

ISF Iceland lemon sole

Surveillance

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Global Trust Certification
Assessment team	Lead Assessor, Conor Donnelly Assessor, Giuseppe Scarcella
Fishery client	Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries (ISF)
Assessment Type	Third Surveillance
Date	04 July 2022

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2 Glossary

B	Biomass
B _{lim}	Limit biomass reference point below which recruitment of stock is expected to be impaired
B _{MSY}	Biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (biological reference point); the peak value on a domed yield-per-recruit curve
B _{trigger}	The point when management intervention should be taken to avoid the stock falling below the limit reference point.
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CoC	Chain of Custody
CPUE	Catch Per Unit of Effort
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
eNGO	environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
ETP	Endangered, Threatened or Protected (species)
F	Parameter for fishing mortality
FCP	MSC Fisheries Certification Process
F _{LIM}	Fishing mortality Limit Reference Point
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
F _{MSY}	Fishing mortality at MSY
GCR	MSC General Certification Requirements
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
HR	Harvest ratio (Harvest rate)
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas
ISF	Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (the Client)
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
MFRI	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun/Hafro) (formerly MRI)
MII	Ministry of Industries and Innovation (Atvinnuvega- og nýsköpunarráðuneytið)
MRI	Marine Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun/Hafro) (latterly MFRI)
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
mt	metric tonnes
NAFO	North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NWWG	ICES's North-Western Waters Working Group
OSPAR	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
P1, P2, P3	Principle 1, Principle 2 and Principle 3. The three guiding Principles of the MSC
PCR	Public Certification Report
PI	Performance Indicator
PRI	Point of recruitment impairment (stock reference point)
RBF	Risk Based Framework
SSB	Spawning stock biomass
SSB _{current}	Average spawning stock biomass over recent years
SSB _{MSY}	Spawning stock biomass at MSY
SG	Scoring Guidepost
SI	Scoring Issue
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
UoA	Unit of Assessment

UoC	Unit of Certification
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

3 Executive summary

3.1 Summary of audit process

This report contains the findings of the third surveillance audit of the first certification cycle of the ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery which was conducted by an audit team commissioned by Global Trust Certification Ltd. (the CAB, hereafter Global Trust) consisting of Conor Donnelly and Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella.

The surveillance audit process began in March 2022 and was conducted according to relevant requirements as outlined in MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v.2.2. The MSC Scheme Documents and Templates outlined in section 4.3 were used during this surveillance audit. The audit was conducted as an on-site surveillance audit although the Principle 1 assessor attended remotely from his home office as he was unable to travel due to COVID-related travel restrictions (MSC Derogation 3, section 1.3 a) applied). The site visit was carried out between 11th April and 4th May 2022.

The audit focused on changes to the fishery and its management since the initial assessment and assesses the fishery's continuing compliance with MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fisheries and additionally evaluates progress against the agreed Year 1 milestones for the two conditions.

Global Trust Certification would like to thank all management and scientific agencies, industry bodies and stakeholders for their collaboration and for providing the information and data necessary to carry out this assessment.

3.2 Summary of history of assessments

The ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery was first certified on 3 January 2019 and the certificate remains valid until 2 July 2024. This is the third surveillance audit.

3.3 Summary of audit findings

Progress against the two conditions of certification was evaluated. The condition on PI 2.3.2 was closed ahead of schedule and the condition on PI 1.2.2 remains open and on target. A summary of the conditions and progress against them is set out in Table 5.

3.4 Updated certification status

Following this audit, Global Trust has determined that ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery continues to meet applicable MSC requirements such that continued certification is appropriate; therefore, the certification status of the fishery as certified remains unchanged.

Updated certification status = CERTIFIED

4 Report details

4.1 Surveillance information

Surveillance information is set out in the table below.

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.																																							
1	Fishery name																																						
	ISF Iceland lemon sole																																						
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)																																						
	There are three units of assessment as set out in the table below.																																						
	<table><tr><td colspan="3">Units of Assessment (UoAs) 1 – 3 (of 3)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Common across all UoAs</td></tr><tr><td>Species:</td><td colspan="2">Microstomus kitt</td></tr><tr><td>Common name(s):</td><td colspan="2">Lemon sole</td></tr><tr><td>Geographical Area:</td><td colspan="2">FAO Statistical Area 27 / ICES 5.a; Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone</td></tr><tr><td>Stock(s):</td><td colspan="2">Lemon sole (Microstomus kitt) in ICES subarea 5.a</td></tr><tr><td>Management System:</td><td colspan="2">Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries</td></tr><tr><td>Client Group and other eligible fishers*:</td><td colspan="2">All registered Icelandic vessels that carry valid permits, issued by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries, for fishing within the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone, and that fish, supply and/or sell lemon sole to Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries ehf. and/or its authenticated certificate sharers.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Other eligible fishers are any new entry to the group of registered vessels targeting the lemon sole stock and/or that are incidentally catching lemon sole in other MSC certified fisheries within Icelandic jurisdiction.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Unique to each UoA</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Fishing methods:</td><td>UoA 1</td><td>Bottom Trawl (TB)</td></tr><tr><td>UoA 2</td><td>Nephrops Trawl (TN)</td></tr><tr><td>UoA 3</td><td>Danish Seine (SD)</td></tr></table>		Units of Assessment (UoAs) 1 – 3 (of 3)			Common across all UoAs			Species:	Microstomus kitt		Common name(s):	Lemon sole		Geographical Area:	FAO Statistical Area 27 / ICES 5.a; Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone		Stock(s):	Lemon sole (Microstomus kitt) in ICES subarea 5.a		Management System:	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries		Client Group and other eligible fishers*:	All registered Icelandic vessels that carry valid permits, issued by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries, for fishing within the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone, and that fish, supply and/or sell lemon sole to Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries ehf. and/or its authenticated certificate sharers.			Other eligible fishers are any new entry to the group of registered vessels targeting the lemon sole stock and/or that are incidentally catching lemon sole in other MSC certified fisheries within Icelandic jurisdiction.		Unique to each UoA			Fishing methods:	UoA 1	Bottom Trawl (TB)	UoA 2	Nephrops Trawl (TN)	UoA 3	Danish Seine (SD)
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3	Date certified	Date of expiry																																					
	03/01/2019	02/07/2024																																					
4	Surveillance level and type																																						
	Surveillance level 4, on-site surveillance audit (although intention is that Principle 1 auditor will be off-site).																																						
	The surveillance programme for this fishery has not changed significantly from that previously indicated in the PCR.																																						
5	Surveillance number																																						
	1 st Surveillance																																						
	2 nd Surveillance																																						
	3 rd Surveillance	X																																					
	4 th Surveillance																																						
	Other (expedited etc)																																						
6	Proposed team leader																																						

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

	<p>Conor Donnelly meets the fishery team leader qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ +3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ 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. <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 2, Conor has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +3 years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: ii) Endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species, iii) Habitats and iv) Ecosystem interactions. <p>With respect to his additional duties as the team member with primary responsibility for Traceability, Conor has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>While it is not the intention of the team to use the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) in the conduct of this assessment, Conor has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passed the MSC's RBF training course within the last 5 years. ▪ Passed new versions of the training for any when new RBF requirements. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the RBF requirements at least annually. <p>Conor also has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders. ▪ +2 years' fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years. <p>Conor does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of his CV is provided in Appendix 1. Conor was on-site during the audit.</p>
7	Proposed team members <i>[remove if not applicable]</i>
	<p>Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella meets the fishery team member qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 1, Giuseppe has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +3 years' experience applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. ▪ +3 years' experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or species with similar biology. ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders. ▪ +2 years' fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years.

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

	Giuseppe does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A summary of Giuseppe's CV is provided in Appendix 1. Giuseppe was off-site during the audit.
8	Audit/review time and location
	The site visit portion of this audit took place in Reykjavík, Iceland. The majority of the meetings occurred between 11 th and 13 th April 2022, with additional meetings held on 19 th April and 4 th May to allow for attendee availability. Conor was on-site, whereas Giuseppe attended remotely from his home office due to COVID restricting travel for him. This was consistent with the MSC Derogation 3 ¹ , as section 1.1 a) applied, i.e. COVID-related travel restrictions impact the assessment team, and consequently section 1.3 a) allows surveillance audits to be undertaken remotely.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>As per section 7.28.15 of the FCP v2.2, the following will be assessed/reviewed during this audit (note that this may not be an exhaustive list):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the fishery and its management. 2. Performance in relation to the relevant conditions of certification 3. Any developments or changes within the fishery that impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products. 4. Any other significant changes in the fishery. <p>There are 2 open conditions in this fishery. As noted above, progress against these conditions will be evaluated during this surveillance audit (FCP v2.2, 7.28.16). None are due to be closed in this surveillance audit.</p>
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in the Surveillance Announcement which is available on the MSC webpage for this fishery.</p>

¹MSC Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing <https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/chain-of-custody-supporting-documents/msc-derogation-3-covid-19-fishery-and-chain-of-custody-remote-auditing-v4.pdf>

4.2 Background

4.2.1 Changes to management systems and relevant regulations

The Ministry of Industries and Innovation (Atvinnuvega- og nýsköpunarráðuneytið) was transformed into a Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (Matvælaráðuneytið) in November 2021, in connection with a general reorganisation of the Icelandic Government. Tourism and energy were transferred to other ministries. The new ministry has departments on fisheries, agriculture and food, as well as cross-cutting departments on finance as well as sustainability and environment.

4.2.2 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

As noted above a new government took office at the end of 2021 and a new Fisheries Minister appointed Svandís Svavarsdóttir. Fisheries matters are now part of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. None of the changes identified are/or will be of such consequence to impact the fishery's conformity to MSC requirements.

4.2.3 Status of the target stock and management

The assessment of the Icelandic lemon sole stock is conducted on a yearly basis by the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI, <https://www.hafogvatn.is/en>).

Advice relevant to the lemon sole fishery is available on the MFRI website in Icelandic and English here: <https://www.hafogvatn.is/en/harvesting-advice>. The latest evaluation of the lemon sole stock was published in June 2021:

- Summary of Advice: <https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/10-lemonsole1259413.pdf> (MFRI, 2021a²);
- Technical report: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/10-lemonsole_tr1259412.pdf (MFRI, 2021b³).

MFRI cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because the reference points are undefined. Therefore, the advice follows the ICES framework for stocks where reliable stock biomass indices are available, but analytical age-length based assessments are not feasible (Category 3 stocks; ICES 2012⁴). IS-SMB survey biomass index of lemon sole 30 cm and larger, along with catch, is used to calculate F_{proxy} (catch/survey biomass). The target F_{proxy} was defined as 80% of the mean F_{proxy} from the reference period 2010–2015. Age-disaggregated catch data from 2010–2015 suggest that fishing mortality was too high and needed to be reduced by at least 20%. The advice is based on multiplying the most recent index value with target F_{proxy} value. This value is constrained by an uncertainty cap of 20% compared to the previous catch advice. The IS-SMB covers the entire fishing grounds of lemon sole around Iceland. Year-to-year fluctuations in survey biomass indices can be high, and high values are associated with high uncertainty.

According to the assessment outputs, both juvenile and total biomass indexes increased from 2020 to 2021 (Figure 1). In 2021, an exploratory model for lemon sole was developed using Gadget. This work was initiated to fulfil the request from the industry to have an analytical assessment framework for this species. This is a work in progress and the preliminary results are outlined in MFRI (2021b). The results from the model are presented in Figure 2. Recruitment shows considerable variability with the highest value estimated for 2019 and the following year terminal value close to 0. The biomass and spawning stock biomass peaked around 2005. A steady decrease is seen for the next 5 years, with a stable trend observed for the rest of the time

² MFRI, 2021a. ÞYKKVALÚRA – LEMON SOLE *Microstomus kitt*. Advice sheet. State of Marine Stocks and Advice 2021 Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, 15 June 2021. <https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/10-lemonsole1259413.pdf>

³ MFRI, 2021b. ÞYKKVALÚRA – LEMON SOLE *Microstomus kitt*. Tec. report. State of Marine Stocks and Advice 2021 Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, 15 June 2021. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/10-lemonsole_tr1259412.pdf

⁴ ICES. 2012. Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM 68. (<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2012/ADHOC/DLS%20Guidance%20Report%202012.pdf>)

series. The bootstrap confidence bounds for the biomass estimates are considerably wide from 2010 onwards. Fishing mortality for maximal age (15) shows a downward trend from 2010 onwards.

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for management of the Icelandic fisheries and implementation of legislation. Lemon sole was included in the ITQ system in the 1999/2000 quota year and as such subjected to TAC limitations.

Between 2005 and 2009, TAC was set higher than recommended by Marine Research Institute (MRI), but this practice stopped in the 2010/2011 quota year. No formal management plan exists for this stock. However, the catches have been below the national TAC and recommended TAC since 2018 (Table 1).

