

MSC 2nd Surveillance Report

For The
Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery

Facilitated By the
Association des Pêcheurs Propriétaires des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (APPIM)

Assessors: Géraldine Criquet, Lead Assessor
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Glossary

APPIM	Association des Pêcheurs Propriétaires des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ETP	Endangered Threatened and Protected species
FRCC	Fisheries Resource Conservation Council
FCR	Fisheries Certification Requirements
HCR	Harvest Control Rules
IFMP	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
LFA	Lobster Fishing Area
LRP	Limit Reference Point
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
PI	Performance Indicator
URP	Upper Reference Point

1. General Information

Fishery name	Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (<i>Homarus americanus</i>) Trap Fishery		
Unit(s) of assessment	<u>Species:</u> <i>Homarus americanus</i> <u>Geographical Area:</u> Lobster Fishing Area (LFA 22), FAO Statistical Area 21 <u>Method of Capture:</u> Baited trap		
Date certified	16th July 2013	Date of expiry	15th July 2018
Surveillance level and type	Surveillance level 6, on-site surveillance audit		
Date of surveillance audit	29 th and 30 th October 2015		
Surveillance stage	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance	X	
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Géraldine Criquet Assessor: Jean-Claude Brêthes		
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1.1 Summary

This report contains the findings of the second surveillance audit in relation to Association des Pêcheurs Propriétaires des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (APPIM) certificate of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery.

Ce rapport contient les conclusions du second audit de surveillance concernant le certificat de l'Association des Pêcheurs Propriétaires des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (APPIM) pour la Pêcherie au casier du homard (*Homarus americanus*) des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The second surveillance audit focused on the stock status and any changes in the management regime or regulations and legislation since the first surveillance audit, and monitoring continued compliance with the MSC Principles and Criteria. Also, the assessment team evaluated progress against the 2 opened conditions (PIs 1.2.2. Harvest Control Rules and Tools and 2.2.3 Bycatch Species Information/Monitoring).

Le second audit de surveillance s'est concentré sur le statut du stock ainsi que sur les changements, depuis le premier audit de surveillance, dans le régime de gestion ou les règlements et la législation, et le suivi de la continuité de la conformité au Principes et Critères de MSC. L'équipe d'évaluation a également évalué les progrès réalisés sur les conditions encore ouvertes (IPs Règles de Contrôle des Captures et Outils et 2.2.3 Information/Suivi des Captures Accessoires Rejetées).

SAI Global determines that:

- The Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery continues to operate a well-managed and sustainable fishery and therefore, continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing is awarded.

SAI Global determine que:

- La Pêcherie au casier du homard (*Homarus americanus*) des Îles-de-la-Madeleine continue d'opérer une pêcherie bien gérée et durable, et par conséquent, la continuation de la certification aux Principes et Critères de MSC pour une Pêche Durable est attribuée.

Table 1 summarizes the changed scores for PI and Principles. Re-scored full evaluation tables are presented in Appendix 1.

Table 1. Summary of Assessment Conditions

Condition Number	PI	Status	PI Initial score	PI Revised score	Principle initial score	Principle revised score
1	1.2.2	Closed, on target at surveillance 2	75	80 at surveillance 2	80	80.6 at surveillance 2
2	2.2.3	Closed, ahead target at surveillance 2	65	80 at surveillance 2	87	88 at surveillance 2
3	3.2.4	Closed, ahead target at surveillance 1	70	90 at surveillance 1	88.25	90.3 at surveillance 1

The surveillance team includes:

- **Lead Assessor:** Dr. Géraldine Criquet manages technical functions of SAI Global's MSC Fishery Program and is an approved MSC Fishery Team Leader.
- **Assessor:** Jean-Claude Brêthes is a contractor for SAI Global with an extensive experience in shellfish and groundfish stock assessment and fisheries in the Atlantic Canada.

Both Géraldine and Jean-Claude were part the initial full assessment and the first surveillance audit team.

Géraldine Criquet - Lead Assessor

Géraldine is an MSC approved Fisheries Team Leader for SAI Global - experienced fishery scientist in both Finfish and Shellfish fisheries, and ecosystems considerations. Géraldine holds a PhD in Marine Ecology (École Pratique des Hautes Études, France) which focused on coral reef fisheries management, Marine Protected Areas and fish ecology. She has also been involved during 2 years in stock assessments of pelagic resources in the Biscay Gulf, collaborating with IFREMER. She worked 2 years for the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) at Reunion Island for studying fish target species growth and connectivity between fish populations in the Indian Ocean using otolith analysis. She served as Consultant for FAO on a Mediterranean Fisheries Program (COPEMED) and developed and implemented during 2 years a monitoring program of catches and fishing effort in the Marine Natural Reserve of Cerbère-Banyuls (France). Géraldine is an experienced full time MSC Lead Assessor with SAI Global, successfully leading MSC certifications and assessment teams and acting as Principle 2 expert for multiple MSC Pre, Full and Surveillance audits.

Jean-Claude Brêthes - Assessor

Jean-Claude is a fisheries biology professional at the Institut des Sciences de la Mer at the Université du Québec à Rimouski. Previously he has held positions at Board, Chair and Director level for University undergraduate and post graduate fishery science/marine/oceanography courses, scientific advisory councils and committees for various government organizations such as the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Advisory Council. His key experiences have been focused upon the dynamics and ecology of exploited species. In particular, Jean- Claude has conducted various projects on the ecology of snow crab, lobster and cod in locations in Atlantic Canada. He has published and presented several scientific papers in lobster fisheries in key journals and science fora and has also taken part in several MSC and related studies including lobster fisheries in this and other regions.

1.2 Introduction

This report sets out the results of the second annual surveillance assessment of:

- The Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery.

To be awarded an MSC certificate for the fishery, the applicants agreed in a written contract to develop an action plan for meeting the required 'Conditions' against the performance indicators that scored below 80% in the initial assessment. Action Plans for each Condition were submitted by each fishery client and these were approved by SAI Global as the certification body of record.

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The applicant also agreed in a written contract to be financially and technically responsible for surveillance visits by an MSC accredited certification body, which would occur at a minimum of once a year, or more often at the discretion of the certification body (based on the applicant's action plan or by previous findings by the certification body from annual surveillance audits or other sources of information).

Announcement of Surveillance Audit

An announcement of the surveillance site visit was published on the MSC website on the 24th September 2015 to provide an opportunity to stakeholders to meet with or submit information on the fishery to the assessment team. Additionally, written notification was sent to the list of stakeholders representing the consultation plan during the initial assessment of this fishery to ensure that stakeholders had been provided with sufficient opportunity to participate in consultation.

Table 6 provides a list of the stakeholders and management organizations engaged in the process either through meetings, conference call or submission of information. These consultations focused on the questions and evidence that demonstrates the status of the LFA 22 lobster stock, the performance of the fishery throughout the year and measures that supported the fulfilment of the Conditions of Certification placed upon APPIM at the initial certification decision.

Meetings were held with the following management and scientific organizations responsible for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery:

- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).**

A number of scientific and meeting reports were also examined by the surveillance team in producing this report, as detailed in the information sources section.

2. Fishery Background

2.1 Fishery observations

Fleet structure and catching method

LFA 22 comprises 325 lobster harvesters; this number did not change from the initial assessment (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of licences per landing port. P-Basse: Pointe-Basse; G-E: Grande-Entrée; H-Aubert: Havre-Aubert; C-A-M: Cap-aux-Meules; G-Île: Grosse-Île; P-A-L: Pointe-aux-Loups; E-D-N: Étang-du-Nord. Source: provide by DFO at site visit.

		Landing Ports									Total
		P-Basse	G-E	H-Aubert	C-A-M et Cap	Île d'Entrée	G-Île	P-A-L	Millerand	E-D-N	
Years	2014	35	111	11	45	11	39	10	19	44	325
	2015	33	111	10	40	13	42	10	17	49	325



Figure 1. Fishing harbours in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Source: DFO, IFMP Updated may 2015.

