

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**

**Year 1 Surveillance Report**

**Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo  
saithe trawl fishery**

**On behalf of**

**Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo**

**Prepared by**

**ME Certification Ltd**

**JANUARY 2018**

**Authors: Sophie des Clers  
Chrissie Sieben**

## Contents

CONTENTS .....	2
1 GENERAL SUMMARY .....	3
2 BACKGROUND .....	5
2.1 Principle 1 .....	6
2.1.1 Saithe in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) .....	7
2.1.2 Saithe in Subareas I and II .....	8
2.2 Principle 2 .....	10
2.2.1 Retained species and discards .....	10
2.2.2 Status and management of main retained stocks .....	13
2.2.3 ETP species .....	15
2.3 Principle 3 .....	16
2.4 Traceability .....	16
3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS .....	17
3.1 Scope and history .....	17
3.2 Audit process .....	17
3.3 Harmonisation .....	17
4 RESULTS .....	19
5 EVALUATION RESULTS .....	28
5.1 Principle Level Scores .....	28
5.2 Summary of PI Level Scores .....	29
6 CONCLUSION .....	31
7 REFERENCES .....	32
APPENDICES .....	34
APPENDIX 1: VME AND ELASMOBRANCH RECORDING SYSTEM COMPAGNIE DES PÊCHES DE ST MALO (UOA 3 AND 4) .....	34
APPENDIX 2. RE-SCORING HABITATS COMPONENT UOAS 2 AND 4 .....	36
APPENDIX 3. CLIENT ACTION PLAN .....	44
Appendix 3.1 Client Action Plan – Euronor .....	44
Appendix 3.2 Client Action Plan – Compagnie des Peches St Malo .....	51
Appendix 3.3 Client Action Plan – Scapeche .....	56
APPENDIX 4. HABITATS DATA COLLECTION – EXAMPLE DOCUMENT (AGARBA / AZTI) .....	62
APPENDIX 5. SCORING STOCK STATUS AGAINST $B_{MSY}$ FOR ICES STOCKS .....	67

# 1 General summary

<b>Fishery name</b>	Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery		
<b>Unit(s) of assessment</b>	<p><b>Species and stock:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UoA1, 3, 5: Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)</li> <li>UoA2, 4: Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)</li> </ul> <p><b>Geographical range:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UoA1, 3, 5: Northeast Atlantic</li> <li>UoA2, 4: Northeast Arctic</li> </ul> <p><b>Method of capture:</b> Bottom trawl (demersal otter trawl)</p> <p><b>Management systems:</b> Common Fisheries Policy; French National management system; EU-Norway agreement; Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. ICES is scientific authority. Decisions taken by EU Fisheries Council. Stakeholder participation via North Sea Advisory Council.</p> <p><b>Client group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UoA1: <u>Euronor</u> member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI.</li> <li>UoA2: <u>Euronor</u> member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas I, II.</li> <li>UoA3: <u>Compagnie des Pêches St Malo</u> member vessels fishing for saithe from the ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI.</li> <li>UoA4: <u>Compagnie des Pêches St Malo</u> member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas I, II.</li> <li>UoA5: <u>Scapêche</u> member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI.</li> </ul>		
<b>Date certified</b>	21 September 2016	<b>Date of expiry</b>	20 September 2021
<b>Surveillance level and type</b>	Level 6 Year 1 surveillance assessment (second certification cycle)		
<b>Date of surveillance audit</b>	22 November 2017		
<b>Surveillance stage (tick one)</b>	1st Surveillance	X	
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
<b>Surveillance team</b>	Lead assessor: Sophie des Clers  CAB oversight provided by Chrissie Sieben as per FCRv2.0 7.23.11.2		
<b>CAB name</b>	ME Certification Ltd.		
<b>CAB contact details</b>	Address	56 High Street,	