During the site visit was confirmed that data collection and scientific monitoring of the stock did not change and were not impacted by Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the amount of unwanted catches remain negligible.

Based on the evidence available from MFRI (2021a; b) and collected during the meeting with the client, MFRI scientists and Ministry staff, it is possible to conclude that the scoring outlined in the PCR (Tun, 2019⁵) is still valid both in relation to Principle 1 Outcome and Harvest strategy (Management).

⁵ Tun, 2019. ISF Iceland Lemon Sole Fishery Public Certification Report on the 1st full assessment of the fishery.

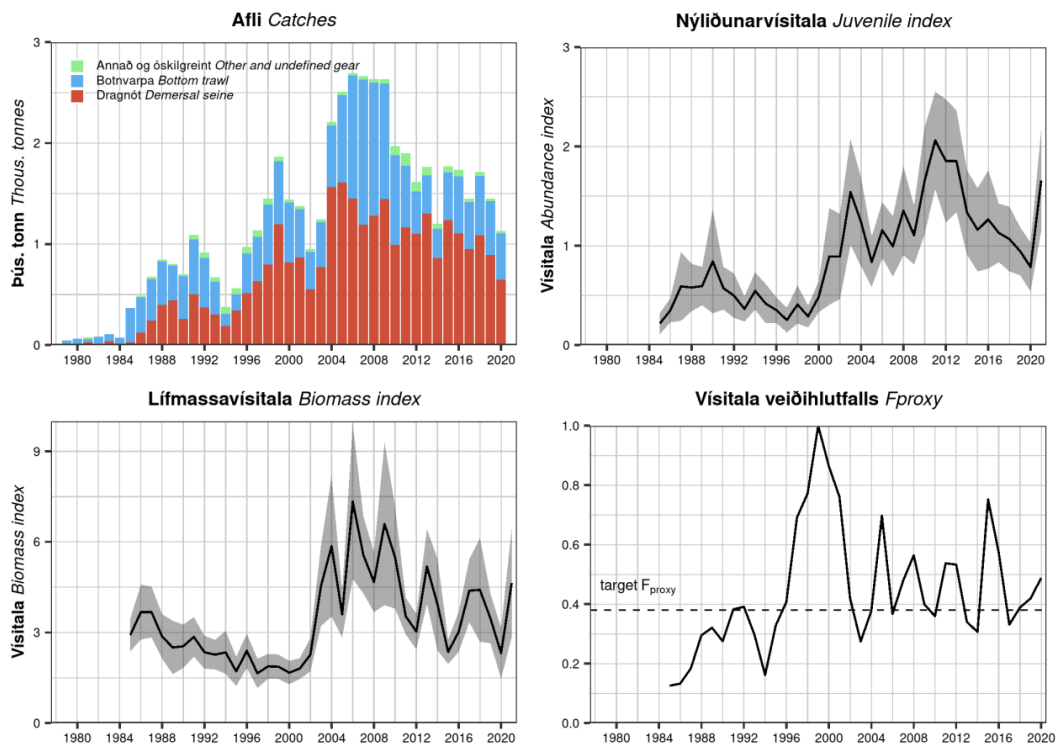


Figure 1. Catches by gear type, IS-SMB juvenile (≤ 20 cm) and biomass (≥ 30 cm) indices and F_{proxy} . Grey areas represent 95% CI (source: MFRI, 2021a).

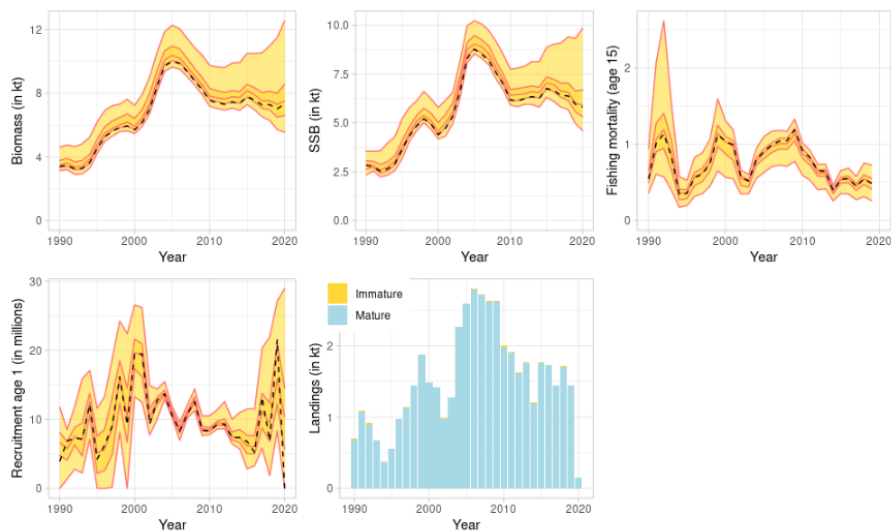


Figure 2. Estimated biomass, spawning stock biomass (SSB), fishing mortality for fully selected fishes (age 15), recruitment, and total catches. The solid red lines and golden ribbons show the median, 25th-75th percentile range, and

2.5th-97.5th percentile range of the bootstrapped estimates by the model. The dashed black indicates the fit from the baseline model (source: MFRI, 2021b).

Table 2. Recommended TAC, national TAC set by the Ministry, and landings (tonnes) (source: MFRI, 2021b).

FISHING YEAR	REC. TAC	NATIONAL TAC	CATCH
1999/00	1400	1400	1406
2000/01	1400	1400	1411
2001/02	1400	1400	1028
2002/03	1600	1600	1059
2003/04	1600	1600	2065
2004/05	1600	1600	2549
2005/06	1600	1800	2518
2006/07	1600	2000	2918
2007/08	1600	2200	2654
2008/09	1800	2200	2682
2009/10	1800	2200	1955
2010/11	1800	1800	1733
2011/12	1800	1800	1803
2012/13	1400	1400	1464
2013/14	1600	1600	1427
2014/15	1600	1600	1758
2015/16	1300	1300	1724
2016/17	1087	1087	1471
2017/18	1304	1304	1778
2018/19	1565	1565	1526
2019/20	1341	1341	1096
2020/21	1073	1073	

4.2.4 Ecosystem impacts update

4.2.4.1 By-catch of non-target species (primary, secondary and ETP)

The catch composition of the fishery in terms of retained catches has not changed significantly since the PCR which considered the 5 years up to the 2013/2017 fishing season. Catch data of the main species from the latest fishing season is shown in the table below, compared with the main species identified in the PCR. All main fish species are primary. As such, the primary and secondary fish species identified in the PCR are still representative of the fishery.

Reference was made to spotted wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*; ISL: Hlýri) in the last surveillance assessment as MFRI scientists had expressed concern about the stock. Catches in the UoAs remain low as a proportion of total catch.

Table 3. Reported landings as a percentage of overall landings in the ISF Iceland lemon sole UoAs (fishing season 2020/2021 compared to average of 2013-2017 fishing seasons as set out in PCR) (Source: <http://www.fiskistofa.is/veidar/aflaupplysingar/bradabirgdatolur/>).

Species			% of total catch in UoA 1 Bottom trawl					
			UoA 1 TB		UoA 2 TN		UoA 3 SD	
English	Icelandic	Latin	20/21	13/17	20/21	13/17	20/21	13/17
Lemon sole	Þykkvalúra/Sólkoli	<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	0.21	0.43	0.46	0.89	2.25	5.48
Atlantic cod	Þorskur	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	49.30	42.79	37.8	27.6	48.3	43.44
Haddock	Ýsa	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	11.71	10.26	6.91	2.04	17.75	14.22
Saithe	Ufsi	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	15.54	17.52	7.28	7.29		
Golden redfish	Gullkarfi	<i>Sebastes norvegicus</i>	12.17	19.40	21.07	26.67	1.68	2.33
Ling	Langa	<i>Molva molva</i>			7.84	11.00		

Atlantic wolffish	Steinbítur	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>					6.13	3.68
Spotted wolffish	Hlýri	<i>Anarhichas minor</i>	0.21	0.24	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Anglerfish	Skötuselur	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>			6.26	3.43		
Plaice	Skarkoli	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>					16.12	19.15
Witch	Langlúra	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>			5.00	6.24		
Norway lobster					3.33	7.38		

Marine mammal and seabird bycatch in these fisheries is recorded by onboard inspectors from the Directorate of fisheries, and by law vessel operators also need to report bycatch in their electronic logbooks or by the newly introduced mobile phone app (electronic submission of catch data having been made mandatory by Regulation no. 298/2020⁶). During the site visit, the assessment team was told that there were technical problems with the transfer of data from the new logbook app into the MFRI databases. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on personnel onboard planes and vessels were also set by the government resulting in low observer coverage rates for the years 2020 and 2021 (for example, the Directorate of Fisheries noted Inspector coverage in the bottom trawl fishery was 1.2% in 2021 and 0.4% in the Danish seine fishery and 1.7% in the *Nephrops* trawl fishery over this period). Therefore, due to the above problems (COVID-19 and technical difficulties associated with the app), no marine mammal and seabird bycatch data was provided by the MFRI to the assessment team for the last two seasons (2020 and 2021).

4.2.4.2 Habitats

There have been no significant changes in the impact of the fishery on habitats since the PCR with distribution and levels of fishing similar to previous years.

⁶ Regulation No. 298/2020 on registration and electronic submission of catch information. <https://island.is/reglugerdir/nr/0298-2020>

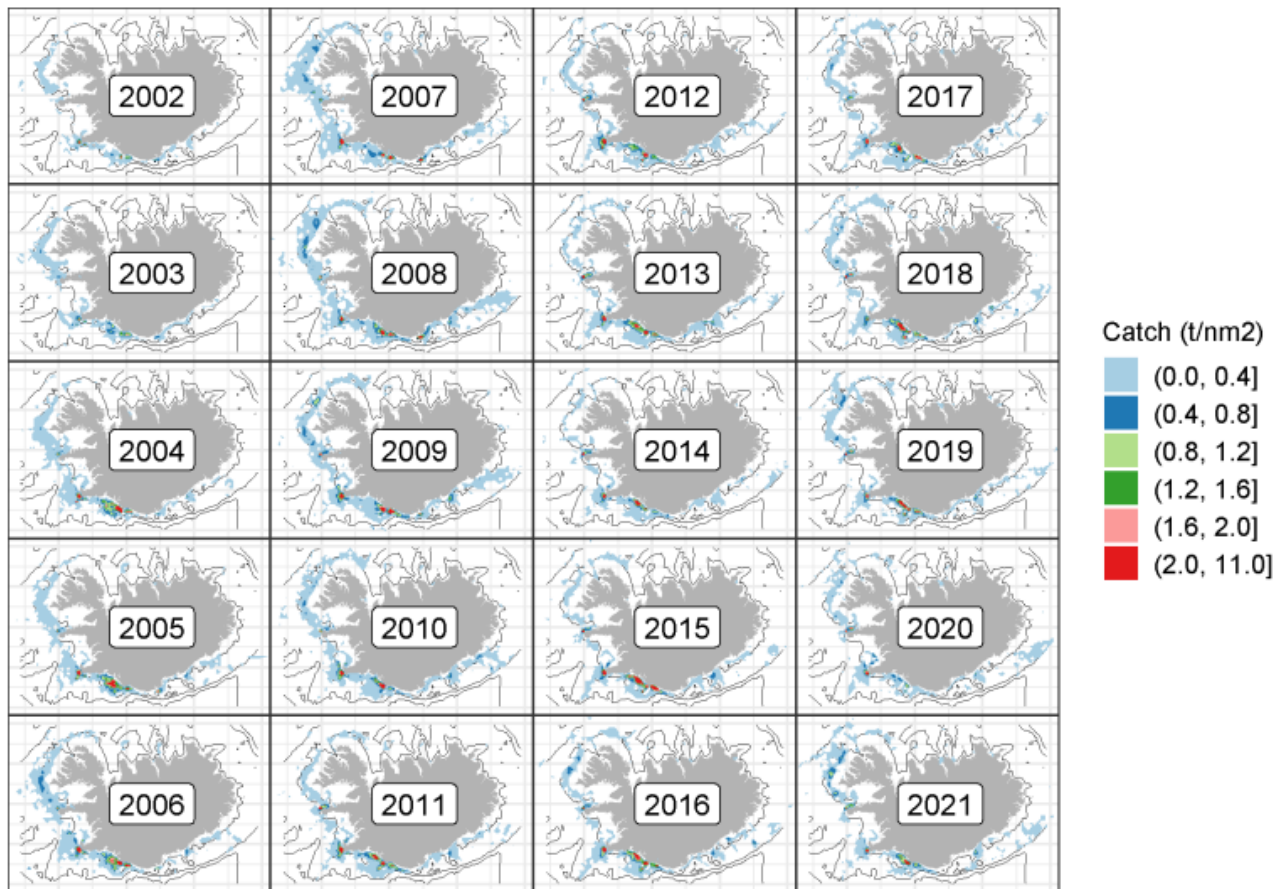


Figure 3. Lemon sole. Geographical distribution of the Icelandic fishery 2002-2021. Reported catch from logbook (source: MFRI, 2022⁷).