Following the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) 1995 Conservation Framework for Atlantic Lobster Report, DFO Quebec adopted in 2006 a 9-year plan to reduce the number of traps in LFA 22 which is a reduction of 3 traps per licence per year.

The trap allocation was 276 traps per licence in 2013 and 273 traps per licence for 2014 and 2015 fishing season, respectively.

Trap characteristics for 2014 and 2015 fishing seasons are showed in Table 3.

Table 3. Lobster traps characteristics for 2014 and 2015 fishing seasons in LFA 22.

Trap dimensions	Maximum of 81 cm in length, 61 cm in width, and 50 cm in height for all types of traps.
Trap lines	Maximum 7 traps per line Maximum 8 fathoms between each trap Maximum 56 fathoms from the first to the last traps, no matter the number of traps per line

Escape mechanisms	47 mm in height by 127 mm in length for rectangular escape vents or 60 mm in diameter for circular escape vents
Exit panel	As of 2013, all traps must be equipped with exit panels.

Fishing season and schedule

The lobster fishing season was from May 15 to July 17 in 2015.

Lobster harvesters are authorized to haul their traps during the period comprised between 5:00 h and 21:30 h, with the exception of the last two days of the season (the last Friday and the last Saturday), when the fishing schedule will not apply.

Moreover, fish harvesters are not authorized to haul their traps more than once per day.

Landings

Lobster landings were **3,313 t** and **3,486 t** in 2014 and 2015, respectively (Data provided by DFO at site visit).

Landings data are obtained from buyers purchase slips and logbooks from the 2015 fishing season.

2.2 Stock status observations

Lobster stock assessment

There is no direct measurement of lobster biomass (empirical or analytical). The lobster stock assessment is based on the analysis of trends of abundance, demographics, fishing pressure and production indicators.

The lobster stock is formally assessed every three years; however indicators are monitored annually. The last stock assessment was published in 2012, and the next one will be published in 2016.

Monitoring activities were continued: at-sea sampling, fall trawl survey and SCUBA diving survey (Table 4).

Table 4. Sampling and surveys carried out in 2013 and 2014. Source: data provided by DFO at site visit.

At-sea sampling program		
Number of lobster measured		
	Islands South	Islands North
2013	6,295	5,346
2014	5,837	6,555

	Fall trawl survey					
	Period	Number of sampling sites	Number of hauls	Number of lobster measured	Number of lobster non- measured	Total number of lobster captured
2014	4-13 September	50	70	13,881	828	14,709
2015	11-18 September	49	64	17,228	8,7772	26,000

SCUBA diving survey						
	Period	Number of transects	Surface sampled (m ²)	Number of lobster measured	Number of lobster non-measured	Total number of lobsters
2014	September	6	280	881	63	944
2015	10-19 September	5	208	569	46	615

Lobster stock status

Landings are used as a proxy of harvestable biomass. Average of landings from 1985 to 2009 was used as a proxy of B_{MSY} . Landings continue to be well above the defined Upper Reference Point (URP = $80\% B_{MSY} = 1,750$ t) (Figure 2).

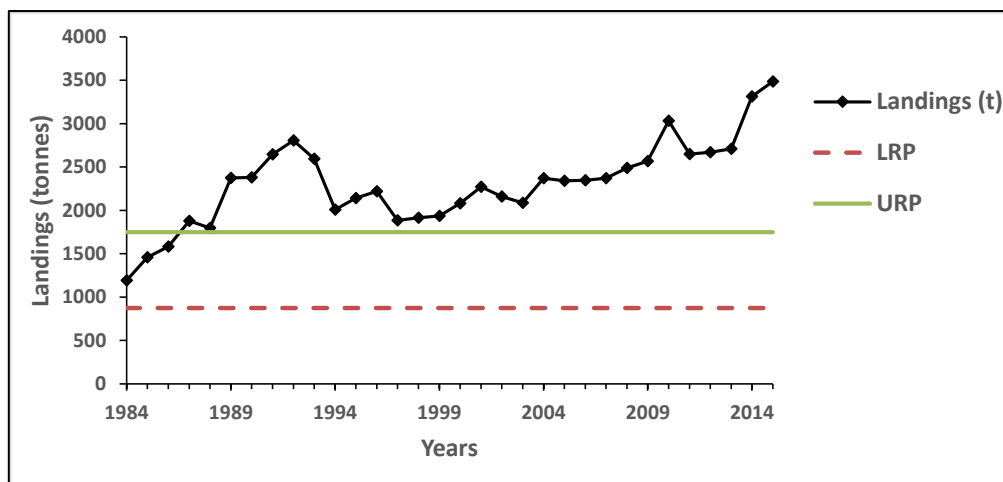


Figure 2. Lobster landings in LFA 22 from 1984 to 2015. The Upper Reference Point (URP) and Limit Reference Point (LRP = $40\% B_{MSY} = 875$ t), as defined in the precautionary approach, are indicated. Source: drawn from DFO data.

2.3 Ecosystem Observations

Retained species

Under the section 55 of the Atlantic Fishery Regulation (1985), lobster harvesters are allowed to retain male rock crab without a rock crab fishing licence. But in actual fishing practices, there are no retained species in the fishery.

Species used as bait have been identified during the full assessment: US mackerel as the main bait species, and Newfoundland herring and Prince Edward Island (PEI) yellowtail flounder as secondary bait species. A recommendation was made during the full assessment.

Recommendation

Although herring and yellowtail flounder are not main bait species for the Magdalen Islands lobster fishery, the Assessment team advises the Client to buy herring and yellowtail flounder which stocks are not depleted and that are highly likely to be within biological limits and are subject to management strategies to ensure that they remain within these limits.

APPIM confirmed that US mackerel is no longer used, and the use of Newfoundland herring and PEI yellowtail flounder decreased during the last lobster fishing season. APPIM confirmed the use of mackerel from Pacific, Acadian redfish from Gulf of Maine and from a local sentinel fishery (program of indicator fisheries).

Bycatch species

Rock crab (*Cancer irroratus*) has been identified as the only main bycatch species during the full assessment; this was again confirmed by DFO and APPIM during the surveillance audit.

In Quebec, the commercial exploitation of rock crab began in 1998, but did not really take off until 1995 (Gendron and Savard 2013). The rock crab is a key species in the ecosystem, and represents an important prey for lobster and several species of fish. The fishery is managed by a conservation plan which aims to protect the trophic links, particularly with the lobster. The management measures (Table 5) currently in place are intended to protect the reproductive potential by keeping harvesting rates low or moderate. The fishery is managed by controlling fishing effort and by controlling catches. The minimum catch size is 102 mm (carapace width), creating an exclusively male-directed fishery.

Table 5. Management measures implemented for the 2014 and 2015 fishing season in Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Source: DFO at site visit, DFO 2015d.

	Rock crab fishing Zone	Number of licences	Minimum size (mm)	Quota (t)	Fishing season
2014	12A-C	14	102	486.17	August 1 – December 31
2015	12A-C	14	102	486.17	August 1 – December 31

There is no estimate of total biomass of rock crab, in term of male biomass available to the fishery or estimates of exploitation rates. The stock assessment, conducted every three years, is based on the review of indicators based on (1) fishery-dependent data: landings from mandatory logbooks and dockside sizing and weighting, and (2) fishery-independent data: crabs caught during the annual trawl survey for the lobster assessment are sexed and measured.

According to the last stock assessment (Gendron et Savard 2013), catch rates decreased since 2004, and CPUE in 2012 were 38%, 31% and 29% below the average 1998-2011 for 12A, 12B and 12C, respectively. Crab density from trawl survey is higher for the 2001-2004 period compared to the 2010-2012 period. Mean size of landed crabs have been stable since 1997 in the three zones, with 123 mm for 12A, 124 mm for 12B and 120mm for 12C. Large crabs are in high proportion in the three zones.

Size structures from trawl survey have been stable since 2001 in 12A and 12B, but recruitment indices were low in 2012.

Although there are uncertainties in the stock assessment (total removals are not known, interpretation of catch rates, trawl survey designed to catch lobsters), the actual level of fishing effort does not cause a risk to the rock crab stock in Îles-de-la-Madeleine. However, the stock abundance is in decrease and there is no indication of an increase in the recruitment. As a consequence, it has been recommended to decrease the quota. The quota was decreased from

558.82 t in 2013 to 486.17 t for 2014 and 2015.

