

A web-based tool for seafood businesses to assess the environmental risks when sourcing fish: Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS)

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Who are Seafish?



- UK Sea Fish Industry Authority
- Set up by the UK Fisheries Act 1981 to improve efficiency and raise standards across the seafood industry.
- Funded by a levy on first sale of Seafood
- Report to all 4 UK Fisheries Ministers
- Our remit: Everyone and everything, from fishermen and processors through to importers, retailers and food service providers.

Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS)

<http://www.seafish.org/rass/>

- Developed to help UK commercial seafood buyers make an informed judgement on the environmental risks associated with the wild caught seafood they are sourcing
- 380 fishery profiles covering 80 species that that are regularly sourced by UK seafood buyers



RASS Key Information

- Biological status of fish stocks from which fish are either landed or imported into the UK
- Environmental impacts of fisheries catching these stocks

RASS presents risk scores for four themes:

- 1) stock status
- 2) stock management
- 3) habitat impact
- 4) bycatch impact

Risk	Score
Very low	1
Low	2
Moderate	3
High	4
Very high	5

For further details see
Caveen et al. (2017).
Marine Policy, 75, 1–10

How to use RASS

<http://www.seafish.org/rass/>

Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS)

About RASS

RASS has been developed to help UK commercial seafood buyers make an informed judgement on the environmental risks they face when sourcing wild caught seafood. Profiles cover stock status, management effectiveness, bycatch and habitat risks. Nutrition data is also provided for several species.

[Click here to find out more](#)



Quick Search

Enter your profile search terms here, or select a species in the drop-down. The comprehensive list of RASS profiles can be [found here](#).

Species



Search now

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Atlantic cod Rockall (Vib), Demersal otter trawl

Gadus morhua

Stock Status ●●●●● Very high risk

Management ●●●○○ Medium risk

Bycatch ●●●○○ High risk

Habitat ●●●○○ High risk

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Atlantic cod, Faroe Bank Cod, Handline (Jiggers)

Gadus morhua

Stock Status ●●●○○ High risk

Management ●●○○○ Low risk

Bycatch ●○○○○ Very low risk

Habitat ●○○○○ Very low risk

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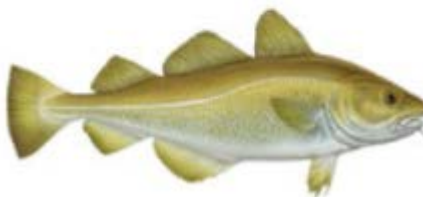
Atlantic cod, Faroe Plateau, Longline

Gadus morhua

Stock Status ●●○○○ Low risk

Management ●●●○○ Medium risk

Bycatch ●●●○○ Medium risk

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Atlantic Cod, North Sea, Demersal seine



Gadus morhua

Content last updated

4th Sep 2018

Stock:

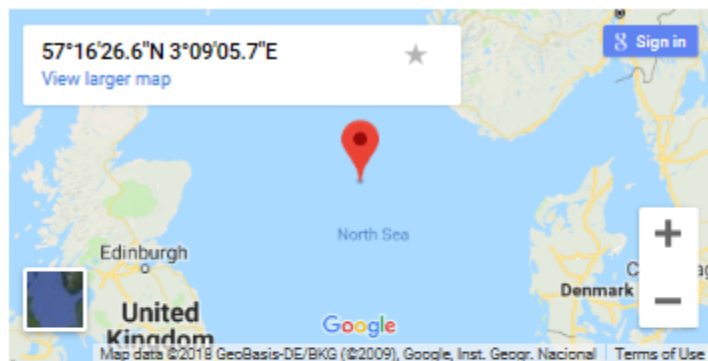
Cod (Gadus morhua) in Subarea 4, Division 7.d, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak)

Management:

European Union

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Overview

Stock Status

less risk ● ● ● ● ○ more risk

Management

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

Bycatch

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

Habitat

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

Outlook

Nutritional Information

Overview

Stock Status

less risk ● ● ● ● ○ more risk

Management

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

Bycatch

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

This fishery is scored as a moderate risk because of the potential of the gear to cause bycatch. There is very little published information on discard levels in seine fisheries. Discard rates by weight of around 15% have been reported for a small sample, which is about half the rate found in otter trawls (Enever *et al* 2007). However, this is likely to be highly variable.

[Show full bycatch information](#)

Habitat

less risk ● ● ● ○ ○ more risk

This fishery is scored as a moderate risk because of the potential of the gear to impact seafloor habitats. The relatively minor effect of the ropes sweeping across the seabed are the most extensive physical effect of this gear with the ground gear, which is likely to penetrate more into the seabed, being a relatively small fraction of the total affected area.

[Show full habitat information](#)

Outlook

Nutritional Information

RASS does not tell you what to do...