4.2.4.3 Ecosystem

Regarding key elements of the ecosystem, stakeholders indicated that there are no significant changes in ecosystem research or information that could affect the scoring set out in the PCR.

4.2.5 Enforcement update

From March 2020, severe restrictions on direct interactions between people were imposed by the Directorate of Health (Chief Epidemiologist) in Iceland to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. This restricted surveillance possibilities on board vessels over 2020 and 2021. As a consequence, the number of inspections by the Coast Guard went down from around 250 in 2019 to less than 150 in 2020 and 118 in 2021. The number of short-term area closures as a result of Coast Guard inspections went down from 50 in 2019 to 10 in 2020 and 6 in 2021. On the other hand, aerial surveillance has increased, and the Coast Guard maintained its presence in the fishery even when inspections could not be carried out, using its boats to monitor fishing activities close to the fishing vessels and also supporting the work of the Directorate of Fisheries by operating their drones from the Coast Guard vessels.

Fifteen 'Apparent Infringements' were reported in 2020 and eight in 2021 (annual average 2015–2020: 27). Most infringements related to the rules concerning fishing, crew-registry and licences.

⁷ LEMON SOLE *Microstomus kitt*. Tech. report. MFRI Assessment Reports 2022. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/10-lemonsole_tr1325997.pdf

The COVID-related restrictions also affected surveillance by the Directorate of Fisheries such that Inspector coverage in the bottom trawl fishery was 1.2% in 2021 and 0.4% in the Danish seine fishery and 1.7% in the Nephrops trawl fishery over this period.



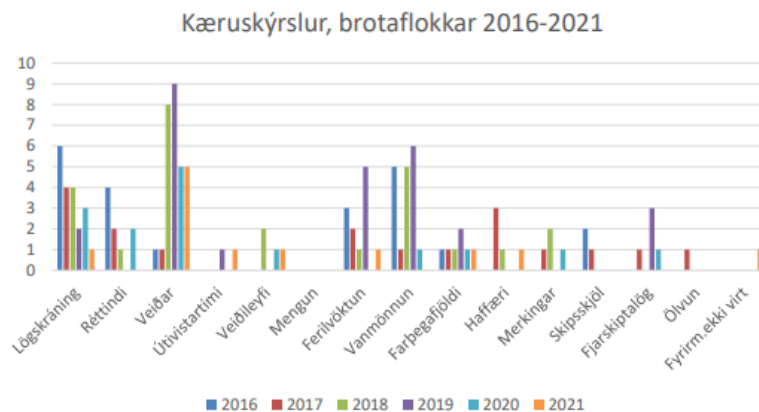
Number of Inspections from 2011



Figure 4. Number of inspections by the Icelandic Coast Guard 2011–2021 (source: PowerPoint presentation provided to the assessment team by the Coast Guard during the site visit; on file with the team).



Overview of Infringement reports in 2016-2021



- Not all reports are due to Fishing Infringement.
- One report can include more than one type of Apparent Infringement.
- 8 reports of Apparent Infringement in 2021, 6-8 still pending.
- Types of Apparent Infringement in 2021, are:

Lögskráningar/Crew registry, Veiðar/Fisheries, Veiðileyfi/Fishing-permit, Ferilvöktun/Vessel-monitoring, Farþegafjöldi/Passengers, Haffæri/Sea-worthiness and a new addition Fyrirmæli-ekki-fylgt/Instructions-not-obeyed.

Figure 5. Number of infringements detected by the Icelandic Coast Guard 2016–2021 (source: PowerPoint presentation provided by the Coast Guard during the site visit; on file with the assessment team).

4.2.6 Traceability

There have been no significant developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish).

4.3 Version details

The versions of the MSC fisheries program documents used for this assessment are outlined in Table 4 below.

Table 4. MSC Scheme Documents and Report Templates used during this assessment.

Document	Version Number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) (and Guidance)	2.2
MSC Fisheries Standard (and Guidance)	2.0
MSC General Certification Requirements (GCR)	2.4.1
MSC Reporting Template	2.1

5 Results

5.1 Surveillance results overview

5.1.1 Summary of conditions

The table below summarise progress against the two existing conditions of certification at the time the surveillance was announced. No new conditions were identified in this surveillance.

Table 5. Summary of conditions.

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years.	1.2.2	On target	75	Not revised
2	By the re-assessment audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.	2.3.2	Closed at Surveillance 3 (Ahead of target)	75	80

5.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

TAC and catch data are shown in the table below.

Table 6. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data.

TAC	Year	2021/2022	Amount	1288 t
UoA share of TAC	Year	2021/2022	Amount	100%
UoA share of total TAC	Year	2021/2022	Amount	1288 t
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2019/2020	Amount	1096 t
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	2018/2019	Amount	1526 t

5.1.3 Recommendations

No new recommendations have been identified in this surveillance assessment.

5.2 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator (PI) 2.3.2 has been re-scored. Retained original text is shown in black font, deleted text is ~~scored through and greyed out~~, revised text is shown in blue font.

5.2.1 Principle 2

PI 2.3.2 – ETP species management strategy

PI 2.3.2		The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Management strategy in place (national and international requirements)			
	Guide post	There are measures in place that minimise the UoA-related mortality of ETP species, and are expected to be highly likely to achieve national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.	There is a strategy in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimise mortality, which is designed to be highly likely to achieve national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.	There is a comprehensive strategy in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimise mortality, which is designed to achieve above national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.
	Met?	NA	NA	NA
Rationale				
This scoring issue is not scored because there are no requirements for protection or rebuilding provided through national Icelandic ETP legislation or international agreements (see Section 3.4.7).				
b	Management strategy in place (alternative)			
	Guide post	There are measures in place that are expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.	There is a strategy in place that is expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.	There is a comprehensive strategy in place for managing ETP species, to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.
	Met?	Yes	No Yes	No
Rationale				
ETP elements As described in Section 3.4.7.3 of the main report, ETP elements considered include 8 species of whale (sei whale, blue whale, fin whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, common minke whale, humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale), the hooded seal and 3 species of seabirds (black guillemot, Northern gannet and Atlantic puffin). Interaction with the whale species and marine birds is considered negligible for all gears.				
All gears Various measures are taken to ensure the protection of juvenile fish, vulnerable and critical habitats and such measures will serve to reduce bycatch of ETP seabird and marine mammal species. Although not specifically established to protect such species, area closures in particular will also serve to maintain bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds at low levels since bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located. In addition, bottom trawl and <i>Nephrops</i> trawl are prohibited from operating within 12 Nm from the coast, which further limits interaction with ETP species.				

PI 2.3.2

The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:

- meet national and international requirements;
- ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species.

Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

The measures include regulations on the type of fishing gear allowed in different areas, rules on the minimum mesh size and closed areas including permanent closures for habitat protection and temporary closures to protect juvenile fish and spawning/nursery areas (see Figure 3-21 and 3-22). The long-term area closures in place may apply to specific fishing gear, fishing-vessel size or all fishing for certain periods of time. For instance, in order to protect the spawning stock of cod, extensive seasonal closures are in operation during the spawning season (Regulation nr. 30/2005); all cod fisheries are closed within 12 miles along the south and west coast and within 6 miles along the north and east coast in April each year.

Additional measures in place to manage bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds in Icelandic fisheries include:

- Marine mammal and seabird bycatch is monitored by mandatory eLog system, and onboard observers from the DF and the MFRI, which monitor ca. 1-2% of all fishing trips by bottom and nephrops trawl.
- Fishers are not allowed to offer for sale, give away, nor accept as a gift, any bird that has been killed in fishing nets.
- Any birds or mammal caught alive must be released.

The vast majority of marine mammal and seabird bycatch is associated with gillnets and longlines, see table below. More recent data is available from ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (ICES, 2022) which provided data on bycatch by gear type in Icelandic waters over the period 2017-2020 and found one incident of marine mammal bycatch associated with bottom trawl (one individual of harp seal, *Pagophilus groenlandicus*) with the other bycatch all associated with nets and longlines.

Further measures have recently been introduced to specifically address marine mammal bycatch in the lumpfish gillnet fishery including the implementation of 14 closed areas in 2020 through the lumpfish regulations (Regulations No.'s 165/2020, 288/2021 and 267/2022). Given compliance issues noted with recording of bycatch in the gillnet fisheries (as evidenced by significant differences in bycatch between trips when Inspectors were present and when they were not, e.g. Basran & Sigurðsson, 2021) a regulation has been introduced requiring the electronic submission of catch data including marine mammal and seabird bycatch (Regulation No. 298/2020) accompanied by a smartphone app to facilitate recording of catch by the smaller vessels involved in the fishery which had been using paper logbooks.

Table 7. Estimates of fishing gear interaction with marine mammal and seabirds, raised to the level of the fleet and averaged across years 2014 – 2017. Also included are logbook reported catches. Trawl refers to bottom trawl (Source: MFRI, 2017).

Species	Estimated total annual bycatch (average 2014 – 2017)			Bycatch observations (2014 – 2016)			Logbook reported (average 2014 – 2016)		
	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl
Birds									
Atlantic puffin	10.5	0	0	1			1		
Black guillemot	0	0	0				13		
Brünnich's guillemot	0	0	0				1		
Common eider	79	0	0	2			18		
Common guillemot	470	0	0	44			41		
Common loon	46	0	0	3			1		
Cormorant	0	36	0		2		20		
Great black-backed gull	0	52	0		2		1	8	
Lesser black-backed gull	0	114	0						
Northern fulmar	1,436	1,148	0	17	48			76	
Northern gannet	141	354	36	12		2			

PI 2.3.2

The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:

- meet national and international requirements;
- ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species.

Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

Razorbill	21	0	0	2		1		
Marine mammals								
Grey seal	0	0	15.5		1	11		
Harbour porpoise	1,353	0	0	64		29		
Harbour seal	11.5	0	21.5	1	1	34		
Harp seal*	112	0	0	9		6		
Hooded seal*	11.5	0	0			1		
Ringed seal*	24.5	0	0	1				
White-beaked dolphin	0	0	0			1		

* According to NAMMCO Working Group on By-Catch (BYCWG), these are likely to be from misidentification of harbour and grey seals.

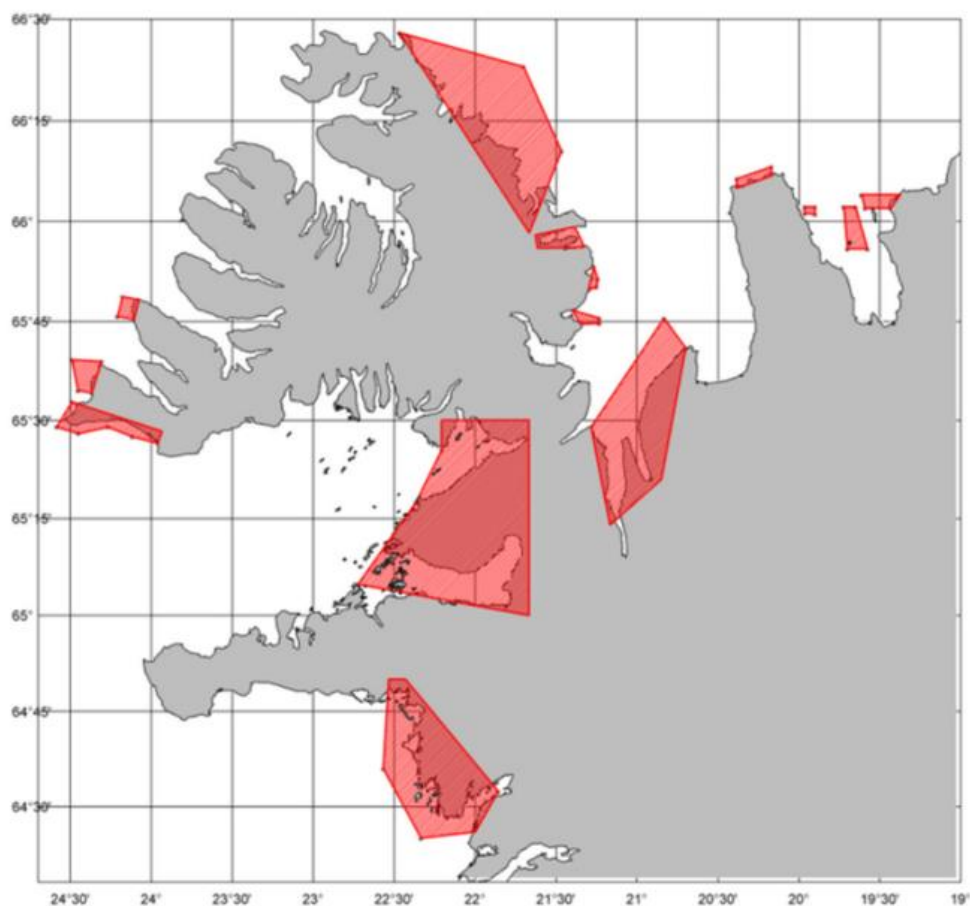


Figure 6. Areas closed to lumpfish fishing from 2020 to reduce the risk of marine mammal bycatch (source: MFRI, 2022b).