ETP species

No ETP interactions with Îles-de-la-Madeleine lobster trap fishery have been reported during the 2013, 2014 and 2015 fishing seasons.

2.4 Relevant changes to Legislation and Regulations

As of the 2015 fishing season, all lobster fishermen in LFA 22 are under the obligation to fill out a logbook. It must be filled out before arriving to port and prior to any lobster landing. Data must be transmitted electronically to DFO every day 1) upon arrival to port if data are entered on an electronic device installed onboard the vessel or 2) from the fish harvester's home, if a paper logbook is used on board the vessel and data entered on the computer from home.

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 Pêches et Océans
 Canada
 Fisheries and Oceans
 Canada

 Journal de bord (homard) JBE
 Logbook (lobster) E-LOG

DJBE 502846

IDENTIFICATION																
Bateau Vessel				N.E.B. V.R.N.												
Titulaire du permis/exploitant Licence holder/vessel operator				Port de débarquement Landing port												
JOURNAL DE BORD / LOGBOOK																
DATE		POSITION		MÉTÉO / WEATHER		APPÂT / BAIT		PRISES / CATCHES								
Année, mois, jour, heure, minutes Year, month, day, hour, minutes		Carte/Map Voir carte annexée See map in appendix		Latitude Longitude		Direction du vent Vitesse du vent (nœuds) Wind speed (knots) Météo / Weather nuages—C, soleil—S, pluie—R cloudy—C, sunny—S, rainy—R		Nom de l'espèce: homard, maquereau, plies, crabe commun, déchets Name of the species: herring, mackerel, flounders, rock crab, scrap		Frais / Fresh = Fr Congelés / Frozen = Fz		HOMARD / LOBSTER		PRISES ACCIDENTELLES INCIDENTAL CATCHES		
												CRABE COMMUN ROCK CRAB		AUTRES ESPÈCES OTHER SPECIES		
												Quantité conservée Quantity kept (Livres/Pounds)		Nom des espèces Name of the species		
												Quantité conservée Quantity kept (Livres/Pounds)		Nombre de spécimens Number of specimens		
AA MM JJ HH:MM YY MM DD HH:MM										Fr Fz						
AA MM JJ HH:MM YY MM DD HH:MM										Fr Fz						
AA MM JJ HH:MM YY MM DD HH:MM										Fr Fz						
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COMMENTAIRES / COMMENTS								SIGNATURE								
								Signature du titulaire du permis/exploitant License holder/vessel operator's signature: X								

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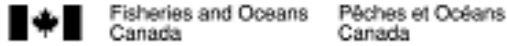
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The Conservation Harvesting Plan approved May 1, 2015 includes the management measures and regulations for the 2015 fishing season.



Quebec Region – Fisheries Management

Conservation Harvesting Plan

LOBSTER –AREA 22-MAGDALEN ISLANDS FLEET SEASON 2015

Approved May 1, 2015

Application

This Conservation Harvesting Plan (CHP) for lobster applies to the lobster licence holders from the Magdalen Islands fleet when fishing lobster in Lobster Fishing Area 22 in 2015.

Fishing areas

Subject to any Variation Order and based on valid Conditions of licence, the authorized fishing area is Lobster Fishing Area 22, a coastal area surrounding the Magdalen Islands.

Permanent fishing closures

Lobster fishing is not permitted in the Magdalen Islands lagoons, in a sector of the Grande-Entrée channel and in the aquaculture sites located 1) front of House Harbour and 2) west of the Newhall reef.

Fishing seasons

The 2015 fishing season is planned from May 9 to July 11, 2015.

However, an Opening Date Analysis Committee composed of 10 fish harvesters representing the various landing ports and DFO may meet and recommend a modification to the opening date. The Committee's terms of reference are available in the Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP).

Moreover, to encourage the safest possible setting of traps for all lobster fish harvesters, a Weather Condition Monitoring Protocol updated in winter 2014 is in place in order to postpone the setting of traps when, at 15:30 h the day before the opening, the wind forecast is more than 20 knots for the following morning.

Fishing is authorised during the period comprised between 5:00 h and 21:30 h, with the exception of the last two days of the season (the last Friday and the last Saturday), when the fishing schedule will not apply. If, for exceptional reasons beyond his or her control, a fish harvester is unable to respect the fishing schedule in effect, he (she) must contact a DFO Fishery Officer to obtain authorization to deviate from the established schedule for that day.

Fishing remains unauthorised on the day the traps are set, as well as on Sundays. Moreover, if the setting of traps occurs on a day other than a Saturday, fishing is unauthorised the following day.

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Management regime

Control of the fishing effort management regime.

Fish harvesters are not authorized to haul their traps more than once per day.

Fishing gear

Number and dimension of traps: For the 2015 season, 273 traps with maximum outside dimensions not exceeding 81 cm in length, 61 cm in width and 50 cm in height for all types of traps. As announced in 2009, square traps shall meet the following maximum outside dimensions starting in 2016: 81 cm in length, 61 cm in width, 42 cm in height.

Escape mechanisms: Each trap must be equipped with one rectangular escape vent (47 mm high by 127 mm long) or two circular escape vents (60 mm diameter).

Exit panels: Each trap must be equipped with exit panels. For more information on mechanisms that will be accepted by DFO, please contact your local DFO office.

Tagging: It is prohibited to have on board a fishing vessel an untagged trap. Fish harvesters are authorised to keep on board the vessel two replacement traps, as long as they bear a valid tag. In 2015, the color of original and replacement tags is yellow.

Trap lines (trawl): Minimum 7 traps per line; maximum 8 fathoms between each trap; and maximum 56 fathoms from the first to the last trap, no matter the number of traps per line.

Buoy identification: Fish harvesters are responsible for ensuring that their commercial fishing vessel registration number (VRN) appears on their buoys at all times. Trap lines that carry buoys that are not marked with a VRN are at risk of being hauled by Fishery Officers for purposes of verification.

Logbook

The Electronic Logbook is mandatory for each fishing day. It must be filled out before arriving to port and prior to any lobster landing. Data must be transmitted electronically to DFO every day 1) upon arrival to port if data are entered on an electronic device (computer) installed onboard the vessel or 2) from the fish harvester's home, if a paper logbook is used on board the vessel and data entered on the computer from home.

Notwithstanding the above, for 2015 only, licence holders may use a paper logbook that they may obtain from their Fisheries and Oceans Canada's area office. This paper logbook must be forwarded to DFO at the end of each fishing week.

Incidental catches

Pursuant to the present regulations, lobster fish harvesters are authorized to keep male rock crab incidental catches. Unless expressly authorized by regulations or by conditions of licence, the possession of any other incidental catches is prohibited.

Small fish protocol

Any lobster with a length less than 83 mm must be returned to the water.

Vessel

Vessels with a length overall less than 15.24 metres (50 feet) may be used.

Other management measures

Simultaneous fisheries: The following fisheries are not authorized at the same time as the lobster fishery (same fishing season): lobster and whelk, lobster and rock crab, lobster and toad crab. Moreover, fishing lobster and plaice during a same fishing trip is not authorized.

Soaking of traps: In order to protect the resource, and to reduce the impact on the eel grass, rules are in place with regard to the soaking of traps. DFO will keep authorizing the soaking of completed traps, from March 15 to the opening of the commercial fishery, in tidal waters less than 3 feet deep only and outside any dock, fishing harbour or marina. This directive does not engage any other authority that may be concerned by the soaking of lobster traps.

Species at Risk Act

Pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, no person shall kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual or any part or derivate of a wildlife species designated as extirpated, endangered or threatened.

At the time this Management Plan is promulgated, the Gulf of St.-Lawrence and the Atlantic species targeted by these measures are the following ones: Spotted wolffish, Northern wolffish, Leatherback Turtle and Striped Bass (St. Lawrence Estuary population). New species could be added in the course of the year.

