



# Sustainability Assessment

## WILD HOLLAND DOVER SOLE

A robust Holland Dover Sole fishery in the North Sea off the coast of the Netherlands has existed for over fifty years. The Netherlands strictly enforces yearly quotas and fishing seasons. This helps prevent overfishing to protect their stocks. This fishery management scheme has resulted in a sustainable Holland Dover Sole fishery in the Netherlands. This fishery also abides by the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy that addresses ecosystem protection, overfishing, the elimination of by-catch, and promoting socioeconomic benefits for the European seafood sector.

Sea Port sources Holland Dover Sole from a unique fishery that uses the pulse trawling method that minimizes damage to benthic habitats and is highly selective for larger sized Holland Dover Sole. This leaves younger fish and smaller non-targeted species untouched. This technique is highly technical and if the electric pulse is not applied properly, damage may occur to non-targeted species negating any gains in environmental sustainability and fishing efficiency.

While there is a MSC certified fishery in the Netherlands, Sea Port currently does not source from it. However, the Netherlands stocks we do source are caught using the unique pulsing trawling method and are considered to be fished sustainably according to a 2013 SEAFISH publication.

## GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM

### HOLLAND DOVER SOLE



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: LOW TO MODERATE

The pulsing trawling method is a recent advancement in fishing gear that addresses the issues of benthic habitat impacts and bycatch. The sandy bottoms that are the habitat for the Holland Dover Sole recover more quickly than other types of benthic habitats. This bottom trawl fishery has little impact on marine mammals, birds, and threatened & endangered species.

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Further reducing unwanted by-catch and increasing real-time biomass data collection can help to advance this high value fishery to becoming even more sustainably managed.

### ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port supports this high-tech modern fishery and will enthusiastically encourage our customers to add this sustainably fished sole to their Go Blue! Plate. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources and that European Dover Sole should be a part of this variety.

New Interactive Fisheries Advice Map Released by The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for Fish Stocks in the NE Atlantic. \*\* Our Holland Dover Sole has a good sustainability status \*\* ICES Popular Advice