The available information indicates that the UoAs have a minor impact on marine mammals and seabirds, with records of incidental capture limited to small numbers in the bottom trawl fishery. Nonetheless there are measures in place. These measures are specifically in relation to monitoring interaction between the UoAs under assessment, which ~~is~~ are expected to maintain / not hinder recover of ETP species, including area closures, and the monitoring and reporting of catches. **SG 60 is met.** However, ~~these~~ These measures are ~~not~~ considered to form a cohesive and strategic arrangement strategy that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species, ~~nor~~ does it contain and includes mechanisms for the modification of fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts for example, the management system has responded to the information from monitoring on the risk posed by the lumpfish gillnet fishery and closed sensitive areas; **SG 80 is met.** The strategy cannot be

PI 2.3.2

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Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

considered to be comprehensive, given it is not a complete and tested strategy made up of linked monitoring, analyses, and management measures and responses. **SG 100** is ~~are~~ not met.

Management strategy evaluation				
C	Guide post	The measures are considered likely to work, based on plausible argument (e.g., general experience, theory or comparison with similar fisheries/species).	There is an objective basis for confidence that the measures/strategy will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or the species involved.	The strategy/comprehensive strategy is mainly based on information directly about the fishery and/or species involved, and a quantitative analysis supports high confidence that the strategy will work.
	Met?	Yes	Yes	No

Rationale

All gears

The measures which are currently in place (see scoring issue 'ab' for a description) although **most** are not established to reduce catches of ETP species, can be expected to protect ETP species and to maintain bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds at low levels since bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located. SG 60 is thus met.

There are a number of measures that aim to ensure compliance with the law, including monitoring and surveillance which are conducted by the DF and the coast guard to ensure compliance of regulations. This allows objective confidence that these measures will work. SG60 and SG80 are met.

Quantitative evidence exists through observer data that has been analysed and extrapolated to cover fleet wide interactions with ETP species. However, the proportion of fleet observed, together with the lack of analysis of data from the eLog system, does not allow determination of the success of management to be made with high confidence.

Furthermore, it is considered that the measures do not combine to form a cohesive, comprehensive strategy specifically addressing impacts on ETP species. SG100 is not met.

Management strategy implementation				
d	Guide post		There is some evidence that the measures/strategy is being implemented successfully.	There is clear evidence that the strategy/comprehensive strategy is being implemented successfully and is achieving its objective as set out in scoring issue (a) or (b).
	Met?		Yes	No

Rationale

All gears

Control and surveillance information indicates that temporal and permanent fishing ground closures are respected, and restrictions on coastal fishing are likely to have reduced fishing mortality rates of ETP marine mammal and seabird species. There is thus some evidence that management measures are being implemented

PI 2.3.2

The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:

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Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

successfully; SG 80 is met. Clear evidence that the strategy is being implemented successfully and is achieving its objective of ensuring the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species is lacking, SG100 is not met.

Review of alternative measures to minimize mortality of ETP species				
e	Guide post	There is a review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of ETP species.	There is a regular review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of ETP species and they are implemented as appropriate.	There is a biennial review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality ETP species, and they are implemented, as appropriate.
	Met?	Yes	Yes	No

Rationale

All gears

The review of the onboard observer data by MFRI scientists represents an ongoing review of the effectiveness of current measures to minimise unwanted ETP interactions. The evaluation of the performance of the current measures occurs every two to three years for observer bycatch analysis and reporting, and with review of the effectiveness of the system in the past two years which resulted in improvements in the e-Log recording system. As such the frequency of reviews is considered regular.

The effectiveness of measures to minimise UoA related mortality is kept under review by the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) which has met regularly since 2009. The latest WGBYC workshop was held in May 2018, in Reykjavik, Iceland (ICES, 2018). WGBYC reports and reviews progress being made with mitigation measures by EU Member States and ICES Member countries with coastal area in the European Atlantic (e.g. Iceland). The report includes species considered to be ETP species within this assessment i.e. hooded seal. The fishing industry routinely and regularly review gear technology. The ultimate aim of this is to improve efficiency and as part of that aim, reduce the levels of unwanted catch and minimise seabed contact.

A specific committee was established in 2019 with members from the MFRI, the Directorate, the Ministry of Industry and Innovation, the fishing industry and select external experts. The remit of the committee, termed 'the Committee on Consultation on Responsible Management of Living Marine Resources', was to work towards addressing the issue of non-commercial bycatches (i.e. seabirds and mammals) in Icelandic fisheries by evaluating unwanted seabird and marine mammal bycatch and considering ways that it can be reduced, based on 'best practice'.

The Committee made a number of recommendations to the Minister including:

- 1 Improvement of information collection and monitoring activities to gather reliable seabird and marine mammal bycatch information from vessel e-logbooks through technology development.
- 2 A species identification training program for fishermen and observers.
- 3 A general improvement in the quality of bycatch data and depth of information recorded to help design mitigation measures that will result in appropriate industry acceptance and buy in.
- 4 Measures to reduce bycatch (e.g. potential spatial/temporal closures at sensitive times such as around seal pupping or bird breeding season).

PI 2.3.2

The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:

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- ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species.

Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

The measures referred to in scoring issue b, namely implementation of closed areas in the lumpfish fishery to protect marine mammals and the introduction of a smartphone app for recording catches, including marine mammal and seabird bycatch, were some of the outcomes of this review.

A workshop on new technology for Nordic fishing fleets was held in Reykjavik in 2013. This reviewed new gear technology in relation to selectiveness of fishing gear, environmental impacts of fishing gear and catch handling. The effectiveness and practicalities of various technologies were discussed at this workshop, which was attended by international experts in this field from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Faroe Islands (Viðarsson et al. 2014).

Other fishing gear development workshops with Icelandic participation have been held, including in Hirtshals, Denmark, in 2009. At this workshop funded by SINTEF, international experts from Iceland, Denmark and Norway explored use of seine nets and trawl concepts within a flume tank with the aim of working towards more efficient fishing gear (SINTEF, 2009).

In terms of implementation of measures, the Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for the implementation of laws and regulations regarding fisheries management in Iceland and for monitoring and enforcement regarding the fisheries operation

The Iceland Coast Guard, monitors the fisheries of vessels operating in Icelandic waters, as well as monitoring closed areas. Additionally, it inspects the fishing gear, for example the mesh size of the nets.”

Bottom trawl, nephrops trawl and Danish seine are considered lower risk, with negligible ETP interactions (MFRI pers. Comm.) and therefore management response and review frequency is appropriate. Based on the very low levels of interaction (no hooded seal are recorded within observer data for interactions with demersal trawl or seine gear), it is concluded that alternative measures are not required. SG60 and SG80 are met.

However, there is no biennial review of the potential effectiveness of such measures, so SG100 is not met.

References

Basran & Sigurðsson, 2021. Using Case Studies to Investigate Cetacean Bycatch/Interaction Under-Reporting in Countries With Reporting Legislation. *Front. Mar. Sci.*, 01 December 2021. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.779066>

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Lumpfish Regulation No. 267/2022. <https://www.reglugerd.is/reglugerdir/eftir-raduneytum/atvinnuvega--og-nyskopunarraduneyti/nr/22988>

Lumpfish Regulation No. 288/2021. <https://island.is/reglugerdir/nr/0288-2021>

Lumpfish Regulation No. 165/2020.

PI 2.3.2

The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:

- meet national and international requirements;
- ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species.

Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

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MFRI, 2022b. HROGNKELSI – LUMPFISH (*Cyclopterus lumpus*). Tec. report. State of Marine Stocks and Advice 2022. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, 31 March 2022.

https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/tech_report-20221313044.pdf

MFRI, 2017. Information provided by MFRI to the Global Trust assessment team during a previous audit.

Regulation No. 298/2020 on registration and electronic submission of catch information.

<https://island.is/reglugerdir/nr/0298-2020>

Overall Performance Indicator score

Overall Performance Indicator score	Units of Assessment	Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
		SG60	SG80	SG100	
Overall Performance Indicator score	UoA 1 Bottom trawl	3 of 3	3 4 of 4	0 of 4	75 80
	UoA 2 <i>Nephrops</i> trawl	3 of 3	3 4 of 4	0 of 4	75 80
	UoA 3 Danish seine	3 of 3	3 4 of 4	0 of 4	75 80
Condition number (if relevant)					2

PI 2.3.3 – ETP species information

PI 2.3.3		Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information for the development of the management strategy; - Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and - Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species 		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Information adequacy for assessment of impacts			
	Guide post	Qualitative information is adequate to estimate the UoA related mortality on ETP species. OR If RBF is used to score PI 2.3.1 for the UoA: Qualitative information is adequate to estimate productivity and susceptibility attributes for ETP species.	Some quantitative information is adequate to assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species. OR If RBF is used to score PI 2.3.1 for the UoA: Some quantitative information is adequate to assess productivity and susceptibility attributes for ETP species.	Quantitative information is available to assess with a high degree of certainty the magnitude of UoA-related impacts, mortalities and injuries and the consequences for the status of ETP species.
	Met?	Yes	Yes	No
Rationale				
<p>ETP elements as described in Section 3.4.7.3 of the main report, ETP elements considered include 8 species of whale (sei whale, blue whale, fin whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, common minke whale, humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale), the hooded seal and 23 species of marine birds (black guillemot, Northern gannet and Atlantic puffin). Interaction with the whale species and marine birds is considered negligible for all gears. All gear Routine scientific surveys are supplemented by targeted research projects and population counts in Iceland, including for ETP marine mammal and seabirds.</p> <p>For example, during June-August 2015, the MRI participated in a large-scale cetacean sightings survey (NASS-2015) conducted in cooperation with the Faroes, Greenland and Norway under coordination of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. The Icelandic part of the survey was conducted from two research vessels and one aircraft (NAMMCO, 2016). Seabird surveys are carried out by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, as well as through ad hoc scientific studies (e.g. Gardarsson and Jónsson (2014). Icelandic regulations require that all bycatch is recorded. Information is collected on spatial and temporal fishing patterns through the use of Vessel Monitoring System, and the presence / absence of bycatch of ETP species on the fishing grounds is evaluated through the use of onboard observers, logbooks (e-Log), scientific research at sea, and sampling of landed catches.</p> <p>Data from e-log on out-of-scope and ETP species was not available to the team, however MFRI, MII and the vessel skipper interviewed corroborated that incidents were very rare and considered negligible. MFRI observer data is available to quantify the level of interaction with ETP species in these fisheries. Data from the observer program was made available to the team and is presented within the report (see Table 3-13 and Table 3-14). This data corroborates the negligible nature of interaction with out-of-scope species considered within the assessment. This data is recorded on 1-2% of fishing effort and is therefore considered as some quantitative data, meeting SG60 and SG80. The level of observer coverage (1-2%) does not allow a high degree of certainty. SG100 is not met.</p>				
b	Information adequacy for management strategy			

PI 2.3.3		Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information for the development of the management strategy; - Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and - Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species 		
	Guide post	Information is adequate to support measures to manage the impacts on ETP species.	Information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species.	Information is adequate to support a comprehensive strategy to manage impacts, minimize mortality and injury of ETP species, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether a strategy is achieving its objectives.
	Met?	Yes	Yes	No

Rationale

All gears Information is collected on spatial and temporal fishing patterns through the use of Vessel Monitoring System, and the presence / absence of bycatch of ETP species on the fishing grounds is evaluated through the use of onboard observers, logbooks, scientific research at sea, and sampling of landed catches. There is thus a recurrent monitoring and scientific survey system in place to estimate the trend and relative quantities of ETP species, which is a necessary prerequisite to the implementation of bycatch management measures and manage fishing impacts on such species.

Efforts have been made recently to improve and make easier the provision of information on catches by vessel captains. A regulation has been introduced requiring the electronic submission of catch data including marine mammal and seabird bycatch (Regulation No. 298/2020) accompanied by a smartphone app to facilitate recording of catch by the smaller vessels which had been using paper logbooks.

The team considers that the information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species. SG 80 is met. The information available at present would however not be adequate to evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether the strategy is achieving its objective. SG 100 is not met.

