



Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood

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supporting the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future

What is RASS?

- Strong pressures from the supply chain - translated into a requirement for suppliers to be able to 'justify' their buying and sourcing policy.
- A Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood – an online web-based database founded on objective, scientifically based information that will enhance a buyer's ability to source seafood responsibly.
- Aim is to provide scientifically-based, factual information at stock, fishery and ecosystem levels which can be interrogated in different ways according to the information required, with a similar approach to information on aquaculture.

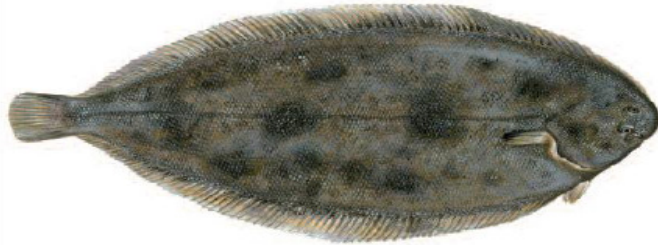


Current responsible sourcing guides



Responsible Sourcing Guide: Dover sole

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Soleasolea Image © Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

Dover sole (*Solea solea*) is an important commercial species in the North East Atlantic. In 2011, 2,000 tonnes (t) of sole was landed in the UK with a first sale value of £25.7 million (1). UK consumption in 2012 (2) was approximately 2003 t of sole and sole products, valued at £ 27million. Because of its high market value, many fisheries use specific gears to target sole.

Sole belong to the family Soleidae (true soles) and are found throughout shelf waters of the North East Atlantic from Iceland and Norway to the

1960s (4), which led to a steady rise in exploitation levels. Sole has shown substantial variations in abundance over the last 50

BUYERS' TOP TIPS

Know the species

There is only one species, *Solea solea*, sometimes called common sole, which may be marketed as Dover sole on UK markets (5). Sand sole, *Pegusa lascaris*, are similar in size and shape to Dover sole, but have a lighter skin colour with irregular dark spots and freckles on the eyed side. In the north Pacific, *Microstomus pacificus* is sometimes referred to as Dover sole, but this species belongs to the flounder family and is not found in the Eastern Atlantic.

Scope of RASS

- Stock status, fishery characteristics, ecological effects and management for wild and farmed commercial species landed and imported into the UK. Start with 38 RSG species.
- Stock status information similar to RSGs - for stocks at risk time series information showing stock trajectories.
- **Tool with the ability to include** fisheries and ecosystem information from public information and projects ie ecosystem risk assessment of the SW fisheries and North Sea flatfish fisheries.
- More on management, mitigating measures and seasonality.
- In time, ethical, welfare, and safety information will be added.

Next steps - feedback

- Board and panel approval for an 'authoritative' resource that builds on the scope of the RSGs.
- Looking for a stakeholder steering group to help shape the outputs.

Now in the scoping phase

- What do stakeholders want to see?
- What additional information is required by the supply chain?
- How do stakeholders want to be able to interrogate the information?
- How should the information be structured?