- No amalgamation of risk scores
- No instruction of “buy” / “do not buy”
- No determination of sustainable/responsible
- It is up to the buyer whether to purchase based on their risk appetite



Empowers buyers to comply with their own corporate social responsibility requirements

Who is using RASS?

- 20+ major seafood businesses use RASS as part of their procurement
- Some companies fully integrate RASS into their business systems while others dip in and out of the tool
- RASS is facilitating improved transparency on fisheries environmental sustainability in the supply-chain



Next Steps for RASS

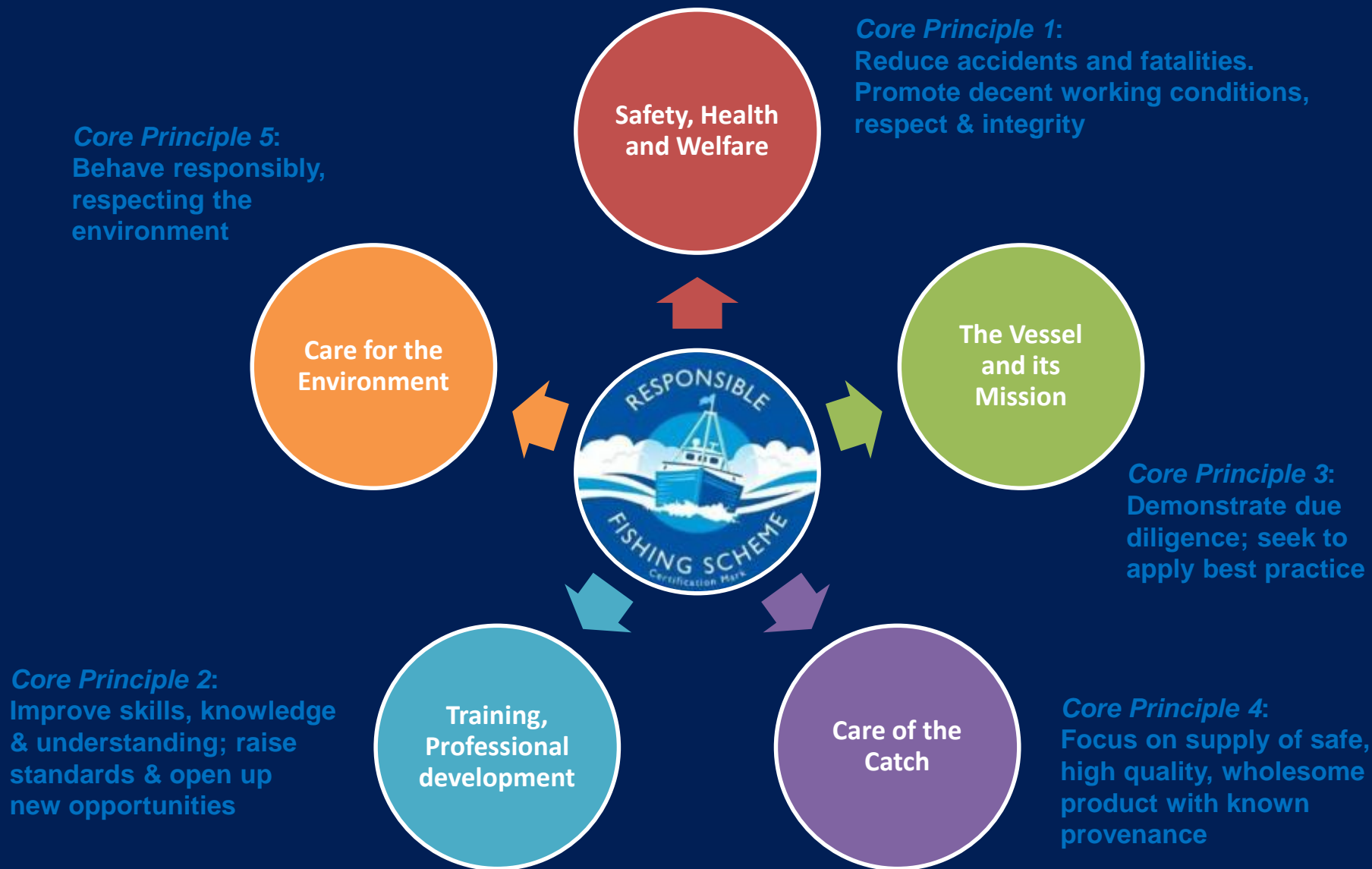
- Review and ensure standardised assessments for all RASS profiles
- Bycatch scoring guidance to be reviewed, and refined if necessary
- Bycatch sections will be updated over 2019 with a focus on impacts on protected species

Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS)



- Certifies high standards of responsible catching practices on board commercial fishing vessels
- Business-to-business tool, aimed at the global marketplace
- Currently only UK registered vessels
- Independent, third-party auditing
- Complements existing standards eg MSC





Supply Chain Supporters

"We have committed to incorporating the Responsible Fishing Scheme certification into our sourcing policies"



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Thank You!

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