A recommendation (Recommendation 2) has been raised to ensure that electronic logbook records of ETP species are correctly filled and submitted by fishers in future (if any), and that such records are adequately monitored by the MFRI through ad hoc onboard observations and annual analysis of available data. This recommendation is in line with Recommendation 1 set for out-of-scope secondary species for PI 2.2.3

References

Gardarsson and Jónsson 2014; NAMMCO 2016; Þorbjörnsson 2017.

Regulation No. 298/2020 on registration and electronic submission of catch information.
<https://island.is/reglugerdir/nr/0298-2020>

Overall Performance Indicator score

	Units of Assessment	Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
		SG60	SG80	SG100	
Overall Performance Indicator score	UoA 1 Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 0	80
	UoA 2 <i>Nephrops</i> trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 0	80
	UoA 3 Danish seine	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 0	80

PI 2.3.3

Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including:

- Information for the development of the management strategy;
- Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and
- Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species

Condition number (if relevant)

5.2.2 Updated Performance Indicator and Principle-level scores

Based on the scores originally awarded during the original assessment and scores updated during this assessment, the Performance Indicator (PI) and Principle-level scores are as outlined below; in summary:

- The 3 certified UoAs continue to achieve an overall weighted Principle-level score of ≥ 80 for each MSC Principle.
- None of the 3 certified UoAs score < 60 against any Performance Indicator.

Therefore, all 3 certified UoAs remain in overall compliance and as such are eligible for MSC certification.

With that being said, while the UoAs are in overall compliance, the performance of all UoAs against PI 1.2.2 remains below the established un-conditional pass mark (of meeting all applicable SG80s), see table below.

Table 8. Updated PI-level scores for each Unit of Certification where; UoC 1 = Bottom trawl, UoA 2 = Nephrops trawl, UoA 3 = Danish seine. Scores in bold have been revised during this surveillance assessment.

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator (PI)	UoC 1	UoC 2	UoC 3
One	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	80		
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding			
	Management	1.2.1 Harvest strategy	80		
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules & tools	75		
		1.2.3 Information & monitoring	100		
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	80		
Two	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome	95	95	95
		2.1.2 Management strategy	90	90	90
		2.1.3 Information/Monitoring	100	100	100
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome	80	80	80
		2.2.2 Management strategy	85	85	85
		2.2.3 Information/Monitoring	85	85	85
	ETP species	2.3.1 Outcome	80	80	80
		2.3.2 Management strategy	80	80	80
		2.3.3 Information strategy	80	80	80
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome	80	80	85
		2.4.2 Management strategy	80	80	80
		2.4.3 Information	85	85	85
Three	Governance and policy	2.5.1 Outcome	100	100	100
		2.5.2 Management	85	85	85
		2.5.3 Information	85	85	85
	Fishery specific management system	3.1.1 Legal &/or customary framework	100		
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles & responsibilities	85		
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	100		
		3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	90		
		3.2.2 Decision making processes	85		
		3.2.3 Compliance & enforcement	80		
		3.2.4 Monitoring & management performance evaluation	80		

5.2.2.1 Updated Performance Indicator level scores

Revised scores for each Performance Indicator (for each UoC) following this assessment are shown in the table below, where PIs continue to score < 80 the previously raised condition remains in place.

Table 9. Updated Principle-level scores; scores in bold have been revised during this surveillance assessment.

Overall weighted Principle-level scores	UoC 1 Bottom Trawl	UoA 2 Nephrops trawl	UoA 3 Danish trawl
Principle 1 - Target species		82.5	
Principle 2 - Ecosystem	86.0	86.0	86.3
Principle 3 - Management		89.4	

5.3 Conditions

5.3.1 Closed Conditions

The condition on PI 2.3.2 has been closed during this surveillance audit. The justification is set out in the table below and the re-scored performance indicator for PI 2.3.2 is provided in section 5.2.1.

Table 10. Condition 2 - CLOSED

Performance Indicator	PI 2.3.2: The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. SI b) There is a strategy in place that is expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.	
Score	75	
Justification	Interaction between bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine with ETP species is expected to be low to negligible. Measures in place including closures, seasonal closures, restrictions on gear operation within inshore waters, some monitoring of bycatch, and requirement to release live birds and mammals. However, these measures are not considered to form a cohesive strategy that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species, nor does it contain any mechanism for the modification fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. This issue was not identified in other ISF fisheries and has therefore not been harmonised with the ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk, ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice, and ISF Greenland halibut fisheries, where there is no condition for this PI.	
Condition	By the fourth surveillance audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.	
Condition start	2018	
Condition deadline	2024 (Re-assessment) (amended at second surveillance as per MSC Derogation 6)	
Milestones	In the second surveillance, condition milestones were extended as per MSC Derogation 6 Year 1: Develop and propose a strategy that contains mechanism for the modification of fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts and therefore ensures that the bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine fisheries do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of vulnerable ETP marine mammal and seabird species. Score: 75 Year 3 (Third surveillance audit): Consult with industry and all stakeholders on the proposed strategy and amend accordingly. Score: 75 Year 4 (Fourth surveillance audit): Formally commit to the new strategy. Score: 75 Year 5 (Re-assessment): Demonstrate that the management strategy has been fully adopted and associated measures have been implemented as appropriate. Score: 80	
Progress on Condition (Year X)	<i>The progress made by the fishery client to address conditions shall be detailed, along with any observations from the assessment team. The CAB may include progress summaries from previous surveillance audits.</i>	
	Year 1	The client is working with MFRI and MII to ensure that on-board recording and monitoring of any ETP bycatch is of good quality, by improving identification and recording practices. The client provided minutes of meetings between these and fishing industry stakeholders where bycatch management was discussed, which is the evidence required for the year 1 milestone. The MFRI focus has been on high risk gears with respect to seal-ETP management, such as in the lumpfish fishery (Client information, site visit Oct 2019). Nevertheless, since 2016 MFRI have been publishing bycatch rates of seabirds and marine mammals in annual reports of the ICES working group on bycatch of protected, endangered or threatened species (The 2019 report 4 can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/y29e4s66). This record covers all gears including trawl.
	Year 2	By year 2 there have not been relevant changes done in the measures implemented in the fishery that allow protecting ETPs species. However, some new closed areas have been defined for lumpfish fishery that could also help the ETPs impacted by this

Table 10. Condition 2 - CLOSED

	<p>fishery, there is no further measures defined to specifically protect ETPs. As MSC guidance states strategy shall include voluntary or customary arrangements, agreements or practices aimed at ensuring that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery of ETP species.</p> <p>During the site visit, the assessment team was informed of a project between Birdlife and MSC in Icelandic waters that even is still in development, it will be led to improve the interactions with seabirds.</p> <p>Effort to manage marine mammals are better defined than in seabirds. There are already works done to improve data collection, surveys and observer programmes to obtain accurate results that help to implement measures directedly defined to protect these species.</p> <p>However, due to COVID-19 and the current world situation, the team was not able to gather the enough information required to evaluate the progress of this condition in year 2.</p> <p>The derogation 6 posted by MSC on February 24th, 2021 has been applied to this condition. The condition on PI 2.3.2 complies with the eligibility of the derogation requirement as the PIs is listed in the 'table 1: Eligible performance indicators' (Please see derogation 6 text included as appendix 1).</p> <p>Therefore, the CAB has revised the milestones for this condition by extending the deadline by 12 months. The revised CAP is included in this report.</p>
Year 3	<p>The vast majority of marine mammal and seabird bycatch is associated with gillnets and longlines, see Table 7. More recent data is available from the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (ICES, 2022) which provided data on bycatch by gear type in Icelandic waters over the period 2017-2020 and found one incident of marine mammal bycatch associated with bottom trawl (one individual of harp seal, <i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>) with the other bycatch all associated with nets and longlines.</p> <p>A Committee was established in 2019, termed 'the Committee on Consultation on Responsible Management of Living Marine Resources', to specifically address the issue of non-commercial bycatches (i.e. seabirds and mammals) in Icelandic fisheries by evaluating unwanted seabird and marine mammal bycatch and considering ways that it can be reduced, based on 'best practice'. It comprised members from the MFRI, the Directorate, the Ministry of Industry and Innovation, the fishing industry and select external experts.</p> <p>The Committee made a number of recommendations to the Minister including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Improvement of information collection and monitoring activities to gather reliable seabird and marine mammal bycatch information from vessel e-logbooks through technology development. 2 A species identification training program for fishermen and observers. 3 A general improvement in the quality of bycatch data and depth of information recorded to help design mitigation measures that will result in appropriate industry acceptance and buy in. 4 Measures to reduce bycatch (e.g. potential spatial/temporal closures at sensitive times such as around seal pupping or bird breeding season). <p>A number of measures (see the revised PI 2.3.2 for further detail) were implemented as a result, namely closed areas in the lumpfish fishery to protect marine mammals and the introduction of a smartphone app for recording catches, including marine mammal and seabird bycatch.</p>

Table 10. Condition 2 - CLOSED

		<p>The available information indicates that the UoAs in this fishery have a minor impact on marine mammals and seabirds, with records of incidental capture limited to small numbers in the bottom trawl fishery. Nonetheless there are measures in place which are expected to maintain / not hinder recover of ETP species, including area closures, and the monitoring and reporting of catches sufficient to meet SG60 of PI 2.3.2.</p> <p>Further, these measures are considered to form a cohesive and strategic arrangement that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species and includes mechanisms for the modification of fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. For example, the management system has responded to the information from monitoring on the risk posed by the lumpfish gillnet fishery and closed sensitive areas. As such, SG 80 is met.</p>
	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Summary of progress</i>
	<i>Insert additional years if relevant</i>	
Progress status	Closed – ahead of target	

5.3.2 Progress against conditions

Progress against the one remaining condition of certification for this fishery is reported in the table below. The condition is considered to be on target.

Table 11. Condition 1 of 1									
Performance Indicator	PI 1.2.2 There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place								
Score	75								
Justification	<p>The harvest control rule is based on calculating the TAC corresponding to a proxy of F_{MSY} in the latest stock assessment model. At least this part of the harvest control rule is well defined and is clearly consistent with the overall MSY-based harvest strategy.</p> <p>However, to what extent exploitation might be reduced as PRI is approached is not clear. The clear target exploitation levels required and delivered by the harvest control rules, together with the intention to reduce exploitation below the trigger point, meet the SG60. However, the lack of a well-defined response should the stock fall below a trigger reference point prevents the SG80 being met.</p>								
Condition	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years.								
Condition start	2019								
Condition deadline	2022								
Milestones	<p>It is recognised that changes to the harvest control rule may require another benchmark assessment. Therefore, timing may need to fit into the MFRI stock assessment cycle.</p> <p>Year 1: Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year 2: 3 (Third surveillance audit): Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year 3: 4 (Fourth surveillance audit): Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year 4: 5 (Re-assessment): A new harvest control rule is adopted that reduces exploitation as the limit reference point is approached. Score 80.</p>								
Progress on Condition (Year X)	<p><i>The progress made by the fishery client to address conditions shall be detailed, along with any observations from the assessment team. The CAB may include progress summaries from previous surveillance audits.</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Year 1</td><td>The client briefed the MII and MFRI on requirements of the MSC conditions and a meeting was carried out between ISF, MII and MFRI (see: minutes in Icelandic). MFRI work on the lemon sole HCR is well underway. During the site visit it was clear that even if an HCR (to reduce exploitation in case the biomass is low) is not outlined in any legislation, MFRI and MII confirmed that the TAC is always set in accordance with the scientific advice. Therefore, this is evidence that a re-assessment of the HCR is already in place and in the case a zero catch is recommended by MFRI the TAC agreed by MII will be zero. An example given is the case of capelin in Icelandic waters (see: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/LodnaHaust20181100274.pdf)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td><td>MFRI evidenced that this stock will be further scrutinized with the aim to perform an analytical assessment and estimate biomass reference points that will be integrated in a formal HCR. Therefore, the progress on condition is in line with the milestone at year 2. However, due to the application of derogation 6, all the milestones will be extended by 12 months and that will apply for this milestone too.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td><td>MFRI evidenced that for this stock an exploratory model for lemon sole was developed using Gadget. This work was initiated to fulfil the request from the industry to have an analytical assessment framework for this species. This is a work in progress and the preliminary results are outlined in section 4.2.3. Therefore, this can be considered an evidence of the reassessment of the HCR based on new reference points estimated in the framework of Gadget model.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td><td>Summary of progress</td></tr> </table>	Year 1	The client briefed the MII and MFRI on requirements of the MSC conditions and a meeting was carried out between ISF, MII and MFRI (see: minutes in Icelandic). MFRI work on the lemon sole HCR is well underway. During the site visit it was clear that even if an HCR (to reduce exploitation in case the biomass is low) is not outlined in any legislation, MFRI and MII confirmed that the TAC is always set in accordance with the scientific advice. Therefore, this is evidence that a re-assessment of the HCR is already in place and in the case a zero catch is recommended by MFRI the TAC agreed by MII will be zero. An example given is the case of capelin in Icelandic waters (see: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/LodnaHaust20181100274.pdf)	Year 2	MFRI evidenced that this stock will be further scrutinized with the aim to perform an analytical assessment and estimate biomass reference points that will be integrated in a formal HCR. Therefore, the progress on condition is in line with the milestone at year 2. However, due to the application of derogation 6, all the milestones will be extended by 12 months and that will apply for this milestone too.	Year 3	MFRI evidenced that for this stock an exploratory model for lemon sole was developed using Gadget. This work was initiated to fulfil the request from the industry to have an analytical assessment framework for this species. This is a work in progress and the preliminary results are outlined in section 4.2.3. Therefore, this can be considered an evidence of the reassessment of the HCR based on new reference points estimated in the framework of Gadget model.	Year 4	Summary of progress
Year 1	The client briefed the MII and MFRI on requirements of the MSC conditions and a meeting was carried out between ISF, MII and MFRI (see: minutes in Icelandic). MFRI work on the lemon sole HCR is well underway. During the site visit it was clear that even if an HCR (to reduce exploitation in case the biomass is low) is not outlined in any legislation, MFRI and MII confirmed that the TAC is always set in accordance with the scientific advice. Therefore, this is evidence that a re-assessment of the HCR is already in place and in the case a zero catch is recommended by MFRI the TAC agreed by MII will be zero. An example given is the case of capelin in Icelandic waters (see: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/LodnaHaust20181100274.pdf)								
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Year 3	MFRI evidenced that for this stock an exploratory model for lemon sole was developed using Gadget. This work was initiated to fulfil the request from the industry to have an analytical assessment framework for this species. This is a work in progress and the preliminary results are outlined in section 4.2.3. Therefore, this can be considered an evidence of the reassessment of the HCR based on new reference points estimated in the framework of Gadget model.								
Year 4	Summary of progress								