		Lymington, Hampshire. SO41 9AH, UK
	Phone/Fax	Tel: 01590 613007 Fax: 01590 671573
	Email	<a href="mailto:info@me-cert.com">info@me-cert.com</a>
	Contact name(s)	Chrissie Sieben
<b>Client contact details - Scapêche</b>	Address	17 Boulevard Abbé Louis Le Cam, CP18, 56326 Lorient, France
	Email	<a href="mailto:rfageot@comata.com">rfageot@comata.com</a> <a href="mailto:accueil@comata.com">accueil@comata.com</a>
	Contact name(s)	Romain FAGEOT ou Maëla GIDOUIN (BOURDET)
<b>Client contact details - Compagnie des Pêches St Malo</b>	Address	40 Quai Duguay Trouin, BP 64, 35406 Saint Malo, France
	Email	<a href="mailto:mel-direction@cdpstmallo.com">mel-direction@cdpstmallo.com</a>
	Contact name(s)	EDOUARD-LEBORGNE Martine
<b>Client contact details - Euronor</b>	Address	13 Rue Huret Lagache, BP447 - 62206 Boulogne sur mer, France
	Email	<a href="mailto:bleduc@euronor.eu">bleduc@euronor.eu</a>
	Contact name(s)	Bruno LEDUC

## 2 Background

This report outlines the process and outcome of the first annual surveillance audit (second certification cycle) for the Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery. The certified fishery targets saithe from two distinct stocks, in the Northeast Atlantic (ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI) and the Northeast Arctic (ICES Subareas I, II) and is analysed as five Units of Assessment (see Section 1).

The fishery was re-certified by ME Certification Ltd (MEC) on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and is carried out by demersal otter trawl vessels from three French companies - Euronor, Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo and Scapêche. An up to date vessel list is shown in Table 1.

A total of 15 vessels may operate in the certified fishery (Euronor: 6, Scapêche: 8, CdPStM: 1 - Table 1) although as noted before, they do not all operate in the five UoAs each year. The latest addition to the Scapêche fleet, the Jean-Pierre Le Roch was in operation by mid-2016, so there has been no change in the fleet or vessel operations since the re-assessment (MEC, 2016). The CdPStM is expecting to replace the Grande Hermine by its new vessel (jointly owned with Euronor), the Emeraude, in spring 2018.

**Table 1. Vessels included in the UoAs as of January 2018**

Company	Vessel	Type	Length (m)
Euronor	Andre Leduc	Fresh	44
	Bressay Bank	Fresh	44
	Cap Nord	Freezer	55
	Cap Saint Georges	Fresh	44
	Halten Bank	Fresh	54
	Klondyke	Freezer	55
Scapêche	Corail	Fresh	35
	Fastnet	Fresh	28
	Jean Claude Coulon II	Fresh	46
	Jean Pierre Le Roch	Fresh	42
	Julien Coleou	Fresh	30
	Mariette Le Roch II	Fresh	46
	Roselend	Fresh	35
	Rossoren	Fresh	28
Cie des Pêches de St. Malo	Grande Hermine	Freezer	61

Three conditions were set during re-certification. The conditions status and scores prior to this audit are indicated in Table 2. No recommendations were made during the reassessment.

**Table 2. Conditions status and scores prior to this audit**

N°	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score
1	2.3.1 – ETP species outcome	UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea): On target UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea): On target UoA 5 (Scapêche): On target	75 65 75
2	2.3.2 – ETP species management	UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea): On target UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea): On target UoA 5 (Scapêche): On target	75 75 75
3	2.3.3 – ETP species information	UoA 5 (Scapêche): On target	75

## 2.1 Principle 1

As previously mentioned, the certified fishery targets saithe from two distinct stocks: the Northeast Atlantic (ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI) stock, and the Northeast Arctic (ICES Subareas I, II (North of 62°) stock. The catch and TAC data for both stocks is shown in Table 3. Note that Compagnie des Pêches St Malo fished only in the Northeast Arctic (NEA) (UoA4) and not in the North Atlantic in 2016.

