

## Responsible sourcing seafood tool to help buyers' choices

A **new tool** to help seafood buyers make informed purchasing decisions for their businesses has been launched by Seafish, the industry authority on seafood.

The free online platform, **Risk Assessment** for Sourcing Seafood (RASS), will give the entire UK **supply chain** of seafood buyers - in the wholesale, foodservice and retail sectors - greater clarity over the status of the seafood they are purchasing both at stock and fisheries levels.

RASS fishery profiles will contain information on stock status, the efficacy of management, as well as seafloor habitat and bycatch impacts. The first tranche of around 100 profiles based on the most common species bought in the UK including haddock, cod and tuna are available now and profiles will continue to be added over the coming months. The tool will also eventually address ethical and welfare issues around sourcing seafood that remains an area of great concern for the industry.

While information on what fish to eat already exists from a number of sources, Seafish believes that RASS will enable commercial buyers to make informed choices that comply with their own internal policies or procedures for purchasing seafood; rather than having to adopt those of advisory organisations.

"As the industry authority on seafood, Seafish is committed to promoting best practice throughout the supply chain, from UK commercial fishermen to producers and ultimately retailers," said Tom Pickerell, Seafish Technical Director.

"With RASS, we have for the first time created a **single**, powerful reference resource for commercial seafood buyers to consult in order to make sound sourcing decisions based on their own corporate philosophies rather than being told what seafood they should and should not buy," Pickerell added.

Katie Miller, Sustainable Seafood Coalition coordinator, said: "We expect the RASS tool to be very useful to suppliers, retailers and others evaluating the risk related to sourcing a particular fish. We look forward to seeing RASS develop to cover **more** fish stocks."

For his part, Mike Mitchell, Group Technical and CSR Director at Young's Seafood, pointed out: "RASS is a robust and independent tool for businesses to use when making their seafood purchasing decisions."

"Because RASS is accessible to everybody, from the novice to the qualified fishery scientist, it has a huge appeal to all types of seafood business - from the very small to the very large. Here at Young's, we have fully supported the development of RASS and we foresee that it will play an important role within our own ever-evolving 'Fish for Life' program," Mitchell concluded.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=71547> (23/09/2014)