Table 11. Condition 1 of 1

	<i>Insert additional years if relevant</i>	
Progress status	On target.	
Remedial action	No remedial actions are required, the client group was requested to revise their CAP for this condition in light of the revised (i.e. extended) milestones which they subsequently did.	
Additional information	No additional information.	

5.3.3 New conditions

No new conditions have been identified in this surveillance.

5.4 Client Action Plan

As all conditions are considered to be on target no revisions to the Client Action Plan are required.

6 Appendices

6.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

6.1.1 Site visits

The majority of the site visit meetings took place in Iceland between the 11th and 13th April but to allow for availability of attendees a number of meetings were held later, on the 19th April (with the eNGOs) and on the 4th May (with the vessel captains). The closing meeting was also held on the 4th May. The audit was undertaken as a joint audit with a number of other ISF fisheries – see table below. All the meetings took place in English.

The P1 assessor attended remotely from his home office due to COVID restricting travel for him. This was consistent with the MSC Derogation 3⁸, as section 1.1 a) applied, i.e. COVID-related travel restrictions impacted the assessment team, and consequently section 1.3 a) allows surveillance audits to be undertaken remotely. The P2/lead assessor was on-site for the audit.

Table 12. ISF Iceland audits and assessment teams spring 2022. Fishery under assessment is in bold text.

Fishery	2022 audit	Assessors		
		P1	P2	P3
ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	Initial assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella	Conor Donnelly	Geir Hønneland
ISF Iceland capelin	Re-assessment	Hans Lassen	Conor Donnelly	Geir Hønneland
ISF Iceland cod		Giuseppe Scarcella	Efthymia Tsitsika	Geir Hønneland
ISF Iceland haddock		Giuseppe Scarcella	Efthymia Tsitsika	Geir Hønneland
ISF Iceland lumpfish	Surveillance 1	Giuseppe Scarcella	Conor Donnelly	-
ISF Iceland multi-species demersal	Surveillance 2	Giuseppe Scarcella	Conor Donnelly	-
ISF Iceland lemon sole	Surveillance 3	Giuseppe Scarcella	Conor Donnelly	-
ISF Iceland anglerfish	Surveillance 4	Giuseppe Scarcella	Jose Peiro Crespo	Geir Hønneland
ISF Greenland halibut		Giuseppe Scarcella	Jose Peiro Crespo	Geir Hønneland

The table below details the organisations that were consulted through direct meetings during the site visit.

Table 13. Itinerary of site visit activities with dates, locations and organisations met. Attendees are on-site unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Meeting participants	
	Organisation	Name, Role
Opening meeting (ISF offices Reykjavík)		
Mon 11 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability) (remote)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor) (remote)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor) (remote)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager)
Icelandic Coast Guard meeting (Icelandic Coast Guard Offices, Reykjavík)		
Tue 12 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability) (remote)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor) (remote)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor) (remote)

⁸MSC Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing <https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/chain-of-custody-supporting-documents/msc-derogation-3-covid-19-fishery-and-chain-of-custody-remote-auditing-v4.pdf>

Table 13. Itinerary of site visit activities with dates, locations and organisations met. Attendees are on-site unless otherwise indicated.

Otherwise indicated.		
Date	Meeting participants	
	Organisation	Name, Role
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager) (remote)
	Icelandic Coast Guard	Björgólfur H. Ingason (Chief Controller)
Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) meeting (MFRI offices, Hafnarfjörður)		
Tue 12 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability) (remote)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor) (remote)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor) (remote)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager) (remote)
	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)	Bjarki Þór Elvarsson (Project Manager Advisory Process)
		Guðjón Már Sigurðsson (Research Scientist)
		Steinunn Hilma Ólafsdóttir (Marine Ecologist) (remote)
Sigurður Þór Jónsson (Fisheries Biologist - capelin stock co-ordinator) (remote)		
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries meeting (Ministry offices, Reykjavík)		
Wed 13 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability) (remote)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor) (remote)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor) (remote)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager) (remote)
	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries	Áslaug Eir Hólmgeirsdóttir (Director General, Fisheries) (remote)
		Skúli Kristinn Skúlason (Special Adviser)
Fiskistofa meeting (ISF offices Reykjavík, Fiskistofa attended remotely)		
Wed 13 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability) (remote)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor) (remote)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor) (remote)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager) (remote)
	Fiskistofa	Sævar Guðmundsson (Head of Department, Surveillance) (remote)
		Óttar Gautur Erlingsson (Head of Department, Fisheries Management) (remote)
Birdlife International meeting (MS Teams meeting – all remote)		
Tue 19 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Birdlife International	Rorv Crawford (Bycatch Programme Manager)

Table 13. Itinerary of site visit activities with dates, locations and organisations met. Attendees are on-site unless otherwise indicated.

Meeting participants		
Date	Organisation	Name, Role
		Yann Rouxel (Bycatch Project Manager)
BRIM and vessel captains meeting (MS Teams meeting – all remote)		
Wed 4 th May 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor)
		Jose Peiro Crespo (P2 Assessor)
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager)
	BRIM including vessel captains	Torfi Þ. Þorsteinsson (Director of Community Relations, BRIM)
		Ævar Johansson (Captain)
		Kristján (First mate)
		Birkir Hrannar Hjálmarsson (Director of IceFish and Freezer Vessels, BRIM)
Closing meeting (MS Teams meeting – all remote)		
Wed 4 th May 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)
		Geir Hønneland (Lead Assessor, P3 and Traceability)
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor)
		Hans Lassen (P1 Assessor)
		Efthymia Tsitsika (P2 Assessor)
		Jose Peiro Crespo P2 Assessor
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson (Project Manager)

6.1.2 Stakeholder participation

In terms of engagement strategy, Global Trust followed the consultation requirements laid out in the MSC FCP v2.2 (§4.2). In addition to posting information on the MSC webpage for this fishery and MSC email announcements, stakeholders were made aware of the assessment process, and of opportunities for them to contribute/comment, via direct emails. The opportunities for stakeholder engagement are set out in the table below.

Table 14. Stakeholder consultation process.

Date(s)	Purpose	Media
10 th March 2022	▪ Surveillance audit announcement	Notification on MSC website. Direct email to registered stakeholders.
11 th Apr – 4 th May 2022	▪ Site visit	Meetings with stakeholders
4 th July 2022	▪ Publication of surveillance report	Notification on MSC website. Direct email to registered stakeholders

6.2 Stakeholder input

6.2.1 Summary of written stakeholder input

No written stakeholder input has been received in the assessment thus far.

6.2.2 Summary of verbal stakeholder input

Included in the table below is a summary of verbal stakeholder input received during the site visit portion of this assessment. Please note that this summary is limited to the substantive issues discussed and is not intended to represent a *verbatim* account of stakeholder meetings. Please also note that as this was a combined audit with several ISF fisheries, the summary below encompasses discussions across all these fisheries not just ISF Iceland lemon sole.

Table 15. Summary of verbal information provided during meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
Mon 11 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Client opening meeting ▪ Change in staff. No significant changes. Reference to staff changes at Fisheries Iceland and main point of contact at the Ministry is now Skúli Kristinn Skúlason). ▪ Greater silver smelt (GSS). Discussed whether fishery occurs in Greenlandic EEZ, directed to Ministry. ▪ Cod and haddock. Discussed distribution of fishing effort, impact of COVID ▪ Capelin. No significant issues raised. ▪ Surveillances. Discussed whether any changes to fisheries (gear / spatial distribution) – nothing significant. ▪ P1 conditions. Lemon sole, angler – re-evaluation of HCRs, TACs not exceeded. Greenland halibut – conditions to be closed as surveillance 4. For review of HCRs client has met with MFRI who can explain what they are doing. Greenland halibut – waiting for benchmark, possibly affected by COVID; anglerfish – new in Iceland, relatively warmer water species – still learning about it; lemon sole – bottom fish committee working on this; lumpfish – benchmark held, complete revision of HCRs (January 2021), discussion occurring on moving lumpfish into quota system. Management plan for lumpfish with HCR, based on precautionary approach, currently well above B reference points, catches a little up but following all rules. ▪ Greenland halibut. Fished outside Icelandic EEZ? Agreement with Greenland but no agreement with Faroese – one of reasons for overshoot of quota. Agreement in place with Greenland but hasn't been renewed but still following its terms. ▪ P2. Lemon sole, mixed demersals, lumpfish – discussed whether any changes in gears, spatial distribution of fishery. ▪ Queried difference between anglerfish gillnet and Greenland halibut gillnet. ▪ GSS catch composition – seems correct to client. Cod & haddock bait – discussed composition and where sourced from. ▪ Discussed catch of marine mammals and birds, implementation of logbooks by fleet. Most of catch linked to lumpfish fishery. In other fisheries – all bycatch is decreasing, bycatch decreasing in cod gillnets due to decrease in use. Lumpfish catches occur as operate in different depths / areas to other fisheries. ▪ MMP Act (USA) – only lumpfish fishery not meeting requirements of the Act – indicates that bycatch not an issue for Icelandic fisheries except for lumpfish fishery. ▪ Lumpfish fishery not very active – couple of 100 licenses issued but only 29 activated. 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In lumpfish fishery there has been co-operation with fishers to identify and implement closed areas close to seal haul-outs. Client held specific meetings with MFRI to discuss lumpfish bycatch. Other mitigation ideas include decrease height of net to decrease risk of entanglement. RSPB/Birdlife International working with client using grant from MSC to develop 'googly eyes' to deter birds. MFRI have suggested using these on lumpfish gillnets too. ▪ Discussed MCS – logbook data when inspectors present / not-present on vessels; drone surveillance focused on smaller vessels. ▪ Noted change in harbour porpoise bycatch rate – 7,000 in cod gillnet 2003 compared to average of 800 over period 20016-2019 (MFRI advice 2021). ▪ Lumpfish regulation – annual regulation, measures are similar each year. E.g. timing of fishery opening changes from year to year – seek to open after seals pups have got a little older. ▪ Data is being reported on bird and marine mammal bycatch (e.g. information on harbour porpoise catches above) so if it occurs it is being recorded. ▪ SFS initiative – code to encourage everyone to be responsible, bring everything to shore not to discard. Fisheries Management Act – second sentence is about promoting protection and efficient utilisation. ▪ Stock status of non-target catches. Discussion over spotted wolffish post-release survival and discard recording. MFRI undertaking catch and release studies on the species. ▪ For more information on birds best to contact Natural History Institute. May also be worth contacting seal centre (Sela sedur?). ▪ Habitats and Ecosystem. Discussed distribution of fishing effort, reduction in area covered by bottom trawls. ▪ Gear technology. Hampidjan – looked at how fish species interact with different gears, use of lights to herd fish. ▪ Capelin fishing distribution. Caught around Icelandic EEZ, not fished in Greenland & Jan Mayen. Fish follow current from the north – spawn and die at Westmann Islands. Catch just before spawn. Discussed changing distribution of fish in E. Greenland and Norway. ▪ GSS. All vessels >15m and all fishing occurs >12nm offshore. ▪ Lumpfish conditions. No.'s 1 & 2 best to speak to Guðjón at MFRI. Prior to COVID, plans had been in place to increase inspection coverage to 5% but opportunity now 	