**Table 3. Saithe TACs and catch per stock and company (tonnes)**

Quantity	Stocks & Fishing zone	Year	Euronor	Scapêche	Cie des Pêches
TAC	IIa (south 62°), IIIa, IV and VI (POK/3A46)	2016	72,512 = 65,696 (IIIa and IV) + 6,816 (VI)		
UoAs		2016	UoA1	UoA5	UoA3
UoA share of TAC (after swaps)			11,632	2,150	-
Total catch (live weight)		2016	11,514	1,883	-
		2015	12,279	2,851	302
TAC	NEA - I and II (POK/1N2AB)	2016	140,000		
UoAs		2016	UoA2		UoA4
UoA share of TAC- after swaps			416		190
Total live weight catch		2016	255		153
		2015	326		121

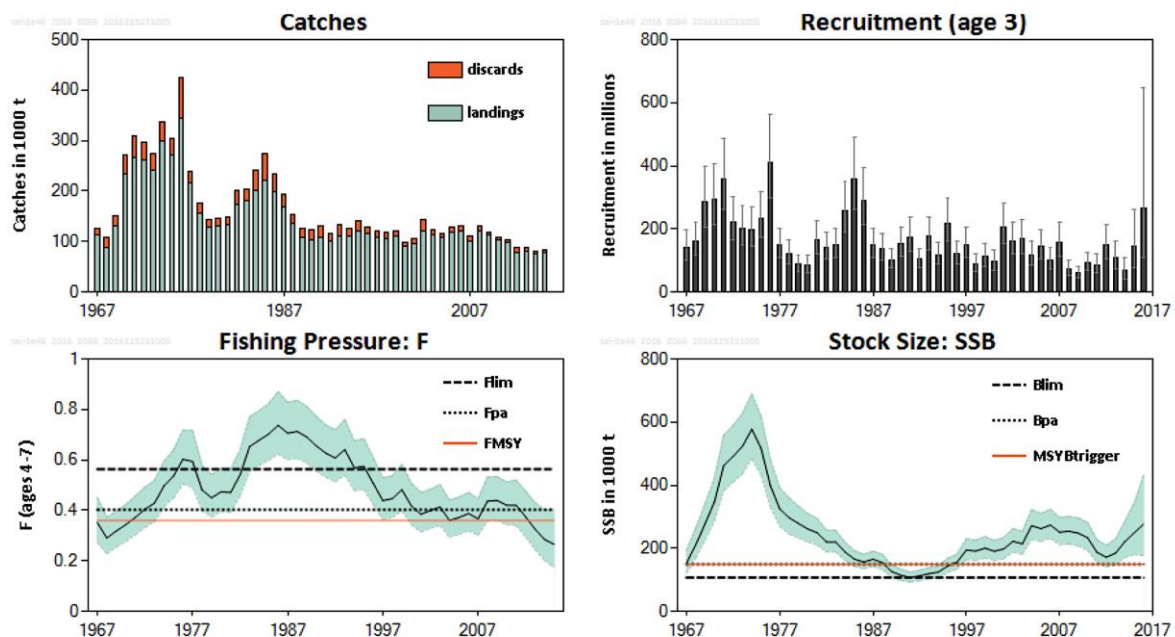
### 2.1.1 Saithe in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)

The stock status is unchanged compared to previous years. The most recent ICES assessment for Saithe in Subarea IV (North Sea), Division IIIa (Skagerrak), and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) is summarised in Figure 1 and Table 4 below (ICES, 2017a).

For 2016, the agreed TAC under the EU-Norway management strategy (Subarea IV and Division IIIa) was 65,696t, and the official and ICES estimated landings remained under that value. The same applied for Subarea VI with an agreed TAC of 6,816t.

The saithe assessment went through an ICES benchmark process in 2016 (ICES, 2016), which is a new development since re-certification. The stock assessment and reference points were changed, resulting in a need to re-evaluate the EU–Norway management strategy. Until the evaluation is conducted, the ICES advice is based on the MSY approach.