All by-catch of species identified above must be returned to the water and released in the exact capture location and, if the fish is still alive, in a manner that causes it the least harm. In addition, information regarding interactions with species at risk, including species mentioned above as well as the North Atlantic Right Whale, the Blue Whale (Atlantic population) and the Beluga Whale (St. Lawrence Estuary population) must be recorded in the Species at risk section of the logbook.

Conditions of licence

To obtain their Conditions of licence, licence holders must log on to the Online Licensing System. For Online Licensing System assistance, please contact customer support by phone at 1-877-535-7307, or by email at fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Approved by

Denis Gros-Louis
Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

For any questions regarding this CHP

418-986-2095

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2.5 Relevant changes to Management Regime

There were no changes to the management regime of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine lobster fishery since full assessment that has bearing on the performance of the fishery against the MSC Standard.

The Îles-de-la-Madeleine lobster fishery Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) 2010-2014 has been extended to 2015 (See the Notice to Fish Harvester below).
A copy of the amended IFMP was provided to the surveillance team.



Quebec Region – Fisheries management

Notice to Fish Harvesters

EXTENSION OF THE 2010-2014 AREA 22 LOBSTER INTEGRATED FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAGDALEN ISLANDS – August 27, 2015

Fisheries and Oceans Canada informs that the 2010-2014 Area 22 Lobster Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) has been extended to 2015.

To obtain the amended version of the IFMP, please contact the Magdalen Islands area office.

For additional information

For more information, call 418-986-2095.

Luc Boucher
Area Director
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Magdalen Islands (Quebec)

3. The General Conditions of Certification

The general 'Conditions' set out APPIM as the certificate holder at initial full assessment were as follows:

- The Client must recognize that MSC standards require regular monitoring inspections at least once a year, focusing on compliance with the 'Conditions' set forth in this report (as outlined below) and continued conformity with the standards of certification;
- The Client must agree by contract to be responsible financially and technically for compliance with required surveillance audits by an accredited MSC certification body, and a contract must be signed and verified by SAI Global prior to certification being awarded;
- The Client must recognize that MSC standards require a full re-evaluation for certification (as opposed to yearly monitoring for update purposes) every five years;
- Prior to receiving final certification, the Clients fulfilled the requirement to document an 'Action Plan' (in this case, one for each of the client groups) for Meeting the Conditions for Continued Certification' and have these approved by SAI Global.
- The Client must provide a list of active vessels that are fishing under the certificate and an updated list of all licenced buyers. Both lists must be updated annually.

Fulfilment of General Conditions- Surveillance Audit 2.

During the surveillance audit, the client was deemed to be in conformance with the general conditions of certification.

- Prior to the initial certification of the fishery, an Action Plan was developed and submitted to SAI Global and accepted by the assessment team. The actions that have been undertaken against the milestones of each condition in the intervening period are reported upon the next section.
- An updated list of the 2015 fishing vessels has been provided by the client. All the îles-de-la-Madeleine licenced lobster harvesters are members of the Office des Pêcheurs de homard des îles-de-la-Madeleine (represented by l'APPIM). Harvesters from other LFAs are not allowed to fish in LFA 22, and îles-de-la-Madeleine harvesters are not allowed to fish in other LFAs.
- An updated list of the licenced buyers designated for accessing lobster under the certificate has been provided to the surveillance team:

Homard du Golfe Madeleine

Poissonnerie S.B.L. Ltée

Fruit de Mer Madeleine

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Author: Géraldine Criquet and Jean-Claude Brêthes

La Renaissance des Îles

Poisson Frais des Îles Inc.

Cap Dauphin Fishermen Coop

4. Harmonization of Certificates

The MSC wishes to discourage overlapping assessments to avoid potential financial, consistency and credibility costs, including:

- fisheries managers, scientists and stakeholders receiving duplicate requests for information
- duplication of costs for a fishery's certification, including that expense incurred by fishery management agencies pre- and post-certification; and
- the possibility of different assessments placing different conditions upon the same fisheries managers and upon different fishery clients.

The MSC has provided direction in cases where a certificate sharing arrangement has not been possible. TAB Directive D-015 V2 provides guidance for harmonisation where a fishery in assessment overlaps with an already certified fishery. Certification Bodies are obliged to follow this guidance with the objective of ensuring the consistency of outcomes of duplicate assessments are harmonized.

For the respective clients included in this audit,

The Directive (TAB D-015) states that:

The assessment team responsible for the new assessment shall explicitly consider the findings of the most recent surveillance report(s) produced for the overlapping certified fishery. Similarly, the CB responsible for the surveillance of the overlapping certified fishery shall explicitly consider the findings of the assessment team responsible for the overlapping fishery in assessment when conducting annual surveillance audits.

In addition;

MSC expects that the outcome of the assessment report, particularly the overall result that is achieved (whether a pass or a fail) and the setting of conditions, will be consistent between overlapping fisheries in assessment and certified fisheries.

No action taken as this fishery does not have harmonisation issues in relation to overlapping fisheries.

5. The Surveillance Process

The Surveillance Audit followed the current version of MSC procedures and methodologies and implemented by SAI Global accredited MSC Procedures (QP).

MSC Scheme Document	Issue Date
MSC Certification Requirements v1.3	January 14, 2013
MSC FCR and Guidance v2.0	October 1, 2014
General Certification Requirements v.2.1	February 20, 2015
Surveillance Reporting Template v1.0	October 8, 2014

Table 5.3: Fishery Surveillance Program

Surveillance Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 6	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & re-certification site visit

The surveillance audit was conducted as a normal on site audit with 2 auditors, 1 on-site and 1 supporting from a remote location.

The Surveillance Audit was comprised in general of:

1. To review any changes in the management of the fishery, including regulations, key management or scientific staff or stock evaluation.
2. To evaluate the progress of the fishery against any Conditions of Certification raised during the Main Assessment.
3. To review any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products.
4. To review any other significant changes in the fishery.

The surveillance audit consisted of the announcement to stakeholders and interested parties as required through the MSC website and more direct stakeholder contact with the original stakeholders that took part in the initial assessment and management organizations that comprise the management system and regime for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster Trap Fishery. Through this process, a stakeholder consultation plan was developed as part of the on-site assessment.

Emails and information on the objectives of the surveillance audit were sent to stakeholders and management agencies. From this, a surveillance on-site meeting plan was organized and appointments for each individual meeting set. The on-site assessment meeting was proposed to be in Cap-aux-Meules, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, Canada.

- On site Surveillance Audit dates were 29th and 30th October 2015
- On-site audit was performed by Dr. Géraldine Criquet (Lead Assessor) from a remote

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location and Jean-Claude Brêthes (Auditor) on-site.

The surveillance audit meeting was informed by a pre-determined agenda. The agenda was set out so as to allow specific stakeholder interests and concerns to be covered through a structured approach.

Information and notes from the consultation phase of the assessment were combined with a review of formal documentation from science and management agencies, regulatory amendments and the direct evidence collected during each of the client consultation meetings.

Summary of stakeholder and client meetings

Arising out of the stakeholder consultation plan preparation stakeholders were contacted directly by e-mail or phone call. Arising out of this process a final direct consultation plan for the audit was undertaken. Table 6 details the dates, meeting locations and organizations that were consulted through direct meetings or conference calls during the on-site surveillance assessment.

All meetings were conducted by the Surveillance Team Assessors.

Table 6. Consultation Meetings during on Site Surveillance Assessment of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster Trap Fishery.

Name Organization	Present at Meetings	Location	Venue	Date/Time	Purpose
DFO	Géraldine Criquet (by conference call) Jean-Claude Brêthes Cédric Arseneau Luc Boucher Sylvette Leblanc Benoît Bruneau Jean Richard	Cap-aux-Meules, Îles-de-la-Madeleine	DFO Offices	29 th September 2015 at 2.00 pm	Clarification on surveillance process under v2.0, fisheries observations, lobster stock assessment, logbook, HCRs, IFMP, ETP, rock crab directed fishery and stock assessment, artificial reefs, new lobster research projects, 2015 Lobster Advisory Committee meeting, enforcement
APPIM	Géraldine Criquet (by conference call) Jean-Claude Brêthes Roger Simon Jérémy Cyr Mario Déraspe Léonard Poirier	Cap-aux-Meules, Îles-de-la-Madeleine	APPIM offices	30 th September 2015 at 9.00 am	Clarification on surveillance process under v2.0, Fleet structure, lobster buyers, fishing practices, bait, logbooks, bycatch, scientific projects, lobster harvester's concerns

6. Results

During the initial assessment of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Trap Fishery, a conditional score was allocated for PIs 1.2.2. Harvest Control Rules and Tools, 2.2.3 Bycatch Species Information/Monitoring, and 3.2.4 Research Plan.