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			<p>passed. PI 2.2.2 – need to consider latest seal census. PI 2.3.1 – need updated census to understand what management required. Client discussed strategy to address impacts on marine mammals and seabirds with Ministry – asked to check back in May – lots of work in progress to address MMPA (USA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-species demersal conditions. PI 2.3.1. Annual process for identifying mitigation required speak to Guðjón at MFRI. Noted last report on ETP interactions and bycatch data was published October 2019, need for more recent information. PI 2.3.2. Discussed possibility of ISF funding a project to address lumpfish fishery e.g. recruit lumpfish fishers and gear manufacturers to try different versions of gear e.g. lowered net heights. Not being undertaken this season but possible for 2023. This year work is focussed on the 'googly eye' research. P3. Discussed condition on Greenland halibut and situation regarding international agreement on the stock - no change. Traceability. GSS caught using freezer trawler. 1 month trips, processed on board. Client shared video of freezer trawler used in demersal fisheries (GSS, cod, haddock, Greenland halibut etc.). 	
Tue 12 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Icelandic Coast Guard. No significant changes in personnel P1. Query over monitoring of MLS (Fiskistofa, including of foreign vessels where Iceland responsible for port state control). Discussed FMC. Mainly involves NEAFC, used to have fishing activity on NAFO side but nothing recently. Responsibilities for vessels fishing outside of Icelandic EEZ: Icelandic flagged vessels on high seas – Iceland; if in coastal state, e.g. Norway, Iceland has shared responsibility with CS, e.g. vessels must abide by Norwegian rules. Capelin Discussed Port State Control, development of measures by NEAFC to address IUU fishing, wider adoption including development of Port State Measures Agreement by FAO. No IUU fishing in North Atlantic since measures introduced. Discussed short term closures, infringements and latest information on these (powerpoint provided by ICG). Infringements relating to fishing include discarding, for example, and those relating to fishing permit include fishing without a permit. Discussed monitoring of vessels. Referred to as VMS but can be AIS and Inmarsat too. Increasingly looking at drones to add to enforcement capabilities. 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Icelandic Coast Guard	Björgólfur H. Ingason		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pending infringements – none due to fisheries. ▪ What do ICG check when they board vessels? Species composition of catches and marine mammals and seabirds. Don't recall any infringements relating to recording of marine mammal and seabird bycatch. ▪ Assessment of compliance? Any areas of concern? Speculation around illegal discarding – hence use of drones – extends range and capability of vessels. ▪ RBF (ISF Iceland GSS assessment) presentation and discussion. Björgólfur listened but noted he doesn't have expertise to be able to fully contribute to this. 	
Tue 12 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with MFRI ▪ P1. GSS landings. Everything reported in Area 14 is within Greenlandic waters. ▪ No information on whether a separate stock. In 2013, stocks in North Atlantic split up based on difference between fishing grounds including Faorese, Norwegian and Iceland-Greenland. ▪ The catches in 14b in 2017 and 2018 were included in the Icelandic stock assessment. ▪ The Icelandic EEZ includes 14b, but catches from this area are reported as catches from 5.a only. ▪ There are some catches in the Greenlandic jurisdiction – MFRI think these are mainly by Faroese vessels. ▪ GSS seem to be caught with Greenland halibut and redfish at certain depth range – corresponds with survey catches. ▪ Not aware of management agreement between Iceland and Greenland over access to GSS stocks. ▪ P1 lumpfish. Not an HCR <i>per se</i> – an advice rule ▪ P1 Greenland halibut. Benchmark due later this year ▪ P1 anglerfish. Huge influx of anglerfish into Icelandic waters but came and went. Close to lowest levels of B seen today, recruitment virtually non-existent. Suspect influx is due to movement in from other areas rather than local to Iceland. MFRI provided some data on this. ▪ P1 capelin. Discussed final advice for the year. Also, any more recent work on ecosystem function since the studies prior to 2016? Work in progress. Capelin benchmark was due in June 2022 but postponed due to war in Ukraine. Likely will occur end of the year / early next year. 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)	Bjarki Þór Elvarsson		
		Guðjón Már Sigurðsson		
		Steinunn Hilma Ólafsdóttir		
		Sigurður Þór Jónsson		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P2. Catch data. Fiskistofa have catch data. Don't think there are significant changes in catch composition. ▪ Discussed cod and haddock bait. ▪ Lumpfish. Big plan in place for 2020 season to assess implementation of measures but fell through due to COVID. Consideration given to using drones but not practical for monitoring marine mammals due to relatively short flight time. ▪ Any studies looking at risk posed by different fisheries to marine mammals and seabirds? ICES has done work on this – high effort put in, low number of observations. See most recent WGBYC reports. ▪ MFRI haven't received information from app logbook – due to a technical issue – programmer working on this. App not being used in 2022, thought to be due to disagreement over who pays (Fiskistofa or fishers?). ▪ Observer data of marine mammals and seabirds – pelagic gears don't appear in the records because no catches recorded. ▪ Noted that there was an NEAFC agreement that observer coverage (i.e. Fiskistofa Inspectors in Iceland) in shared stock fisheries (herring, capelin etc.) is 10%. ▪ Discussed stock status of non-target catches, including Atlantic halibut, spotted wolffish and Norway lobster. ▪ Atlantic halibut – no direct catches allowed, all viable catches should be released. Recording has been increasing (and landings – mainly from bottom trawl fishery). ▪ Marine mammal closures – 13 closures, all inshore, due to lumpfish. ▪ Levels of compliance with reporting requirements for non-target species? Any management to address this – check with Ministry and Fiskistofa. In lumpfish fishery, check catches with and without inspector on board – mainly focussed on cod catches. Recent newspaper article said 90% of cod discarded in lumpfish fishery. Fiskistofa using drones to monitor lumpfish fishery activity. ▪ Habitats. 2021 report overview – compilation of latest information and proposals for management. Ministry developing strategic approach to VMEs – Sustainable Resources Group re-formed to consider this. Not responded to MFRI paper as yet. ▪ RBF (ISF Iceland GSS assessment). Demersal beaked redfish going through benchmark later this year. Technical Report being produced. Candidate reference points available and will be published at the end of this year / early next year. ▪ Redfish expert not available for this meeting but will share preliminary PSA with him for feedback when he returns from leave. 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Productivity table. Seems in line with what MFRI would expect for size at maturity (35-40cm). Not seen recruitment for a long time. Susceptibility table. Encounterability – targeted GSS fishery seems a clean fishery. Vessel trips may be targeting Greenland halibut and redfish but between trawls for these species may do a directed trawl for GSS (i.e. opportunistically if come across shoal). Seem to be able target shoal of GSS so catches are clean. For these reasons would suggest score should be medium rather than high. Need to check with redfish colleague. Selectivity – component a) agree with low risk score. Never seen a small redfish on surveys. Back in 1990s more smaller fish (in 2000 fish down to 20cm in size) but not seen in surveys in last 20 years. Would argue this should be a low risk score. Component b) suggest size at maturity more likely to be 35-37cm. Doesn't change score though. 	
Wed 13 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. P1. GSS landings from subarea 14. Subarea 14 includes waters that fall within Icelandic jurisdiction and waters that fall within Greenlandic jurisdiction. Icelandic vessels are not allowed to fish for GSS within the Greenlandic jurisdiction. P1 cod and haddock. No change to harvest strategy, management measures etc. P1 capelin. Ministry noted that there may be things to consider in how capelin fishery is agreed between the coastal states going forward. The minister decided to open up area to the capelin fishery that had been closed for a long time. This is to the NE of Iceland (see map on Fiskistofa website. Note map on website may just show closures currently in place) and is usually closed due to presence of young fish. Also, fishers tend to wait until the capelin come further south. Fishing in this area involves using a pelagic trawl rather than purse seine as capelin occur deeper in the water column. An enhanced surveillance programme was implemented in the newly opened area, involving 2 Fiskistofa Inspectors being present in the area at all times (working across fleet). Vessels need prior permission to access this area and Fiskistofa decide whether or not to put inspectors on board. In the capelin fishery purse seine can be used everywhere but, in this area, pelagic trawl can also be used. Discussed the surveillances of the other fisheries – no changes to management and harvest strategy. Conditions. Greenland halibut. Assessment team noted that lack of agreement between coastal states on quota allocation leading to overshoot of TAC. Ministry 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries	Áslaug Eir Hólmgeirsdóttir		
		Skúli Kristinn Skúlason		

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			<p>noted that Iceland meeting with Greenland in May. Coastal states meeting has been cancelled (unsure of reason) but note that currently coastal states focused on pelagics (i.e. mackerel) – very intensive discussions in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lumpfish. Review of management measures? Closures only been implemented relatively recently – discussed with MFRI, too soon to check – to evaluate need more data and can't get observers on board vessels due to COVID. ▪ App for recording catches. Fiskistofa not running the app. Vessels have to send catch data to them either in the app or via website. ▪ Strategy is focused on lumpfish and cod gillnet as data shows this is where the problems are occurring. ▪ Capelin. Vessels fishing in Greenland and Jan Mayen. Not something that occurs very frequently if at all- two Greenlandic vessels tried last year (2021), fishing on the border between Greenland and Iceland waters. ▪ Discussed closures including can't fish within 12nm of coast. ▪ GSS. No changes to Regulations. If a directed GSS fishery, mesh size is as per Regulation. Otherwise mesh size is 135mm in the non-directed fishery. ▪ VME. Discussed MFRI reference to new strategic approach to VMEs. Work in progress to look at research and proposals for closures. Looking to find a way all potential protected areas VMEs, OCMs etc. Aiming for 30% coverage within certain time frame (sending link to Financial Schedule with goals for fisheries which includes this target). Will be based on work provided by MFRI. Expect to complete strategy within 3 years.. ▪ P3. Extensive re-organisation of Ministry and new Minister in place. Planning to review fishery management system as a whole over next 2 years. Involves lots of committees, specialists etc, very big consultation with public, industry, universities, environment sector etc. Scope of review is huge covering research, taxation, laws, international negotiation, environmental impact, fishing communities etc. ▪ Traceability. No significant changes. ▪ RBF presentation and discussion (ISF Iceland GSS assessment). The Ministry listened but noted they don't have expertise to be able to fully contribute to this. Skúli noted GSS can form shoals but may also occur mixed with redfish – directed the assessment team to MFRI for further information. 	
Wed 13 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with Fiskistofa. 	