The 2016 SSB estimates were revised downwards, still the advice based on the MSY approach gave a large increase in TAC for 2017 compared to the TAC in 2016, which was revised slightly upwards in November 2017. This was caused by a combination of improved stock status and changes made to the assessment during the 2016 benchmark process. The assessment methodology has been changed as well as the time-series used for tuning.



**Figure 1. Saithe in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa. Summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes, Source: ICES, 2017a)**

Therefore the assessment and associated short-term forecast is uncertain for this stock (see under “Quality of assessment”) when setting the TAC. In addition, recruitment values are highly uncertain and a substantial portion (30%) of the advised wanted catch in 2017 is based on the recruitment assumptions. Recruitment (R) has fluctuated over time and has generally been below the long-term average since 2003. Fishing mortality (F) has been below FMSY

since 2013. Spawning–stock biomass (SSB) has fluctuated without trend and has been above MSY  $B_{trigger}$  since 1996.

**Table 4. Saithe in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points (Source: ICES, 2017a).**

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2013	2014	2015		2014	2015	2016	
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY}$	✓	✓	✓	Appropriate	MSY	✓	✓	Above trigger
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}$ , $F_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	$B_{pa}$ , $B_{lim}$	✓	✓	Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	✓	✓	✓	Within the range	$SSB_{MGT}$	✓	✓	Within the range

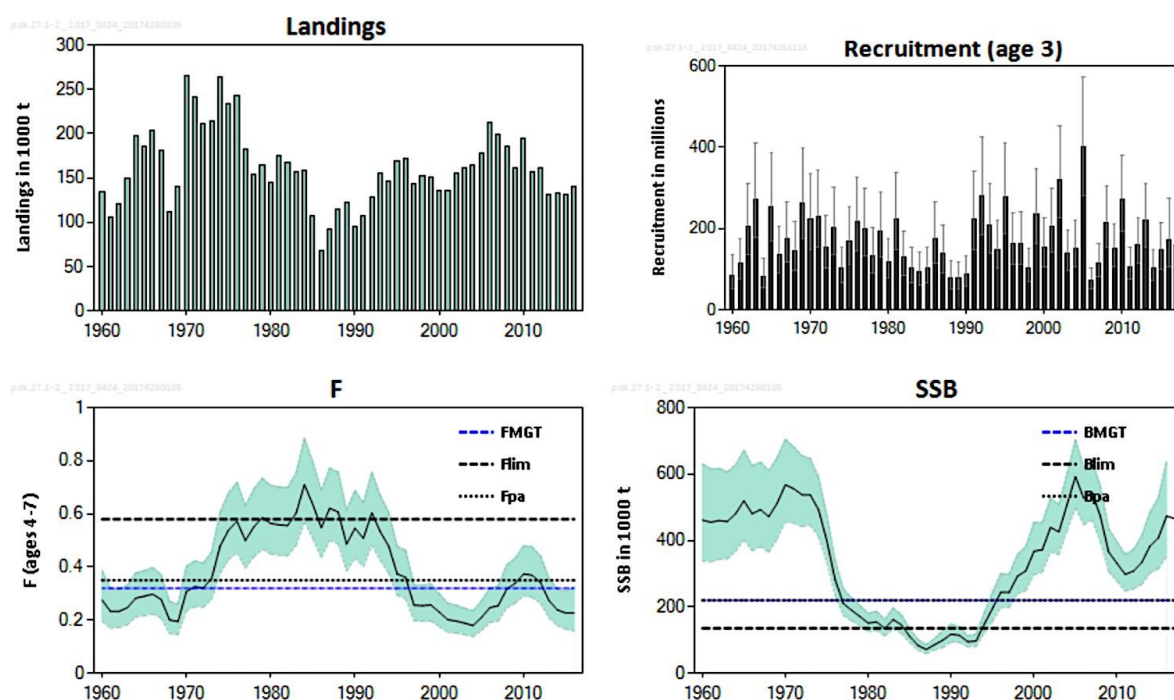
The catch option for 2017 based on the EU–Norway management strategy has a lower  $F$  than the corresponding  $F_{MSY}$  option and is considered precautionary by ICES. The advice based on the MSY approach gives a small decrease in TAC for 2018 (118 460t) compared to the TAC in 2017, which was of 100 287 tonnes (November 2017 update).