Condition	Performance Indicator	Initial score	Score at surveillance 1
1	1.2.2	75	75
2	2.2.3	65	65
3	3.2.4	70	90

Table of Conditions, Action Plan and Observations from Evidence Collected during the Surveillance Audit

	Condition 1 (of 3)		
<i>Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue</i>	PI 1.2.2: There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place.	Guidepost 80 (SI b). The selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties.	Score: 75
<i>Condition 1</i>	<p>The client must provide evidence that the harvest control rules selected for the fishery take into account the main uncertainties, by including uncertainties associated with the stock assessment, the survey methodology, standardization and estimation and the role of environment variability in modifying growth, natural mortality and migrations.</p> <p>Le client doit fournir la preuve que les règles de contrôle des captures sélectionnées pour la pêche prennent en compte les principales incertitudes, en incluant les incertitudes associées à l'évaluation du stock, à la méthode, la standardisation et l'estimation utilisées lors des études, et le rôle de la variabilité de l'environnement dans la modification de la croissance, la mortalité naturelle et les migrations.</p>		
<i>Milestones</i>	<p>By the first surveillance audit or earlier, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that modelling and/or other appropriate analyses have been undertaken in order to take into account the main uncertainties when selecting the harvest control rules.</p> <p>By the second surveillance audit, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that the harvest control rules have been reviewed in order to take into account the main uncertainties.</p> <p>Pour le premier audit de surveillance ou plus tôt, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant qu'une modélisation et/ou toute autre analyse appropriée a été entreprise afin de prendre en compte les principales incertitudes lors</p>		

	<p>de la sélection des règles de contrôle des captures.</p> <p>Pour le second audit de surveillance, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant que les règles de contrôle des captures ont été révisées afin de prendre en compte les principales incertitudes.</p>
<p><i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 1st surveillance audit</i></p>	<p>The evidence presented during the 1st surveillance audit demonstrates that the client's actions have met the requirements of the Action Plan for the Year 1 milestone of Condition 1.</p> <p>L'évidence présentée au cours du 1^{er} audit de surveillance démontre que les actions entreprises ont satisfait les exigences du Plan d'Action pour l'étape Année 1 de la Condition 1.</p> <p>The Condition is not closed out since the original score for this PI remains unchanged. The fishery will be assessed at the next surveillance audit with respect to further review of the HCR in order to take into account the main uncertainties.</p> <p>La Condition n'est pas fermée car le score initial de l'IP est inchangé. La pêche sera évaluée au prochain audit de surveillance au regard d'une révision des HCR afin de prendre en compte les principales incertitudes.</p> <p>Status of Condition 1: Open – On target.</p> <p>Statut de la Condition 1: Ouverte – Objectif atteint pour l'audit de surveillance 1.</p>
<p><i>Evidence Year 2</i></p>	<p>The HCRs are summarized in the IFMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When are above the URP (URP=1750 t), the stock is in the healthy zone and no additional action is necessary; - When landings are between URP and the Limit Reference Point (LRP=875 t), the stock is in the cautious zone, and actions must be taken (escape and effort control measures); - When landings are below LRP, the stock is in the critical zone, and partial fishery closure and recovery measures identification should follow. <p>The Magdalen Islands lobster fishery was chosen as a case study for the lobster fisheries in Atlantic Canada to develop an analytical model of population dynamics. That model is an adaptation of the one created at the University of Maine (USA), under a cooperative agreement with that University.</p> <p>The model is operational and the sensitivity analysis started in 2013. Several scenarios have been tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Growth</i> : increase in molt increment; - <i>Natural mortality</i>: increase of the average M and of the M at molt; - <i>Increased coefficient of variation on data</i>: catches and survey; - <i>Projection to evaluate the effectiveness of the defined harvest control rules in bringing back the stock biomass after it declines</i>: increasing MLS and reduction of fishing mortality. <p>The model incorporated uncertainties in recruitment for the lobster stock projection, and proposition have been made by the scientists of the university of Maine to do a Bayesian estimation to quantify uncertainties in the estimation. No further progress has been made since the first surveillance audit, as the new lobster biologist is in place only since the winter 2015.</p>

	<p>As Magdalen Island fishery is a case study, such a model is not forecasted for other certified Canadian lobster fisheries. The team considers that evaluating that fishery's performance under that only criterion may induce inconsistencies between fisheries, as modelling is not required elsewhere.</p> <p>As for other fisheries, main uncertainties are considered in the Precautionary Approach framework and in the 2010-2014 IFMP (extended to 2015), which indicates that: <i>"Despite the efforts and positive signs, some improvements to the size structure of the stocks appear necessary. This will help reduce the dependence of the fishery on the annual recruitment and will also help increase the proportion of multiparous females in the population and ensure their reproductive success by maintaining suitable sex-ratios"</i>.</p> <p>Harvest control rules include a broad set of actions aiming at preventing the lobster stock to decline in a changing environment.</p> <p>Although landings are above the URP since 1989, actions were progressively implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1997 to 2003: Minimum legal size increases by one mm per year until it reaches 83 mm, thus doubling egg production per female. - 2006 to 2010: Number of traps is reduced by three traps per year (15 traps in all). This reduction plan was pursued from 2011 to 2014 with reduction of an additional three traps per year (12 additional traps, a total reduction of 27 traps per fish harvester). That plan reduced the total number of traps per fisher from 300 to 273. <p>As a conclusion, the team considers that HCRs have been reviewed to take into account the main uncertainties, and therefore the milestone 2 is achieved.</p>
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 2nd surveillance audit</i>	<p>The evidence presented during the 2nd surveillance audit demonstrates that the client's actions have met the requirements of the Action Plan for the Year 2 milestone of Condition 1.</p> <p>L'évidence présentée au cours du 2nd audit de surveillance démontre que les actions entreprises ont satisfait les exigences du Plan d'Action pour l'étape Année 2 de la Condition 1.</p> <p>Status of Condition 1: Closed – On target.</p> <p>Statut de la Condition 1: Fermée. Objectif atteint.</p>

	Condition 2 (of 3)		
<i>Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue</i>	<p>PI 2.2.3: Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage</p>	<p>Guidepost 80 (SIs b,c,d).</p> <p>Information is sufficient to estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits.</p> <p>Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main bycatch species.</p>	<p>Score: 65</p>

	bycatch	Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to main bycatch species (e.g., due to changes in the outcome indicator scores or the operation of the fishery or the effectiveness of the strategy).	
<i>Condition 2</i>	<p>The client must provide evidence that accurate and sufficient data on the amount of main bycatch species affected by the fishery are collected to detect any increase in risk to the main bycatch species.</p> <p>Le client doit fournir un justificatif prouvant que des données suffisantes et précises sur les captures d'espèces accessoires affectées par la pêche ont été collectées de manière à pouvoir détecter une augmentation du risque que courent les principales espèces accessoires.</p>		
<i>Milestones</i>	<p>By the first surveillance audit or earlier, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that the fishery has designed a system for bycatch data collection sufficient to detect any increase in risk to the main bycatch species.</p> <p>By the second surveillance audit, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that the system for bycatch data collection has been agreed and tested.</p> <p>By the third surveillance audit, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that the system for bycatch data collection has been implemented within the management system.</p> <p>Pour le premier audit de surveillance ou plus tôt, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant que la pêche a conçu un système pour la collecte de données sur les prises accessoires suffisantes pour pouvoir détecter une augmentation du risque que courent les principales espèces accessoires.</p> <p>Pour le second audit de surveillance, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant que le système de collecte de données sur les prises accessoires a été accepté et testé.</p> <p>Pour le troisième audit de surveillance, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant que le système de collecte de données sur les prises accessoires a été mise en oeuvre au sein du système de gestion de la pêche.</p>		
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 2 from 1st Surveillance Audit</i>	<p>The evidence presented during the 1st surveillance audit demonstrates that the client's actions have met the requirements of the Action Plan for the Year 1 and the Year 2 milestone of Condition 2.</p> <p>L'évidence présentée au cours du 1^{er} audit de surveillance démontre que les actions entreprises ont satisfait les exigences du Plan d'Action pour les étapes Année 1 et Année 2 de la Condition 2.</p> <p>The Condition is not closed out since the original score for this PI remains unchanged.</p> <p>The Condition is not closed out since the original score for this PI remains unchanged.</p>		

