Global Trust Certification

ISF Iceland Cod
MSC Surveillance Announcement

08 October 2021

1. Introduction

MSC certification requires regular surveillance audits of all certified fisheries and this Announcement marks the start of a surveillance audit of the above fishery. Global Trust Certification (hereafter Global Trust) is required to submit this announcement for posting on the MSC website at least 30 days before the audit activities are carried out.

The information Global Trust is required to provide when formally announcing annual surveillance activities, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

2. Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name		
	ISF Iceland Cod		
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)		
	Units of Assessment (UoAs) 1 – 7. Note that there is currently a scope extension assessment to include shrimp trawl and angling within the scope of the certification.		
	Species:	*Gadus morhua*	
	Common name(s):	ENG: Cod ; ISL: Þorskur	
	Geographical Area:	FAO Statistical Area 27 / ICES 5.a; Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	
	Stock:	Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in ICES subarea 5a (Iceland grounds).	
	Management System:	Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MII)	
	Client Group and other eligible fishers	All registered vessels that carry valid permits for fishing within the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone issued by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries, and that fish, supply and/or sell cod to Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. and/or its authenticated certificate sharers. Other eligible fishers are any new entry to the group of registered vessels targeting the cod stock and/or that are incidentally catching cod in other MSC certified fisheries within Icelandic jurisdiction	
	Fishing methods:		
	UoA 1	Bottom Trawl (TB)	
	UoA 2	Danish Seine (SD)	
	UoA 3	Gillnet (GN)	
	UoA 4	Handline (LH)	
	UoA 5	Long line (LL)	
	UoA 6	Nephrops Trawl (TN)	
	UoA 7	Pelagic trawl (TP)	
	UoA 8 (scope extension in assessment)	Shrimp Trawl (TS)	
	UoA 9 (scope extension in assessment)	Angling	
3	Date certified		Date of expiry
	24/04/2012		23/10/2022
4	Surveillance level and type		
	The surveillance level for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR but the programme has changed slightly in that the site visit will be conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As this is the only amendment an updated surveillance programme has not been provided.		
5	Surveillance number		
	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance	X	
	Other (expedited etc)		
6	Proposed team leader		
	Dr. Virginia Polonio (Team Lead, P2 Assessor and Traceability) Virginia meets the competency criteria, she has: • A degree in a relevant subject. • +3 years' fisheries experience. • Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually.		

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.	
	• Passed MSC's fishery team leader training within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. • Passed an appropriate ISO Lead Auditor training course as required by MSC requirements. With respect to her additional duties under Principle 2, she has: • +3 years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) Bycatch and ii) Habitats. With respect to her additional duties as the team member with primary responsibility for Traceability, she has: • Passed the MSC's traceability module within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. • Reviewed any updates to the MSC's traceability requirements at least annually where relevant. Virginia does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of her CV is provided in Appendix 1. Virginia will be off-site during this assessment.
7	Proposed team members
	As this is a fishery in its 2nd certification cycle with conditions on 1 Principle only, the assessment can be conducted by 1 suitably qualified assessor
8	Audit/review time and location
	Surveillance activities will be conducted between November 29th to December 3rd, 2021. As this is a remote assessment, activities will be carried out from the assessment team's home offices.
9	Assessment and review activities
	During the assessment, the team will review: – Any potential or actual changes in management systems. – Any changes or additions/deletions to regulations. – Any personnel changes in science, management or industry and their impact on the management of the fishery. – Any potential changes to scientific information, including stock assessments. – Any changes affecting traceability. – Any changes affecting harmonisation of overlapping fisheries, see PB1.3.5 The team will also evaluate progress against any open conditions, and if necessary, to close a condition(s) whose deadline becomes due at this surveillance audit, rescore the relevant Performance Indicator(s).
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available: ▪ Stakeholders may submit written input using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which is available here: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment. ▪ Stakeholders may consult directly with the audit team during the period specified in the 8. Audit/review time and location above. Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in 3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits opportunities below.

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits

During surveillance audits, CABs are required to seek the views of relevant parties. With this in mind, Global Trust wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to provide written information relevant to the surveillance audit process and/or consult directly with the audit team.

Prior to participating, stakeholders should familiarise themselves with the MSC process using the resources provided on the MSC's website: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment.

Global Trust would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. With this being said, information that they cannot be shared with all stakeholders cannot be referenced in an assessment or used in determining assessment outcomes unless it relates to; a) financial transactions about certification, b) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or c) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client's country.

3.1 Submitting written information

Please note that Global Trust can only accept written stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which can be found on the MSC website here: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment.

When submitting information, stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact.

In order for your written submissions to be considered as part of this audit, you must:

1. Use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments.
2. Submit it by **17:00 UTC** on **Monday, 22 November 2021**.
3. Send it to Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org

3.2 Consulting directly with the audit team

As part of this audit, the audit team will be available for direct consultations with stakeholders during the period specified in the "Audit/review time and location" Section of Table 1 above.

If you would like to consult directly with the audit team during this period, please advise us of your interest in doing so by:

1. Contact us at Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org.
2. **17:00 UTC** on **Monday, 22 November 2021**.
3. Provide at least the following details when doing so:
   - Your name and contact details.
   - Your association with the fishery.
   - The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Surveillance Audit Team Leader: Dr. Virginia Polonio, Primary Responsibility for P2 and Traceability.
Virginia has a B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences) and a M.Sc. in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture, both from the University of Cádiz. She also obtained her PhD in Biodiversity and Natural resources from the University of Oviedo during which she gained experience in the field of research of fisheries and protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems such as coral reefs. During her thesis she wrote several articles describing new species of corals and developed skills in the fields of benthic ecology and ecosystem management. Before her PhD, Virginia was contracted as technician in the Spanish Oceanographic Institute where she realized work at sea and gained field experience to assess fisheries stocks. She participated in the Spanish National Basic Plan of Data to collect and evaluate the fishing in the ICES and CECAF areas. During this period, she carried out feeding habit and age/size studies of *Pagellus Bogaraveo* and others commercial species (hake, anchovy, sharks, mackerel, squid, etc.) to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Cadiz and the strait of Gibraltar.

Virginia has extensive experience working on MSC assessments as both a team member and lead assessor. She has worked on several full assessments such as ISF Capelin, ISF Mackerel, CSHMAC herring, Cantabrian sardine, North Atlantic albacore, squat lobster, blue sharks and swordfish, among others and is a full-time employee at Global Trust Certification.

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance programme for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR apart from the fact that this assessment is being conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As such the most up-to-date fishery surveillance programme may be viewed in the PCR or previous surveillance report.

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification's corporate identity, Global Trust has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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Table 2. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue.
1.1	12 June 2015	Appendix 2 with surveillance frequency Table added.
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1.
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability.
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2.

A controlled document list of MSC programme documents is available on the MSC website (www.msc.org).

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