To conclude, the fishery operates as before, the stock status has been revised as improved. Fishing mortality is below  $F_{MSY}$  and the exploitation rate continues to decrease. No re-scoring is needed.

## 2.1.2 Saithe in Subareas I and II

The stock status is unchanged compared to previous years. The most recent ICES assessment for Northeast Arctic Saithe in Subareas I and II (June ICES, 2017b) is summarised in Figure 2 and Table 5. The spawning–stock biomass (SSB) has been above  $B_{pa}$  since 1996, but declined considerably from 2007 to 2011, then increased again and is presently (2017) estimated to be well above  $B_{pa}$ . The fishing pressure ( $F$ ) has been below  $F_{pa}$  since 1997, with the exception of 2010 and 2011. Recruitment ( $R$ ) has been close to the long-term geometric mean level since 2005.





**Figure 2. Saithe in subareas I and II. Historical development of the stock from the summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). Recruitment (R), fishing mortality (F), and spawning-stock biomass (SSB) have uncertainty boundaries (95%) in the plots. Predicted recruitment values are not shaded (Source: ICES 2017b).**

ICES advised that when the Norwegian management plan is applied, catches in 2016 were to be no more than 140,000 t (MEC, 2016). All catches are assumed to be landed and bycatch reported, and the total catch in 2016 was in line with the recommended TAC.

**Table 5. Saithe in Subareas I and II. State of the stock and fishery, relative to reference points (Source: ICES, 2017b).**

		Fishing pressure				Stock size		
		2014	2015	2016		2015	2016	2017
Maximum Sustainable Yield	$F_{MSY}$	?	?	?	Undefined	$MSY$	?	?
						$B_{Trigger}$	?	?
Precautionary Approach	$F_{pa}$	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably			
	$F_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓		$B_{pa}, B_{lim}$	✓	✓
								Full reproductive capacity
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	✓	✓	✓	Below	$B_{MGT}$	✓	✓
								Above

ICES evaluated the Norwegian management plan and considered it to be in accordance with the precautionary approach. The recommended TAC was 150,000t and 172,500t for 2017 and 2018 respectively.

To conclude, the fishery operates as before and the stock status is unchanged. No re-scoring is needed.

## 2.2 Principle 2

Several reports have been published, which illustrate the increasing trend of targeted European data collection programmes, data analysis and management measures proposed for matters relevant to Principle 2 for this fishery. They are briefly reviewed below.

- Report of the STECF Expert Working Group (EWG-17-10) to review possible management options and recommend a new approach for the sustainable management of skates and rays fisheries, held in October 2017 (STECF, 2017). In particular, some of the conclusions and recommendations in the report coincide with the conditions and client action plans for this fishery:
  - Data limitations exist for skate and ray stock and the nature of these limitations and the stocks to which they apply need to be better identified;
  - More detailed catch information is needed to assess the utility of spatio-temporal, effort and other management measures.
- Notes on OSPAR's request on the production of spatial data layers of fishing intensity/pressure (ICES, 2017c) together with ICES Advice for the North Atlantic Ecoregion presenting new information regarding the impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem (ICES, 2017d). These reports integrate new information collected by fishing vessels such as in this fishery, on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in EU waters, including hundreds of new records on the Irish continental shelf slope, Rockall Bank, and Rosemary Bank. Progress is also being made towards spatial analysis combining habitat distribution and their associated sensitivity ranges for the calculation of a physical damage index for predominant and special habitats, which will lead to more effective benthic habitats protection.