	<p>The fishery will be assessed at the next surveillance audit with respect to the implementation of the mandatory e-logbooks that will allow recording accurate and sufficient data on the amount of main bycatch species affected by the fishery to detect any increase in risk to the main bycatch.</p> <p>La Condition n'est pas fermée car le score initial de l'IP est inchangé. La pêche sera évaluée au prochain audit de surveillance au regard de la mise oeuvre des journaux de bord électroniques qui permettront d'enregistrer des données précises et suffisantes sur la quantité des principales espèces accessoires capturées par la pêche afin de détecter une augmentation du risque que courent les principales espèces accessoires.</p> <p>Status of Condition 2: Open – Ahead of target. Statut de la Condition 2: Ouverte – Objectif atteint au-delà de ce qui était requis pour l'audit de surveillance 1.</p>
Evidence Year 2	<p>As stated in the Conservation Harvesting Plan approved in May 2015, as of the 2015 fishing season, all lobster fishermen in LFA 22 are under the obligation to fill out a logbook. It must be filled out before arriving to port and prior to any lobster landing. Data must be transmitted electronically to DFO every day 1) upon arrival to port if data are entered on an electronic device installed onboard the vessel or 2) from the fish harvester's home, if a paper logbook is used on board the vessel and data entered on the computer from home.</p> <p>The team was provided with a copy of the logbook (See Section 7). Incidental catches must be reported: rock crab in weight and other species in number of individuals. DFO confirmed that 100% of the fishermen filled the logbook and complied with the transmitting required explained above.</p>
Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 2 from 2 nd Surveillance Audit	<p>The surveillance team concludes that a system for bycatch monitoring has been implemented within the management system, the fishery meeting the requirements of the Year 3 milestone of Condition 2.</p> <p>L'équipe de surveillance conclut donc qu'un système de collecte de données sur les prises accessoires a été mis en oeuvre au sein du système de gestion, la pêche ayant rempli les exigences de de l'Année 3 de la Condition 2.</p> <p>Status of Condition 2: Closed – Ahead target. Statut de la Condition 2: Fermée. Objectif atteint au-delà de ce qui était requis pour l'audit de surveillance 2.</p>

Item 1:	Condition 3 (of 3)		
Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue	<p>PI 3.2.4: The fishery has a research plan that addresses the information needs of management.</p>	<p>Guidepost 80 (SI a)</p> <p>A research plan provides the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.</p>	<p>Initial score: 70 Score at surveillance 1: 90</p>

<i>Condition 3</i>	<p>The client must provide evidence that a written research plan for the fishery provides the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.</p> <p>Le client doit fournir un justificatif prouvant qu'une stratégie d'approche de la recherche fourni par le système de gestion existe sous la forme d'un plan de recherché écrit, et des informations fiables et opportunes sont suffisantes pour atteindre les objectifs en accord avec les Principes 1 et 2 de MSC.</p>
<i>Milestones</i>	<p>By the first surveillance audit or earlier, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that a research plan, based on existing and scheduled research projects, objectives, activities and milestones has been developed, and its objectives are consistent with Principles 1 and 2.</p> <p>By the second surveillance audit, the assessment team shall be provided with documentary evidence that the research plan has been agreed and implemented for the fishery, and is updated annually (as required) for the remainder of the certification period.</p> <p>Pour le premier audit de surveillance ou plus tôt, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant qu'un plan de recherche, basé sur les activités et les projets de recherche existants et planifiés, a été développé.</p> <p>Pour le second audit de surveillance, il devra être fourni à l'équipe d'évaluation un justificatif prouvant que le plan de recherche a été accepté et mis en œuvre pour la pêche.</p>
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 3 from 1st Surveillance Audit</i>	<p>The evidence presented during the 1st surveillance audit demonstrates that the client's actions have met the requirements of the Action Plan for the Year 1 and Year 2 milestone of Condition 3.</p> <p>L'évidence présentée au cours du 1^{er} audit de surveillance démontre que les actions entreprises ont satisfait les exigences du Plan d'Action pour les étapes Année 1 et Année 2 de la Condition 3.</p> <p>Status of Condition 3: Closed – Ahead of target.</p> <p>Statut de la Condition 3: Fermée. Objectif atteint au-delà de ce qui était requis pour l'audit de surveillance 1.</p>

Species used as bait have been identified during the full assessment: US mackerel as the main bait species, and Newfoundland herring and Prince Edward Island (PEI) yellowtail flounder as secondary bait species. A recommendation was made during the full assessment.

Recommendation

Although herring and yellowtail flounder are not main bait species for the Magdalen Islands lobster fishery, the Assessment team advises the Client to buy herring and yellowtail flounder which stocks are not depleted and that are highly likely to be within biological limits and are subject to management strategies to ensure that they remain within these limits.

APPIM confirmed that US mackerel is no longer used, and the use of Newfoundland herring and PEI yellowtail flounder decreased during the last lobster fishing season. APPIM confirmed the use of

mackerel from Pacific, Acadian redfish from Gulf of Maine and from a local sentinel fishery (program of indicator fisheries).

As per MSC FCR 7.23.12.5 Where information base for PI scores has changed, the CAB shall:

- a. Report and record what has changed in the information base.
- b. Re-score the PI following scoring processes set out in 7.10.

Revised scoring for PI 1.2.2 and 2.2.3 are presented in Appendix 1.

7. Conclusion

The assessment team conducting this 2nd surveillance audit confirms that Client have met the general requirements for continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The assessment team also concludes that there is sufficient evidence and information provided by the clients and substantiated through the course of consultation meetings during the surveillance audit to confirm that commitment to meeting the specific conditions of certification have been met. The assessment team determines that all conditions initially placed on the fishery have been closed.

Therefore, the assessment team recommends that continued certification be awarded to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster Trap Fishery.

SAI Global determines that:

- **The Îles-de-la-Madeleine Lobster Trap Fishery continues to operate a well-managed and sustainable fishery and therefore, continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing is awarded.**

8. References

Meetings:

Meeting with DFO on October 29, 2015.

- 2014 and 2015 lobster landings
- Information on 2014 and 2015 at-sea sampling, trawl survey and SCUBA survey
- Number of lobster harvesters per landing ports
- Copy of a logbook
- Information on rock crab directed fishery – 2014 and 2015 fishing seasons

Meeting with APPIM on October 30, 2015.

- Vessels list (October 2015 update)
- Lobster buyers updated list

Reports & publications:

DFO 2015a. Conservation Harvesting Plan. Lobster – Area 22 – Magdalen islands Fleet Season 2015, Approved May 1, 2015.

DFO 2015b. Integrated Fishery Management Plan for the Lobster Fishing Area 22 from 2010 until 2015. Updated May 19, 2015.

DFO 2015c. Notice to Fish Harvesters. Extension of the 2010-2014 Area 22 lobster IFMP.

DFO 2015d. Rock crab sub-areas 12ABC. Conditions of licence 2015.

Gendron, L. et Savard, G. 2013. Évaluation de l'état des stocks de crabe commun (*Cancer irroratus*) des eaux côtières du Québec en 2012. Secr. Can. De Consult. Sci. du MPO Doc. de Rech. 2013/057. Xi + 85 p.

