

MSC Fishery Fact Sheet: Dutch Fishery Organisation gill net sole



Latin name	<i>Solea solea</i>
Deutsch	Seezunge
English	Dover Sole
Español	Lenguado Común
Français	Sole Franche / Sole Commune
Nederlands	Tong

Basic information

Location	North Sea, ICES areas IV b & c
Fishing gear	Gill nets
Season	April to end of October
Quota / TAC	200MT (2009 figures)
Products	Whole fresh fish
Date certified	24 th November 2009

Background information

Dover sole is an important target species of the European flatfish industry. Around 60, mostly small vessels are involved in the Dutch Dover sole gill net fishery. The fishing method employed in this fishery is a bottom set gill net. The net consists of a single netting wall. The DFO Dover sole gill net fishery operates under a voluntary management plan and recently the Dutch government incorporated elements of this management plan in a new regulatory framework for the gill net fishery, capping access to the fishery and fishing effort. Limiting the number of vessels and the number of nets in the coastal zone is an important precondition the fishermen have enforced on themselves.

MSC webpage www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/north-east-atlantic/dfo-gill-net-sole



Dutch Dove sole fishing vessel © SNV.
Dover sole photo © Dutch Fish Marketing Board



Sustainability notes

Stock levels	A long term management plan has reduced fishing mortality for this stock in recent years. The harvest strategy is robust and precautionary, responsive to the state of the stock and designed to achieve stock management objectives. Stock assessments adequately assess the status of the stock, taking uncertainty into account and incorporating ongoing research.
Environmental Impact	The Dutch Fisheries Organisation fleet has a clear strategy for limiting bycatch, which is being implemented successfully. This gill net fishery is a selective method of fishing catching relatively low levels of other species. Bycatch species that are landed are recorded and counted against quota, where quotas exist. Impacts on the seabed are minimal with this gear type, since it involves lightweight nets brushing the seabed, and using widely spaced anchors.
Management plan	The management system for this fishery, at EU and national levels, is compliant with laws, observes the legal and cultural rights of fishers and includes transparent mechanisms for dispute resolution. Although this is a relatively small fishery, consultation procedures and communication links are strong and effective.
Fishery Improvements	To develop confidence that the recently agreed rebuilding strategy that is in place for this fishery is effective, the Dutch Fisheries Organisation has committed to re-evaluate the rebuilding strategy within two years and respond with appropriate management. Data on landings for this gear type only will be provided to assessors to better monitor trends in species landings from specific gear types. Additionally, although discarding levels are low for this fishery, discard levels by both species and quantity will be independently assessed through research projects.

Useful websites

Suppliers:	www.msc.org/where-to-buy/find-a-supplier
Fishbase:	http://fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=525

Certificate holder

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