

# INACTIVE UK European plaice & lemon sole - seine/trawl

## Overview

### FIP Description

*Reason for Inactivity: European plaice in the North Sea was successfully certified to the MSC Standard in 2018. The timeline for the North Sea lemon sole FIP came to an end in April 2023 and the final annual review indicated that no performance indicator would be expected to fail in an MSC assessment. However, there are still activities underway to ensure the lemon sole fishery demonstrates best practice against the MSC Standard. The main outstanding actions for the lemon sole FIP relate to the development of harvest strategy and harvest control rules. Lemon sole is managed through the North Sea Multi Annual Plan, as a bycatch species, and is currently fished using a joint Total Allowable Catch with witch. Defra are working with ICES to split the TAC and implement a single species TAC in 2024, which will progress the remaining Principle 1 actions.*

Project UK is working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries by running Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) on 12 UK fisheries that have been selected by the UK seafood supply chain. They were selected due to their importance for the UK market.

Project UK has been developed in response to the demand from the supply chain, retailers, industry and NGOs. The project will commission an MSC pre-assessment to inform and develop an action plan for each fishery, which will identify improvements.

Plaice and Lemon sole are demersal flatfish species generally living on sandy substrates but may also be found on mud and gravel and stony bottoms. They are shallow water species found from the near coast as juveniles down to around 200m in northern waters. Plaice are widely distributed on the continental shelf from the Bay of Biscay in the south through the English Channel, North Sea and Irish Sea to the Baltic, Iceland, the Norwegian coast and Barents Sea in the north.

TACs are set for the North Sea Plaice fishery. Around 93% of this TAC was allocated to the EU. The UK share (initial allocation) accounts for around 26% of the total TAC.

TACs are set for the North Sea Lemon Sole fishery. In 2015 the TAC was 6,391 tonnes. 100% of this TAC was allocated to the EU. The UK share (initial allocation) accounts for around 61% of the total TAC.

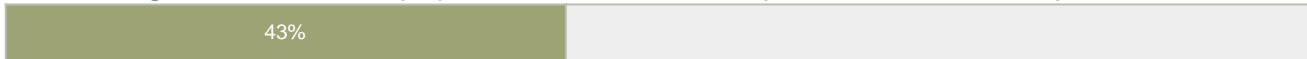
The 3 Units of Assessment (Demersal Trawl, Beam Trawl and Seine) operate in different locations of the North

## How is this FIP Doing?

### Current Status:



**Actions Progress** This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



**Actions Overview** This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

| Behind | On Track | Complete | Future |
|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| 57%    | 0%       | 43%      | 0%     |

### FIP Objective(s)

By April 2023, the FIP aims to address the following:

- Meet the 80+ score for each MSC performance indicator within 5 years (April 2017- 2022) and be able to enter MSC full assessment.
- Support fisheries with the tools to implement changes and ensure their sustainable future as they move towards MSC certification
- Follow the step by step definition of a credible FIP involving four key stages, each with associated tools & support mechanisms:
  1. Undertake MSC pre-assessment
  2. Develop an action plan for improvement
  3. Implement actions & track progress
  4. Enter full MSC assessment
- Address and aim to improve all principle indicators scoring below 80 across the MSC as determined in the pre-assessments
- Use the model to establish a 'FIP conveyor belt' to identify, improve and certify UK fisheries
- Track progress consistently and transparently, producing review reports on an annual basis using a consultant body

### FIP Type

Comprehensive

**FIP Stage**

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

**Start and Projected End Dates**

April, 2017 -

April, 2023

**Species****Common Name**

European Plaice

**Scientific Name**

Pleuronectes platessus

**Common Name**

Lemon Sole

**Scientific Name**

Microstomus kitt

**Gear Type**

[Bottom Trawl](#)

[Otter Trawl](#)

[Seine](#)

**Location****FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 27 \(Atlantic, Northeast\)](#)

**Exclusive Economic Zones****Country**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

**Geographic Scope**

ICES area 3a, 4 and 7d

**Estimated Total FIP Landings**

1319 metric tons

## FIP Leads

**Organization Name**

Facilitated by the Marine Stewardship Council

**Organization Type**

Other

**Primary Contact**

Jo Pollett

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**Website Name**

[Project UK](#)

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