

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	28/02/2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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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		
		Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2 (R6)
4. Fishery Method		
		Bottom trawl, gillnet, tangle net and longline fisheries.
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels. However thornback rays are managed only as a component of the broader skate and ray assemblage, and there are no species-specific management measures. Additionally, scientific understanding of thornback ray populations is extremely limited. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard with a medium compliance rating.</p>

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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	There is no satisfactory legal and management framework for fisheries in the region.	
MEDIUM	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.	
HIGH	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>Determination: <i>There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but the extent to which these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct species under assessment is limited.</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), 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>Species-specific management:</p> <p>Thornback rays are managed as a component of a ‘Rays and Skates’ assemblage in two regions relevant to the area covered by this assessment. Firstly, Rays and skates in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa–c, e–j (Celtic Sea and west of Scotland) covers about 25 species of demersal elasmobranch including thornback ray populations in Subarea VI, Divisions VIIa,f,g and Division VIIe. Secondly, Rays and skates in Divisions and Subarea IIIa, IV, and VIId, e (Kattegat, Skagerrak, North Sea, and English Channel) covers 13 species of ray and skate and 7-8 species of shark, again including the thornback ray. In both regions, skates and rays are managed under a common TAC despite consisting of species which likely have different vulnerabilities to exploitation. Fisheries are a mixture of target and non-target. ICES considers the current approach to be sub-optimal, and that management measures such as closed areas/seasons or effort restrictions may better protect demersal elasmobranchs. There are some additional gear restrictions and other management mechanisms in place across all elasmobranchs, but no species-specific management measures.</p> <p>The 2013 TACs were 2,700t and 8,900t in the Eastern and Western regions respectively.</p> <p>R1 – R7</p>		M

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 regional fisheries does not exist.	
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of regional fisheries exists; however research programmes are not specifically directed at the byproduct stock under assessment.	
HIGH	Research specifically targeting the byproduct stock under assessment is carried out in support of sustainable fisheries management.	
<p>Determination: <i>Research to support the management of the species under assessment is extremely limited and has significant room for improvement.</i></p> <p>The level of scientific research and understanding of each stock is generally low. Stock assessments and management advice are provided biennially by ICES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subarea VI: Data-limited stock, assessment examines survey trends based on one survey index. There is insufficient information to present trends in species-specific landings for this stock. The stock has increased – the abundance estimate (survey catch rates) for the last two years is 43% above the average of the previous five years. • Subarea VI: Data-limited stock. ICES reports that no analytic assessment can be presented. No reference points are defined. • Divisions VIIa,f,g: Data-limited stock, assessment examines survey trends based on two survey indices. There is insufficient information to present trends in species-specific landings for this stock. The stock has increased – the abundance estimate (survey catch rates in the UK beam-trawl survey) in the last two years is 35% above the previous five year average. • Division VIIe: Believed to be part of the stock in the North Sea Divisions. • Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId,e: Data-limited stock, assessment examines survey trends based on two survey indices. There is insufficient information to present trends in species-specific landings for this stock. Thornback ray in this area are now concentrated in the southwestern part of the ecoregion, where it is the main commercial skate species. The stock has increased, considering the abundance estimate (survey catch rates) in the last two years is 95% above the previous five year average. <p>R6</p>		M
C. 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 by the IUCN.	
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. Alternatively if a species is listed as ‘not assessed’ or ‘data deficient’ by the IUCN and no additional information is available.	
HIGH	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.	
<p>Determination: <i>Thornback ray has been categorised as ‘near threatened’ on the IUCN redlist, meaning it is not currently considered vulnerable to over-exploitation.</i></p> <p>The thornback ray is categorised on the IUCN redlist as ‘near threatened’.</p> <p>R8</p>		H

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): <http://marinemanagement.org.uk/about/index.htm>

R6 – ICES advice:

- Rays and skates in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa–c, e–j (Celtic Sea and west of Scotland), October 2012: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2012/2012/Rays%20and%20skates%20in%20the%20Celtic%20Seas.pdf>
- Rays and skates in Divisions and Subarea IIIa, IV, and VIId, e (Kattegat, Skagerrak, North Sea, and English Channel), October 2012: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2012/2012/Rays%20and%20skates%20in%20the%20North%20Sea.pdf>
- Rays and skates in the Celtic Sea and west of Scotland ecoregion, October 2013: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/Rays%20and%20skates%20in%20the%20Celtic%20Seas.pdf>
- Rays and skates in Divisions and Subarea IIIa, IV, and VIId, e (Kattegat, Skagerrak, North Sea, and English Channel), October 2013: <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2013/2013/Rays%20and%20skates%20in%20the%20North%20Sea.pdf>

R7 – EU fishing quotas 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/poster_tac2013_en.pdf

R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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