Louise Gendron, Yong Chen, December 2013. Sensitivity analysis and scenario tested with the LFA 22 lobster stock assessment model.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Re-scoring evaluation tables

Change made to rationale is identified as being written in blue.

Evaluation Table for PI 1.2.2

PI 1.2.2		There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Generally understood harvest rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached.	Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached.	
	Met?	Y	Y	
	Justification	<p>Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached.</p> <p>Effort controls are defined through the licence conditions of the fishery. They include a variety of measures such as licenses, season, traps, lines, fishing only during day-time. Catch is controlled by the MLS, release of berried female, maximum trap size, escape event to allow undersize escapement.</p> <p>Managing under PA reference points was implemented under Canada's PA framework. According to the framework, a stock is considered to be in a critical zone if its biomass is less than or equal to 40% of the biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}). The level of 40% corresponds to LRP. The stock is in the healthy zone if its biomass is higher than 80% of B_{MSY} (the level corresponding to URP). Since there are no biomass estimates for the lobster stock in the Magdalen Islands, a partial estimate is provided by a scientific trawl survey since 1995. A provisional estimate of B_{MSY} was taken by using landings from a productive period. Average landings from 1985 to 2009 were used as an approximation of MSY: 2,188 t. The current stock status indicates that it is well above the Upper Limit Reference Point</p> <p>The purpose of the PA is essentially to guide management actions depending on the stock status zone. Predetermined actions have been established if abundance indicators (landings) dropped into the cautious zone. In the Magdalen Islands lobster fishery, three categories of management measures are considered: escapement measures (increase of MLS), input control measures (decrease of the fishing effort) and output control measures (quotas in case of extreme necessity).</p>		

PI 1.2.2		There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place		
b	Guidepost		The selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties.	The design of the harvest control rules takes into account a wide range of uncertainties.
	Met?		Y	N

PI 1.2.2	There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place
Justification	<p>Harvest control rules are based on a set of empirical indicators. The uncertainties are declared but not taken explicitly into account. This could be done with a formal analytical model still under development.</p> <p>The selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties. The Magdalen Islands lobster fishery was chosen as a case study for the lobster fisheries in Atlantic Canada to develop an analytical model of population dynamics. That model is an adaptation of the one created at the University of Maine (USA), under a cooperative agreement with that University.</p> <p>The model is operational and the sensitivity analysis started in 2013. Several scenarios have been tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Growth</i> : increase in molt increment; - <i>Natural mortality</i>: increase of the average M and of the M at molt; - <i>Increased coefficient of variation on data</i>: catches and survey; - <i>Projection to evaluate the effectiveness of the defined harvest control rules in bringing back the stock biomass after it declines</i>: increasing MLS and reduction of fishing mortality. <p>The model incorporated uncertainties in recruitment for the lobster stock projection, and proposition have been made by the scientists of the university of Maine to do a Bayesian estimation to quantify uncertainties in the estimation. No further progress has been made since the first surveillance audit, as the new lobster biologist is in place only since the winter 2015.</p> <p>As Magdalen Island fishery is a case study, such a model is not forecasted for other certified Canadian lobster fisheries. The team considers that evaluating that fishery's performance under that only criterion may induce inconsistencies between fisheries, as modelling is not required elsewhere.</p> <p>As for other fisheries, main uncertainties are considered in the Precautionary Approach framework and in the 2010-2014 IFMP (extended to 2015), which indicates that: <i>"Despite the efforts and positive signs, some improvements to the size structure of the stocks appear necessary. This will help reduce the dependence of the fishery on the annual recruitment and will also help increase the proportion of multiparous females in the population and ensure their reproductive success by maintaining suitable sex-ratios"</i>.</p> <p>Harvest control rules include a broad set of actions aiming at preventing the lobster stock to decline in a changing environment.</p> <p>Although landings are above the URP since 1989, actions were progressively implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1997 to 2003: Minimum legal size increases by one mm per year until it reaches 83 mm, thus doubling egg production per female. - 2006 to 2010: Number of traps is reduced by three traps per year (15 traps in all). This reduction plan was pursued from 2011 to 2014 with reduction of an additional three traps per year (12 additional traps, a total reduction of 27 traps per fish harvester). That plan reduced the total number of traps per fisher from 300 to 273. <p>However, it is not possible to affirm that the HCR take into account a wide range of uncertainties, preventing the fishery from meeting SG100.</p>

PI 1.2.2		There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place		
c	Guidepost	There is some evidence that tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.	Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	Evidence clearly shows that the tools in use are effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	<p>Evidences exist that those measures are effective in controlling exploitation, as exploitation rate is stable since the mid 1990s, and nominal fishing effort (traps hauled) has slightly declined in the past three years.</p> <p>There is no clear evidence that the tools are effective. Stock status is only expressed in relative terms, based on empirical indicators. Landings are used by default as a proxy for B_{MSY} and it is not evident that the current exploitation level is adapted to the stock productivity, even if landings are increasing. This prevents 100c to be met.</p>		
References		<p>DFO. 2012. Integrated Fishery Management Plan for the Lobster Fishing Area 22 from 2012 until 2014, Québec Region, Magdalen Islands Area.</p> <p>Louise Gendron, Yong Chen, December 2013. Sensitivity analysis and scenario tested with the LFA 22 lobster stock assessment model.</p> <p>DFO 2015b. Integrated Fishery Management Plan for the Lobster Fishing Area 22 from 2010 until 2015. Updated May 19, 2015.</p>		
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:				80
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):				NA

Evaluation Table for PI 2.2.3

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Qualitative information is available on the amount of main bycatch species taken by the fishery.	Qualitative information and some quantitative information are available on the amount of main bycatch species taken by the fishery.	Accurate and verifiable information is available on the catch of all bycatch species and the consequences for the status of affected populations.
	Met?	Y	Y	N

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch		
	Justification	<p>DFO carried out a bycatch inventory during the 2011 lobster fishing season. There were 54 fishing trips where all of the bycatch species were identified, counted and weighed. A total of 19 species were listed. Bycatches during the 2011 lobster season were estimated at 709.8 t, which represents about 27% of lobster catches. Rock crab, sculpin, hermit crab, sea raven and green sea urchin made up more than 80% of the bycatches (in weight). Rock crab catches made up more than 5% of the lobster catch (in weight) and was considered as the main bycatch species.</p> <p>Accurate and verifiable information is not available on the amount of all bycatch as there is no observer coverage in the fishery and the use of logbooks is in development. The study carried out by DFO was the first directed and the only one. Moreover a low percentage (0.3%) of the fishing trip was covered. This needs to be followed up with regular monitoring to first assess the levels and types of bycatch and then to assess the effects on the populations. The consequence for the status of affected bycatch species is not known.</p> <p>Logbooks are mandatory as of the 2015 fishing season. Incidental catches must be reported: rock crab in weight and other species in number of individuals. Analysis of bycatches data from logbooks have not been carried out yet and there is no observer coverage in this fishery, so it cannot be said that accurate and verifiable information is available on the catch of all bycatch species and the consequences for the status of affected populations, preventing the fishery from meeting SG100.</p>		
b	Guidepost	Information is adequate to broadly understand outcome status with respect to biologically based limits	Information is sufficient to estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits.	Information is sufficient to quantitatively estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits with a high degree of certainty.
	Met?	Y	Y	N

