

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FISHERY By-Product: | Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) |
| LOCATION: | UK & Ireland |
| DATE OF REPORT: | January 2015 |
| ASSESSOR: | Sam Peacock |

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| Form No: 9a | Report Ref: | Page 1 of 5 | CCM Code: |

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| 1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME | | |
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| Name: UFI | | |
| Address: Killybegs, Ireland | | |
| Country: UK & Ireland | Zip: | |
| Tel. No. | Fax. No. | |
| Email address: | Applicant Code | |
| Key Contact: : Frank Trearty | Title: | |
| 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 | Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) | |
| 3. Fishery By-Product Location | UK & Ireland | |
| 4. Fishery Method | Dredge, hand-raking | |
| 5. Outcome of Assessment | Approve by-product | |

| 2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT |
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| 3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION |
| <p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, although there is only limited evidence of any technical measures applied specifically to mussel. The level of scientific understanding varies between mussel beds, and it is not clear at what level stock assessments should be conducted. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.</p> |

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| Form No: 9a | Report Ref: | Page 2 of 5 | CCM Code: |

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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 | 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, but there is limited evidence of these being applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment. M

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:

The majority of species-specific regulation for mussels relates to water quality and food safety, and is aimed at ensuring a high quality of product rather than the sustainability of mussel fisheries. There are minimum landing sizes in place, which vary between 45mm and 51mm around England and Wales. There are no quotas in place. Approximately 26,000t of mussels are produced in the UK annually, although it is not clear what proportion of these are wild harvest.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

| LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE | |
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| <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. |

Determination: Scientific understanding of mussels varies considerably from bed to bed. There appear to be M

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| Form No: 9a | Report Ref: | Page 3 of 5 | CCM Code: |

significant improvements which could be made in the overall scientific basis for mussel fishery management.

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.

There is no evidence of any research or stock assessment conducted on mussels at an international level. Locally, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) conduct stock assessments within their jurisdictions around the UK. The details of these assessments vary considerably, with some stocks fairly well understood and others extremely limited. It was not clear to the assessment team the extent to which it is appropriate to consider individual mussel beds as stock units in this way, or whether a broader national or international approach is needed.

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.

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| 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: Mussel has not been categorised by the IUCN; however the species has earned approval against the MSC standard in several European fisheries and it is widely farmed. It is very unlikely to be at immediate risk of over-exploitation.



The IUCN has not categorised *Mytilus edulis*, nor does it appear in the CITES appendices. However, there are several mussel fisheries around Europe which have been certified against the MSC standard, and the species is widely farmed.

R8

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>

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| Form No: 9a | Report Ref: | Page 4 of 5 | CCM Code: |

R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R7 – Seafish responsible sourcing guide, mussels, 2011:
http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SeafishResponsibleSourcingGuide_mussels_201109.pdf

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

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