### 2.2.1 Retained species and discards

North Sea, Skagerrak, West of Scotland and Rockall (UoA1 and UoA5)

Updated catch information for UoA1 (Euronor) is summarised in Table 6. In 2015 and 2016, the vessels fished mostly in ICES Divisions IVa, and VIa and not in IVc. The bycatch profiles are also very similar to those of previous years, although the company notes that hake is so abundant it is becoming a "choke" species to avoid at some times during the year.

**Table 6. Euronor retained species (tonnes live weight) from (UoA1)**

Species	2015	2016	Total	%
Saithe	12,279	11,220	23,499	86.2%
Hake	952	1,354	2,306	8.5%
Cod	219	286	505	1.9%
Ling	127	203	329	1.2%
Haddock	85	109	194	0.7%
Others	164	263	427	1.6%

The Grande Hermine (UoA 3) targeted saithe in the North Sea only during its first trip of 2015; the retained catch is summarised in Table 7.

**Table 7. CPStM retained species (tonnes live weight) from (UoA3)**

Species	2015	%
<b>Saithe</b>	<b>301.8</b>	<b>95.0%</b>
Hake (HKE)	11.8	3.7%
Ling (LIN Lingue franche)	2.2	0.7%
Haddock	1.9	0.6%

For Scapêche (UoA5), data need to be evaluated on a haul-by-haul rather than day-by-day or trip-by-trip basis. This is because Scapêche vessels target different groups of species within the same trip and often the same day. Generally they will start a trip by targeting deep-water species, then move up the depth contour to target first monkfish and then saithe and hake as the trip proceeds. The bycatch profiles associated with, for example, the deep-sea fishery are not the same as those associated with the saithe fishery.

In order to extract only those hauls containing saithe, data on 'main' retained species were taken from analysis of 10 Obsmer observer reports for the vessels Mariette Le Roch II, Jean Claude Coulon II, Jean Pierre Le Roch and Roselend, as shown in Table 8. These species are in the top eight species identified in the re-certification report.

**Table 8. Scapêche list of retained species that can make up >5% by weight of sampled trawl sets targeting saithe, from 10 OBSMER reports between 2015 and 2016 (UoA5)**

Species
<b>Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)</b>
Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )
Monkfish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> )
Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )
Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> )
Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )

To conclude, the catch profiles of the three UoAs for the North Sea and West of Scotland are very similar to those analysed in the re-assessment report (MEC, 2016). The status of main retained species stock is reviewed in section 2.2.2.

#### Northeast Arctic (NEA) UoA2 and UoA4

The UoAs vessels fishing in the Northeast Arctic (UoA2 Euronor and UoA4 Compagnie des Peches St Malo) do not have observers on board, because of the long trips. The re-certification report noted that the fishery is considered 'low risk' because of the Norwegian regulatory framework that does not allow discarding, which is rigorously enforced. This is still the case (see compliance section 2.3).

The profiles of retained species for UoA2 (Table 9) and UoA4 (Table 10), include the same species as before (MEC, 2016).

**Table 9. Euronor retained species (tonnes live weight) from ICES subareas I and II (UoA2)**

Species	2015	2016	Total	%
Cod	4,104	3,901	8,005	82.2%
<b>Saithe</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Greenland Halibut	256	243	499	5.1%
Redfish	114	160	275	2.8%
Haddock	81	162	243	2.5%
Others	76	56	132	1.4%

**Table 10. Compagnie des Peches St Malo Retained species (tonnes live weight) from ICES subareas I and II (UoA4)**

Species	2015	2016	Total	%
Cod	4,179	3,897	8,077	93.1%
Haddock	140	147	287	3.3%
<b>Saithe</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Others	4	13	17	0.5%

The status and management of NEA cod, haddock and Greenland halibut, which are main retained species, are updated in the next section. The case of redfish is discussed below.

