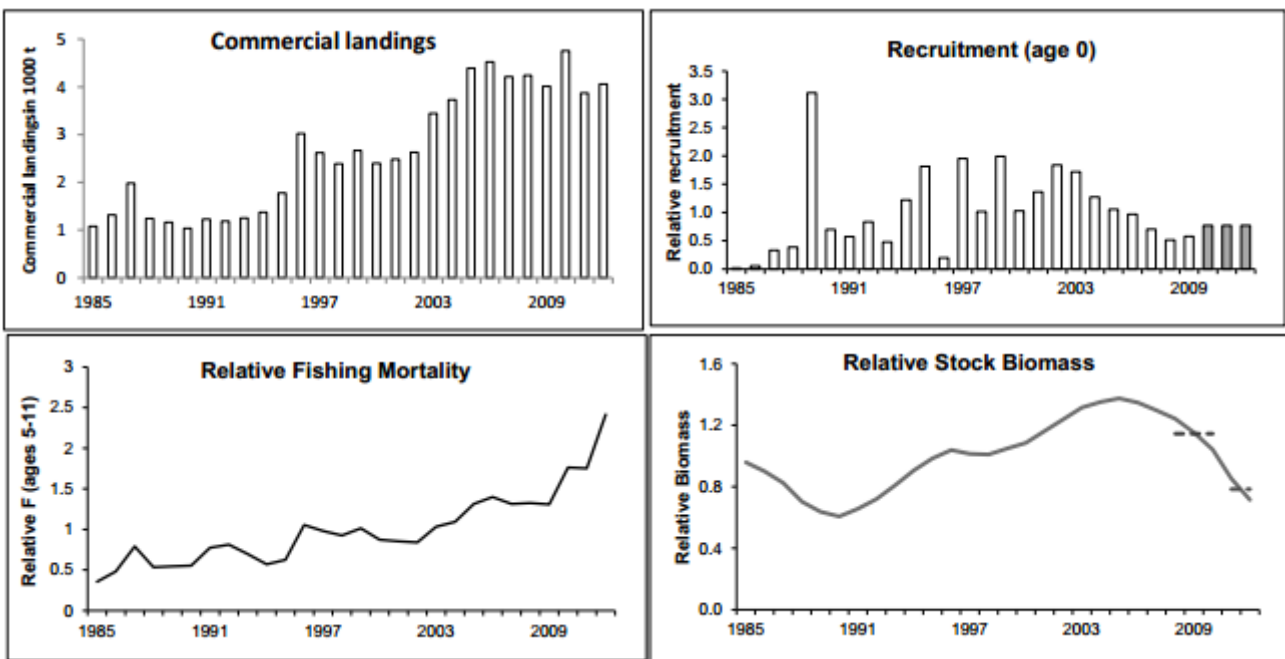
*B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.*

<b>LOW</b>	Research to support the management of regional fisheries does not exist.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Research to support the management of regional fisheries exists; however research programmes are not specifically directed at the byproduct stock under assessment.
<b>HIGH</b>	Research specifically targeting the byproduct stock under assessment is carried out in support of sustainable fisheries management.

**Determination: *The scientific understanding of both stocks is limited, and considerable additional research is required to ensure sustainable management of the stocks.***

M

Both seabass stocks are considered data-deficient by ICES. The stock assessment of the Eastern stock is based on commercial landings and three pre-recruit survey indices. An analytical assessment was conducted for the first time in June 2013. Fishing mortality is increasing, and an exploratory evaluation indicates that F is above a possible FMSY proxy. The total biomass has been declining since 2005.



European sea bass in Divisions IVbc, VIIa, and VIId–h. Summary of stock assessment: landings in thousand tonnes; recruitment, fishing mortality, and biomass relative to the average of the time-series. Long term recruitment mean are shaded. Bottom right: Total stock biomass (TSB), dashed lines indicate the average TSB for the respective year range. From the ICES advice, June 2013.

There is insufficient information available to conduct an analytical assessment of the Western stock. Discards and recreational catches are not quantified, so total landings are not known. ICES states that time-series of relative abundance indices are needed for both the adult and pre-recruit components of the stock.

R6		
<b>C. STOCK STATUS</b>		
<b>LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE</b>		
<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 by the IUCN.	
<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. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN and no additional information is available.	
<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. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN but other sources of evidence (e.g. MSC certification) demonstrate that the species is not critically at risk.	
<b>Determination: <i>The IUCN redlist has not categorised seabass as a species of least concern.</i></b>		<b>H</b>
The IUCN has categorised <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> as a species of least concern.		
R8		

**5. REFERENCES**

- R1 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index\\_en.htm](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](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](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): <http://marinemanagement.org.uk/about/index.htm>
- R6 – ICES advice, June 2013:
  - European sea bass in Divisions IVbc, VIIa, and VIId–h (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, English Channel, and southern North Sea): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/bss-47.pdf>
  - European sea bass in Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj (West of Scotland and Ireland): <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/bss-wosi.pdf>
- R7 – EU fishing quotas 2013: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster\\_tac2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2013_en.pdf)
- R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>