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Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive ‘within scope’ issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
		Geir Hønneland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ P1. GSS. Not usually a directed fishery, usually a bycatch in redfish fisheries but also in herring pelagic trawl S & SW of Iceland. Usually caught by freezer trawler – directed fishery occurs when captains see an opportunity because of weather, currents etc.▪ Query over vessels fishing in Greenlandic waters in 2017 and 2018. These would not have been Icelandic.▪ Traceability. Refrigerated seawater (RSW) tanks. Pumped into weighing station. Take 30kg sample for every 30 tonnes. Result used to calculate weights through catch. Otherwise sorted and graded by size. Bigger fish excluded (cod, saithe, lumpfish) before fish graded.	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GSS usually goes for fishmeal if caught with herring.▪ Fishery targeting GSS with freezer trawlers – most frozen on board (head & gut removed), rest sold fresh at market.▪ Fish recorded in logbook, when coming into land alert Fiskistofa and harbour authorities, harbour authorities undertake weighing, information goes to database that Fiskistofa & others have access to.▪ Traceability has recently been improved by a new step in the process. Catch data from the logbook goes to Fiskistofa and the harbour authorities before the vessel enters the harbour. This provides estimated weights for each species and ensure authorities know what to expect at landing. The new step involves a traceability number being assigned to the catch at this stage (i.e. prior to landing) and follows the fish all the way through to export.▪ In an industry-led initiative, new vessels now incorporate camera systems on the conveyor belt. Automatic sorting of fish occurs by size. This system gathers information on size and quality (e.g. how long fish needs to be cooled before going into hold). This forms part of efforts to make a better and more secure system.▪ Legislation in progress at moment to increase monitoring to improve traceability further. Being aligned with agreements with coastal states with regard pelagic stocks including the tightening of regulations around weighing of catches. Expect agreement to be signed soon (NEAFC and MSC working group, “Agreement on fishing shared pelagic stocks”) and once in place will be transposed into Regulation.▪ Examples of new monitoring include use of drones from shore and from ICG vessel and next thing is data directly from the commercial fishing vessels.	
	Fiskistofa	Sævar Guðmundsson		
		Óttar Gautur Erlingsson		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing legal requirements require data provision, i.e. logbooks, landings, sampling. Under Law No. 57, Fiskistofa can ask entities to provide data that they require. Note that larger vessels not just monitored by authorities, they undertake their own monitoring on board vessels – e.g. size and sorting of catch – to assist the sale of the catch. Perhaps only fishery that differs is the lumpfish fishery. Managed through controls on effort (25 days per vessels, tonnage that can be landed and length of nets – 7.5km per vessel). Monitoring occurs of landings and days fished. Also how long nets are in the sea (3 days maximum) and bycatch. Monitoring occurs from land using drones. Risk-based focus (e.g. if a vessel's catch composition is significantly different from other vessels in the fleet). PR. App for recording catch has been removed. The rationale being that IT companies should be providing this rather than government. For example, Trackwell have developed an app for small coastal vessels (larger vessel using logbooks already). In meantime catches are recorded via a web-based tool (requires electronic signature with security code so those submitting data are identifiable). Information that is being collected hasn't changed – just the technology. Now the requirement is that catch data must be submitted prior to landing and then checked at landing. Private apps must gather the same information as required by Regulation, including catches of birds, marine mammals, protected fish etc (fields are the same). Checks of catches are also made by Inspectors, ICG when on vessels and using drones. Regulation doesn't cover reporting of sponges, corals etc. but inspectors do record this. Fiskistofa aware of co-operation between MFRI and industry to take photos of bycaught sponges, corals etc. Lumpfish management measures. Discussed monitoring of implementation of measures. Fiskistofa noted question of monitoring was more for the MFRI. From their perspective, Fiskistofa noted that closures started in 2021 and good co-operation between MFRI, industry and Ministry in developing them. Fleet respecting these areas, no infringements detected. In terms of Inspector coverage, lumpfish trips with inspectors on board, up to 10% of landings monitored. In 2021 there was a focus on inspectors monitoring bycatches on board and scaling up to estimate total bycatch. This year there are no plans to do the same but inspectors are on board vessels in N and NE, mainly focusing on cod bycatch and marking and length of nets. 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiskistofa have provided an email with updated inspector coverage across Icelandic fisheries. Latest figures show inspector coverage is 1.3% in bottom trawl fishery, 1.2% in lumpfish fishery (35 trips), 3.4% of pelagic trawls, 15.5% of purse seine trips (capelin). Inspectors on pelagic fleet – queried the 10% figure referred to by MFRI. Fiskistofa noted there is a stand alone agreement which says 7.5% of fresh catches should be monitored and 5% of processed catches. NEAFC scheme of enforcement doesn't necessarily relate to numbers of observers on board (noting that Inspectors in Iceland are different to observers – have additional duties and responsibilities). Capelin regulation. Reference to fishing in Greenland and Jan Mayen – Fiskistofa note that this is an historic artefact. Some Icelandic vessels did apply to Norway to fish in Jan Mayen zone but no vessels went. No significant changes in personnel. Any concerns regarding compliance? Nothing new, issues raised in press regarding compliance with discard rules. No transshipment occurs in Icelandic fisheries. RBF presentation and discussion (ISF Iceland GSS assessment). Fiskistofa noted that they did not consider this was an area they had expertise. Some discussions around susceptibility attributes. Query as to whether redfish distribution reflects full range of stock or just surveying where the fishery occurs? Noted that encounterability likely to change by season, time of day. Assessment team referred to comments from MFRI on potentially reducing risk score to medium. With regard the selectivity attribute note that target GSS with smaller mesh size, MFRI also use smaller mesh size during survey. Note that mesh sizes used by assessment team are correct (directed fishery for bottom trawl). Agreed with scoring form post-capture mortality – if fish caught they have to be landed. 	
Tue 19 th April 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with BirdLife International. Lumpfish bycatch. Monitoring of success of management measures - there has been no monitoring of bycatch. Consider that, even with COVID, authorities could have put in place measures e.g. cameras. Noted that BirdLife have been able to put on trial with limited budget ("Looming eyes trial" being undertaken by BirdLife International with ISF using MSC funding). 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		

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		Efthymia Tsitsika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that measures in 2020 Regulation not designed to mitigate seabird bycatch. There will be some peripheral benefits, e.g. effort limitation, but could have other impacts e.g. movement of activity to other important areas. There wasn't strong consultation with seabirds NGOs during development of the lumpfish measures and no input has been sought since (e.g. from Fuglavernd). Reiterated points made during the December 2021 site visit – no data collection since 2019, for long-line fisheries need to consider ACAP best practice and how measures being tested compare to that best practice. For gillnets, there is currently no best practice but current understanding of how to best mitigate impacts is to remove nets in space/time from hotspots. Birdlife submitted comments on cod and haddock ACDRs. Common loon – high proportion of breeding population affected, not sure that it can meet SG60. Lots of poor data but from what is understood it doesn't look good. Likewise, for greater black backed gull, 20% decrease, trends unknown, but consider alarming. Management. Not much specificity in report on what is being implemented. Not apparent that much has changed at all in longline fleet – consider this means 'not hitting threshold'. Hard to understand why so little action, can implement measures at low cost, "not optimistic of change". Gillnet fishery – note fishers in the north interested in participating in trial. Some years ago met with Fiskistofa to discuss lumpfish trial and longlines. No contact with Fiskistofa since. Happy to discuss but not invited to do so. No active engagement with eNGOs. Anglerfish and Greenland halibut gillnets – concerns? Less concerned as set in deeper water but don't have data. Note that in lumpfish and cod gillnet fisheries there have been issues of bird entanglement and discarding during hauling-in e.g. fulmar. Capelin. Noted experience from sandeel in North Sea, ICES model included set-aside for predator requirements but did not take into account full escapement needs for predators (i.e. energy needed for predators to find prey). RBF (ISF Iceland GSS assessment). Birdlife International declined to participate due to lack of knowledge required to contribute properly. 	
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
		Rory Crawford		
	Birdlife International	Yann Rouxel		
	Assessment team	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with BRIM including vessel captains. 	

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Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
Wed 4 th May 2022	(Global Trust)	Geir Hønneland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSS fishery. Most GSS is 220fm depth (c. 400m). Mostly caught as bycatch, not targeted due to low value. Target species in fisheries where GSS caught are redfish and Greenland halibut. The redfish is djúpkarfi, demersal beaked redfish, not golden redfish which occurs in shallower water (less than 220fm). If specifically fishing for GSS, only use bottom trawls and 80mm mesh, if fishing redfish, use larger mesh. Fishery occurs over smooth seabed – this is very good for fishing. If wanted to fish a lot of GSS it would be possible to do this – stock is in good health. GSS only caught by freezer trawlers. Assessment team referred to video of freezer trawler shared by client in opening meeting (the Solberg). Solberg is the newest vessel in fleet but very similar processing lines on their trawlers. All areas with corals where the fishery occurs are closed. Very little or no bycatch of seals or birds. Restricted to where they can fish – must be below 220fm, outside 12nm and can't fish above 66°55' N as this is a juvenile fish area. All bycatch is processed on board and utilised. Co-operation with Fiskistofa installing surveillance cameras on vessels to look at discarding (i.e. make sure rules adhered to). Note that 2 or 3 trips per year will have Inspector on board. ICG use drones to monitor activity too. No incentive to discard, get paid for every fish that is landed, everything has quota. If GSS damaged, it is not discarded – still used. Part of product is minced so damaged fish can be used for this. GSS are gutted and headed and then whole frozen. Market is for human consumption (nearly all). Heads and guts are removed by machine and discarded. Self-sampling occurs – take a yield sample to submit to MFRI. When using mesh in directed fishery, for each area fished send one box to MFRI unsorted. Fishery occurs entirely within Icelandic EEZ. Don't use pelagic trawls for redfish. Considered catch composition set out in ACDR. Surprised by large catches of golden redfish – don't consider this is representative of their hauls. In their hauls, 90% of the other catch is demersal beaked redfish (djúpkarfi), once in a while a Greenland halibut or cod is caught. Generally though, not much of a bycatch. 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
		Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Torfi Þ. Þorsteinsson		
		Ævar Johansson		
		Kristján		
		Birkir Hrannar Hjálmarsson		
	BRIM including vessel captains			

Table 15. Summary of verbal information provided during meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In terms of ETP, 4 porbeagle caught in last 27 years. No basking shark or seals. Don't see any interaction between birds and nets at surface. Birds only come to vessel when weather very Bad (blinded by lights). Non-target species recorded in logbook if caught and then released. ▪ The catch is boxed and landed in containers. Weighed on board using calibrated scales and then weighed again at landing. Inspector present at every landing and take samples. ▪ Video shown of Greenland halibut and redfish fishing. High technology fishing gear with sensors so Captains have good control of information and know what is caught / processed. Aim for quality over quantity. New technology just being introduced - camera in water so know what is going into net. Also have monitors in trawl, echosounders, to 'see' what's in trawl. Gives certainty over what is being caught e.g. 95% certain catching GSS due to echo from monitor. ▪ RBF presentation and discussion (ISF Iceland GSS assessment). Discussed scoring with Captains and scoring agreed. 	
Wed 4 th May 2022	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Conor Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed objectives of audit, meetings held and preliminary findings, and any other appropriate information collected during the assessment. ▪ Discussion of preliminary findings so that ISF is aware of potential issues identified. ▪ This included noting a potential condition on GSS in relation to demersal beaked redfish. Flagged issues across assessments on birds and marine mammals. ▪ Discuss assessment follow-up and next steps. ▪ Noted feedback from Captain's welcoming involvement in the process. 	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Geir Hønneland		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Hans Lassen		
		Efthymia Tsitsika		
		Jose Peiro Crespo		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		

6.3 Revised surveillance programme

The surveillance programme remains unchanged from previous audits, except that the audit was undertaken on-site (rather than off-site) and in April (rather than January) to enable a joint audit with several other ISF fisheries (see Table 12) and thereby maximise efficiencies with regard stakeholder input and audit logistics.

6.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

Overlapping fisheries are identified in the table below. As there are similar conditions across Principle 2 PIs in a number of fisheries currently going through surveillance or reassessment audits, the assessment team has considered whether progress against condition milestones need to be harmonised. This is detailed in Table 17.

Table 16. Overlapping fisheries. The fishery under assessment is highlighted in **bold text**.

Fishery		Certification status and date			Performance Indicators to harmonise
Cert code	Fishery name	Cert status	Date certified	Certificate expires	
MSC-F-31299	ISF Iceland capelin	Certified	18/04/2017	17/10/2022	Elements of P2 and P3, as appropriate
MSC-F-31532	FPO Icelandic capelin	Certified	01/02/2022	01/02/2027	
MSC-F-31464	ISF Icelandic summer spawning herring trawl and seine	Certified	13/11/2020	12/11/2025	
In assessment	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt				
MSC-F-31301	ISF Iceland cod	Certified	24/04/2017	23/10/2022	
MSC-F-31302	ISF Iceland haddock	Certified	24/04/2017	23/10/2022	
MSC-F-31336	ISF Greenland halibut	Certified	19/10/2017	18/04/2023	
MSC-F-31350	ISF Iceland anglerfish	Certified	25/01/2018	24/07/2023	
MSC-F-31403	ISF Iceland northern shrimp - inshore and offshore	Certified	30/10/2018	29/04/2024	
MSC-F-31413	ISF Iceland lemon sole	Certified	03/01/2019	02/07/2024	
MSC-F-31436	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	Certified	10/09/2019	09/03/2025	
MSC-F-31489	ISF Iceland lumpfish	Certified	17/11/2020	16/11/2025	

Table 17. Overlapping fisheries – Harmonisation activities.

Supporting information	
Conditions on PI 2.3.2 has also been raised in the ISF Iceland anglerfish, Greenland halibut, cod, haddock and lumpfish fisheries which are currently in the process of surveillance audit or reassessment.	
In evaluating progress against the condition on PI 2.3.2, the assessment team considered the evaluations for these overlapping fisheries, which in all these fisheries are considered to be behind target, except for lumpfish which is on target, whereas the lemon sole condition has been closed in this assessment.	
The assessment team noted that in the overlapping fisheries which are behind target, the condition relates to different gears than are used in the ISF Iceland lemon sole UoAs – namely longlines and gillnets (gillnets only in the case of lumpfish). These are the gears which are known to be responsible for the majority of the marine mammal and seabird bycatch in Icelandic waters. The impacts of these gears are quite different to the bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine gears in the lemon sole UoAs, hence the different outcome in the evaluation and this is why harmonisation is not required. Further, it should be noted that in the other ISF fisheries using the same gears as used in the ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery, there are no similar conditions on PI 2.3.2.	
Was either FCP v2.2 Annex PB1.3.3.4 or PB1.3.4.5 applied when harmonising?	Not applicable
Date of harmonisation meeting	Not applicable
If applicable, describe the meeting outcome	
Not applicable	

6.5 Template information and copyright

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

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Template version control		
Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	08 October 2014	Date of issue
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	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website \(www.msc.org\)](http://www.msc.org).

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