



c/Valportillo 1ª 22-24
 Edificio Caoba Pl. La Granja
 28108 Alcobendas
 Madrid (Spain)
 Phone: +34 912702200

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

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| Name of Fishery | LFPO PELAGIC TRAWL SPRAT (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) |
| Assessment number | Initial assessment |
| Reduced re-assessment (Y/N) | No |
| Statement that the fishery is within scope | <p>The Unit of Certification is comprised by pelagic trawlers members of the LFPO (Latvian National Fishermen's Producers Organization) targeting European sprat in the ICES subdivisions 25-32.</p> <p>Sprat in the Baltic Sea is assessed by ICES as a single unit for the whole area (Subdivisions 22-32). Therefore, the target stock, as defined by ICES, is the sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in subdivisions 22-32 (Baltic Sea).</p> <p>Bureau Veritas Certification confirms that this fishery is eligible for certification as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a non-enhanced wild-capture fishery - The fishery is not based on any introduced species - There are no catches of non-target species that are inseparable or practically inseparable (IPI) from target stock - It does not target species classified as 'out-of-scope' (amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals) - It does not make use of any kind of destructive practices - Baltic fisheries are managed by EU Member States and the Russian Federation. The EU fisheries, including the Latvia Sprat fishery, are regulated under the EU Common Fisheries Policy using a combined TAC and effort management system. The Russian Federation regulates its fisheries within the Russian zone under the Russian Fisheries Law. The Parties cooperate on fisheries management under the EU-Russian fisheries agreement of 2009. Therefore, the fishery is not conducted under any controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement and its management regime includes mechanisms for resolving disputes - The client group members ensure compliance with national and international laws on forced labour. Latvia is a member state of the ILO since 1991 and has ratified 52 Conventions (of which 42 are in force) |
| Certificate sharing statement | There are no other eligible fishers so no certificate sharing is necessary. |



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| Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline | <p>It is expected that this assessment will take at least 10 months. The expected dates for the publication of the key reports are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR)- October 2016 - Final Report (FR) – January 2017 - Public Certification Report (PCR) – February 2017 <p>The eligibility date will be the date of the publication of the PCR. Following FCR 7.8.3.2 a separate timeline is attached to the present Announcement.</p> |
| Name of proposed Team Leader | <p>The proposed team leader is Steve Devitt, expert assessor. He will be responsible for coordinating the assessment team and for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures. Short CVs to be provided in Appendix 2.</p> |
| Name(s) of proposed assessors | <p>The Team will be formed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steven Devitt, external assessor as team leader. - Hans Lassen, external assessor as team member expert on P1, P2 and P3 - José Rios, BV assessor as team member expert on P2 and P3 - Sarmite Zoltnere, BV assessor as team member with language and local context skills. She is MSC Chain of Custody auditor. <p>All of them do not have conflict of interest with the fishery and have the experience to carry out the assessment announced herein.</p> |
| Assessment tree to be used | <p>The default assessment tree (Annex SA) contained in MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements version 2.0 (issued on the 1st October 2014) will be used for this assessment.</p> |
| Site visit | <p>The site visit is planned between 20th -22nd June 2016 in Ventspils and Riga (Latvia). Those stakeholders interested in schedule a meeting please proceed as stated at the end of this document</p> |
| Tree modifications & stakeholder consultation | <p>Not Applicable</p> |

Bureau Veritas Certification is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of the Latvian NFPO Pelagic Baltic Sprat has started.

According to the MSC Process Requirements, a site visit to Ventspils and Riga (Latvia) will be undertaken between the 20th and 22nd of June of 2016. During this visit relevant information will be collected and assessed, and meetings with different stakeholders (fishers representatives, managers, scientists, and NGOs) will be held.



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Those stakeholders interested in schedule a meeting please provide:

- a) Your name and contact details
- b) Your relation with the fishery
- c) Issues you would like to discuss
- d) Where and when are you available for a meeting (between 20-22 June)

In order to make the necessary adjustments on the scheduled agenda of the assessment team, this information should be sent to the contact details provided below before the 19th of June. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to a meeting.