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch		
	Justification	<p>Information is not sufficient to estimate outcome with respect to biologically based limits, please refer to 100 a.</p> <p>Information is sufficient to estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits.</p> <p>There is no estimate of total biomass of rock crab, in term of male biomass available to the fishery or estimates of exploitation rates. The stock assessment, conducted every three years, is based on the review of indicators based on (1) fishery-dependent data: landings from mandatory logbooks and dockside sizing and weighting, and (2) fishery-independent data: crabs caught during the annual trawl survey for the lobster assessment are sexed and measured.</p> <p>According to the last stock assessment, catch rates decreased since 2004, and CPUE in 2012 were 38%, 31% and 29% below the average 1998-2011 for 12A, 12B and 12C, respectively. Crab density from trawl survey is higher for the 2001-2004 period compared to the 2010-2012 period. Mean size of landed crabs have been stable since 1997 in the three zones, with 123 mm for 12A, 124 mm for 12B and 120mm for 12C. Large crabs are in high proportion in the three zones.</p> <p>Size structures from trawl survey have been stable since 2001 in 12A and 12B, but recruitment indices were low in 2012.</p> <p>Although there are uncertainties in the stock assessment (total removals are not known, interpretation of catch rates, trawl survey designed to catch lobsters), the actual level of fishing effort does not cause a risk to the rock crab stock in Îles-de-la-Madeleine. However, the stock abundance is in decrease and there is no indication of an increase in the recruitment. As a consequence, it has been recommended to decrease the quota. The quota was decreased from 558.82 t in 2013 to 486.17 t for 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>However, information is insufficient to quantitatively estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits with a high degree of certainty, as analysis of bycatches data from logbook have not been carried out yet and also there are uncertainties in the rock crab stock assessment (total removals are not known, stock status indicators are almost all fishery-dependent, interpretation of catch rates).</p>		
c	Guidepost	Information is adequate to support measures to manage bycatch.	Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main bycatch species.	Information is adequate to support a strategy to manage bycatch species, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether the strategy is achieving its objective.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	<p>Information is not adequate to support a partial strategy to manage rock crab, please refer to 100 a.</p> <p>Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main bycatch species, but is not adequate to support a strategy to manage main bycatch species, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether the strategy is achieving its objectives, preventing the fishery from meeting SG100.</p>		

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch		
d	Guidepost		Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to main bycatch species (e.g., due to changes in the outcome indicator scores or the operation of the fishery or the effectiveness of the strategy).	Monitoring of bycatch data is conducted in sufficient detail to assess ongoing mortalities to all bycatch species.
	Met?		Y	N
	Justification	<p>Sufficient data is not collected to detect any increase in risk to rock crab, please refer to 100 a.</p> <p>Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to main bycatch species.</p> <p>DFO carried out a bycatch inventory during the 2011 lobster fishing season. There were 54 fishing trips where all of the bycatch species were identified, counted and weighed. A total of 19 species were listed. Bycatches during the 2011 lobster season were estimated at 709.8 t, which represents about 27% of lobster catches. Rock crab, sculpin, hermit crab, sea raven and green sea urchin made up more than 80% of the bycatches (in weight). Rock crab catches made up more than 5% of the lobster catch (in weight) and was considered as the main bycatch species.</p> <p>Logbooks are mandatory as of the 2015 fishing season. Incidental catches must be reported: rock crab in weight and other species in number of individuals.</p> <p>The rock crab stock assessment is based on abundance indicators, which are landings and CPUEs, and size of landed crabs.</p> <p>However, the assessment team considered that monitoring of bycatch data is not conducted in sufficient detail to assess ongoing mortalities to all bycatch species as the bycatch data from mandatory logbooks have not been analyzed yet, preventing the fishery from meeting SG100.</p>		
References		<p>Gendron, L. et C. Duluc. 2012. Prises accessoires de la pêche au homard en Gaspésie (ZPH 19 et 20) et aux Îles-de-la-Madeleine (ZPH 22), Québec, en 2011. Secr. Can. de consult. sci. du MPO. Doc. De rech. 2012/100. Vii + 36 p.</p> <p>Gendron, L. et Savard, G. 2013. Évaluation de l'état des stocks de crabe commun (<i>Cancer irroratus</i>) des eaux côtières du Québec en 2012. Secr. Can. De Consult. Sci. du MPO Doc. de Rech. 2013/057. Xi + 85 p.</p> <p>DFO 2015a. Conservation Harvesting Plan. Lobster – Area 22 – Magdalen islands Fleet Season 2015, Approved May 1, 2015.</p> <p>Copy of a logbook provided by DFO during surveillance 2 site visit.</p>		
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:				80
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):				NA

Principle 1 and 2 revised scoring

Principle	Initial Score	Revised score
Principle 1 – Target Species	80	80.6
Principle 2 - Ecosystem	87	88
Principle 3 – Management System	88.25	90.3 (from surveillance 1)

Appendix 2. Stakeholder submissions

No stakeholder submissions have been received.

Appendix 3. Surveillance audit information (if necessary)

SAI Global, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland			
1. Form 13g - Issue No 7, Issue Date March 2015	Page 41	Report No. MSC010/SUR02	Author: Géraldine Criquet and Jean-Claude Brêthes

Appendix 4. Additional detail on conditions/ actions/ results (if necessary)

Revision of PI 3.2.4 scoring at surveillance 1

PI 3.2.4		The fishery has a research plan that addresses the information needs of management		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Research is undertaken, as required, to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.	A research plan provides the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.	A comprehensive research plan provides the management system with a coherent and strategic approach to research across P1, P2 and P3, and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.
	Met?	Y	Y	Y
	Justification	<p>A comprehensive research plan provides the management system with a coherent and strategic approach to research across P1, P2 and P3, and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.</p> <p>As other fisheries that are managed by DFO, research data and scientific reports are mandatory to assure sustainability of the resource, preservation of the ecosystem and so achieve the objectives of the management system consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2. In fact, scientific results are the core of the data needed by DFO regional managers and consultative committee.</p> <p>Even if some lobster conservation plans were produced in 1998, 2005 and 2009, that contain research objectives in the different aspects of lobster stock evaluation and ecosystem, there was no comprehensive research plan that could provide to the management system with a strategic approach and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.</p> <p>In June 2014, a <i>Programme de recherche stratégique sur le Homard d'Amérique (Homarus americanus), 2013-2017</i> (PRSH) was finalized by Sciences-DFO and approved. This document presents research goals and projects for the Quebec region including the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Côte-Nord et Île d'Anticosti and the Gaspésie lobster fisheries.</p>		
b	Guidepost	Research results are available to interested parties.	Research results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion.	Research plan and results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion and are widely and publicly available.
	Met?	Y	Y	N

PI 3.2.4	The fishery has a research plan that addresses the information needs of management	
	Justification	<p>Research results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion.</p> <p>DFO-based research results are widely and publicly available on the CSAS website and occasionally in scientific journals. The results are also explained to, and discussed with, industry stakeholders and others at formal and informal venues. Related research generated by other government departments, academia, and NGOs is also disseminated on various websites and scientific journals.</p> <p>However, the PRSH is new and was not yet objet of deep discussions with stakeholders. Considering that the program was very recently approved (June 2014) and that it is not disseminated to all interested parties, the assessment team assigned a N to SG100.</p>
References	MPO 2014. Programme de recherche stratégique sur le Homard d'Amérique (<i>Homarus americanus</i>) 2013-2017, MPO-Région du Québec, Direction des Sciences Benthiques et Démersales, IML, Mont-Joli, QC, 17pp.	
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:		90
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):		NA

Appendix 5. Revised Surveillance Program (if necessary)

If it is proposed that the surveillance program be revised due to changes in the information basis for the fishery, i.e. information cannot be provided remotely, the CAB shall:

1. Include a rationale for any changes to the default surveillance level following FCR 7.23.2 & 7.23.4 in Table 5.1, if necessary
2. Include a rationale for any deviations from carrying out the surveillance audit before or after the anniversary date of certificate in Table 5.2, if necessary
3. Include a completed fishery surveillance program in Table 5.3, if necessary

[Reference: FCR 7.23.10]

Table 5.1 : Surveillance level rationale

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
3	Review of information	1 auditor	Condition 1 on 1.2.2 and 2 on 2.2.3 have been closed at surveillance audit 2. Condition 3 on 3.2.4 has been closed at surveillance audit 1. As a consequence, the fishery has no outstanding conditions. SAIG has a high confidence about the availability and access to information. As per MSC FCR 7.23.4, the surveillance level is revised to surveillance level 1, and a review of information with 1 auditor is proposed for the surveillance audit 3 in 2016.

Table 5.3: Fishery Surveillance Program

Surveillance Level	Year 3	Year 4
Level 1 <i>Minimum Surveillance</i>	Review of information	On-site surveillance audit & reduced re-assessment