

3135N13A

20th March 2018

Additional team member for the MSC assessment of the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters

Due to delays in the assessment of the above fishery and resulting conflicts with existing assessor schedules, ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would like to inform stakeholders that Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme is being added to the assessment team for Principle 2.

Rob started his professional career in commercial aquaculture, but subsequently shifted focus to the sustainable management of wild fisheries. His PhD looked at the socio-economic and biological implications of the Inshore Potting Agreement, an inshore fishery management system that had been devised by fishers to minimise gear conflict between the towed and mobile gear sectors. After his PhD, Rob worked at the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, where he became the Deputy Chief Fishery Officer. Rob then moved to Natural England, acting as the organisation's senior advisor to UK Government on marine fisheries and environmental issues. There, he led a team dealing with fisheries policy, science and nationally significant fisheries and environmental casework. Rob now runs Ichthys Marine Ecological Consulting Ltd., a marine fisheries and environmental consultancy.

As well as providing general fisheries and environmental consultancy services to industry and governmental clients, Rob has undertaken all facets of Marine Stewardship Council work as a lead assessor, expert team member and peer reviewer across a large number of fisheries. The fisheries he has assessed against the MSC Standard include those for various groundfish species, molluscs, crustaceans, salmonids, freshwater fish and marine highly migratory species. Rob has completed the MSC CR v.1.3 and CR v.2.0 training, and is a member of the MSC's Peer Review College.

Based on the above experience and having passed the online MSC Team Leader v2.0 training, Dr Blyth-Skyrme meets the Table PC1 team leader criteria, Table PC 2 team member criteria and Table PC 3 criteria: Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems and Fishery management and operations.

No conflict of interest has been identified for the proposed team member.

Any stakeholder wishing to provide comments on the proposed change should contact Charlotte Gwyther (charlotte.gwyther@me-cert.com) or Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) at MEC.

The deadline for consultation on the proposed change is **17:00 GMT** on the **19th April 2018**.

Further information on this fishery can be seen on the MSC's website here:
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/joint-demersal-fisheries-in-the-north-sea-and-adjacent-waters/@@view>

ME Certification
56 High Street
Lymington
SO41 9AH
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1590 613007
Fax: +44 (0)1590 671573

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.