Besides, throughout the entire assessment process Bureau Veritas encourage stakeholders to provide any information they might consider relevant in relation to the status of the target fish stock, ecosystem interactions or fishery management practices. The MSC provides a guide and a template for stakeholder inputs:

- Template available here: <https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/forms-and-templates/template-for-stakeholder-input-into-fishery-assessments-v2.0/view>
- Stakeholder's Guide to the MSC available here: [A Stakeholder's Guide to the MSC — Marine Stewardship Council](#)

Please send all your comments (using the template or in any other format) to:

José RIOS
Fishery assessor
Jose-fernando.Rios@es.bureauveritas.com

Submitted by: Jose F. RIOS
Date: 19th May 2016



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Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team

STEVEN DEVITT. Since 2010 Steve Devitt has been the President of BioResource Stewardship Consultants Inc., a small company focused on providing contracted services to clients requiring trained Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fishery Team Leader or Chain of Custody Lead Auditor services or consultancy services for fishery or traceability improvement projects specific to successful certification within the MSC Sustainable Fishing Certification programme.

He has provided services to different certification bodies (CABs) during that period and participated in fishery calibration workshops delivered by the MSC to calibrate the Version 2 of the Fishery Certification standard. Prior to this, Mr. Devitt was the Operations Manager and managing partner of TAVEL Certification Inc., an accredited certification body sold to Moody Marine Limited in 2009. Mr. Devitt was responsible for start-up (in 2003) and management of all TAVEL Certification operations inclusive of proposal preparations, client and expert assessor contracting, lead audit functions recruitment of scientific and resource assessors, quality system and accreditation oversight.

Mr. Devitt brings a broad environmental and fisheries background to the project, he is a trained ISO 14000 lead auditor. He also has a strong working knowledge of anthropogenic causes of disturbance to coastal zones.

HANS LASSEN holds a cand. scient. (M.Sc.) from Copenhagen University and a HD (B.Sc.) from the Copenhagen School of Commerce. His background is in fish stock assessments, particularly in the application of computers and models. He is author and co-author of more than 30 papers in primary scientific journals and co-author of two FAO manuals in fisheries science.

He joined the Danish Institute of Fisheries and Marine Research (DIFRES) in 1971. 1988-1992 he worked in the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute as Deputy Director and Director and returned to DIFRES in 1992. Between 1998 and 2003 he was in charge of the Fisheries Group in the ICES Secretariat as Fisheries Adviser and served as secretary to the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management. After 2004 he was head of the ICES Advisory Programme within the ICES Secretariat. He retired from the ICES secretariat in 2010 and has since worked on various projects within his expertise in advisory issues.

He has been a member and Chairman of numerous ICES committees and groups, has within the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization chaired STACFIS and the Scientific Council, been a member of STECF (EC, DG Fish), scientific adviser to Danish delegations to fisheries negotiations and chaired an internal EC expert group to provide input to the EC Multi-annual Guidance Program, within the Nordic Council of Ministers he chaired its Working Group on Fisheries and worked with the FAO/DANIDA project (1982-1998) on teaching fish stock assessment. In 2006 he was awarded the prestigious Swedish prize "Kungsfenan" for contributions to communication between science and the fishing industry. At his retirement from ICES he was awarded a Special Service Award.

He has acted as team member (P1) on MSC certification teams for Westgreenland shrimp Barents Sea Demersal trawl fisheries (Greenland) and lumpfish (Greenland). He has served as reviewer of numerous MSC assessments.

For this assessment he will be the expert on P1 and he will share P2 and P3 with Jose Rios.



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JOSE RIOS holds a degree in Sea Sciences from the University of Vigo and an MSc in Fisheries and Aquaculture from the University of Wales-Bangor. He has 15 years of experience working in fisheries from different angles and places around the world. Between 2003 and 2010 he was responsible for designing and monitoring fisheries management plans for the exploitation of several marine resources (clams, cockles, barnacles, and octopus) for the Regional Fisheries Authority of Galicia (Spain). In 2008-09 he developed the scientific monitoring scheme for an experimental octopus fishery in the waters of Namibia for a private fishing company. Between 2008 and 2012, as part of different projects funded by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECID), he supported local fisheries and aquaculture management bodies to strengthen organizational and managing capacities of the fishing and rural aquaculture sector in Namibia, Cape Verde, Colombia and Mozambique. Since 2013, as part of the fisheries team of WWF Spain, he was promoted different initiatives to improve fisheries management in coastal Spanish fisheries. As WWF representative he took part in the daily management of different coastal fisheries in the Spanish Mediterranean (Catalan sandeel, Balearic boat seines, and Palamós red shrimp). Currently, he is a full-time employee at Bureau Veritas Fisheries Department. For this assessment he will be the P2 and P3 expert together with Hans Lassen.

SARMITE ZOLTNERE. Since 2012 Lead Auditor of ISO 9001, 14001, 18001, ISCC, MSC COC, FSC COC; SA8000 in Bureau Veritas Latvia, SIA. She meets the competency criteria concerning current knowledge of the country and the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements, language and local context established in Annex PC.