The vessels from both UoAs may catch two species of redfish, the golden redfish (REG - Sébastes doré - *Sebastes norvegicus*) and the beaked redfish (REB - Sébaste du Nord - *Sebastes mentella*) for which France has a quota (ICES, 2011y). The ICES advice for NEA saithe (2017b) urges that “bycatch of *Sebastes norvegicus* should be kept as low as possible because of the poor status of this stock. It should be noted that *Sebastes norvegicus* is currently in a poor state, and that the stock would need to be stabilised before any safe catch limits can be defined. The current catch of *Sebastes norvegicus*, taken as bycatch in fisheries targeting Northeast Arctic (NEA) saithe, constitutes a considerable part of the total *Sebastes norvegicus* catch and is far above any sustainable catch level for this species.” The current ICES Advice is for zero catch for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 (ICES, 2017x).

In the logbooks, beaked redfish catches are routinely reported as ‘redfish’ (RED - Sébaste de l'Atlantique - *Sebastes spp.*). This appears to be common practice and appears to be permitted by the Norwegian authorities for catches for the species in Northeast Arctic waters. However, in order for official statistics to reflect the exact species caught, the team recommends that the companies ensure that the most precise species code is used (REG or REB, not RED), in order to clarify the risks posed by this fishery to the recovery of the *Sebastes norvegicus* NEA stock.

In any case, the annual catches of *Sebastes norvegicus* remain very low and inferior to 15 tonnes per year altogether (Table 11).

**Table 11. Catches of redfish (tonnes) by the fishery in ICES subareas I and II from vessel logbooks**

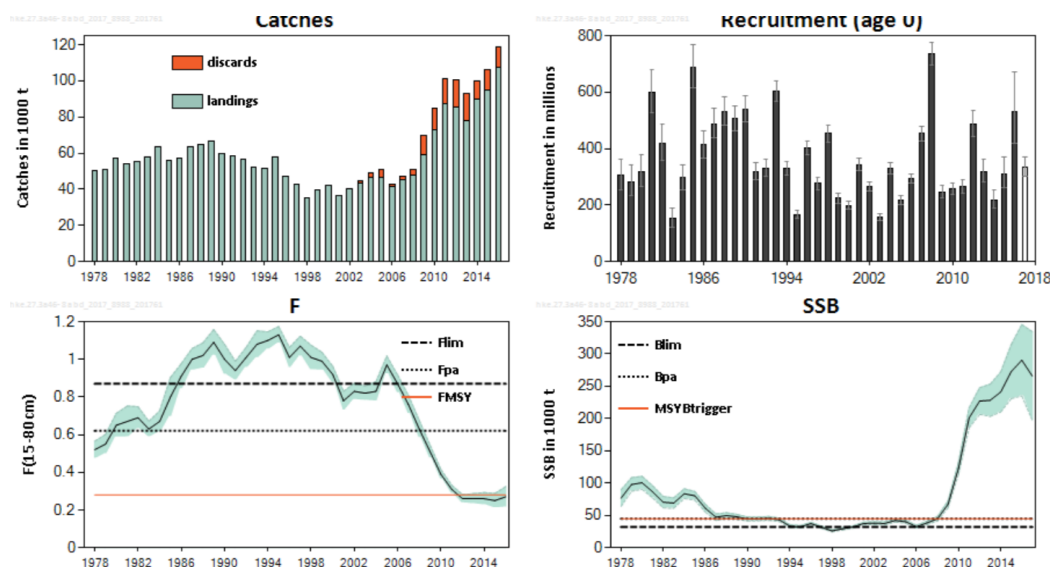
REG - Golden redfish, Sébaste doré ( <i>Sebastes norvegicus</i> )	2015	2016
UoA2 Euronor NEA (indicated as REG)	-	0.15
UoA4 CdPStM NEA (assumed REG, noted RED)	4.24	12.49
RED – Atlantic redfish, Sébaste de l'Atlantique ( <i>Sebastes</i> spp.)	2015	2016
UoA2 Euronor NEA (indicated as RED, most probably RED)	114.14	160.42

## 2.2.2 Status and management of main retained stocks

### North Sea, Skagerrak, West of Scotland and Rockall (UoA1, UoA3 and UoA5)

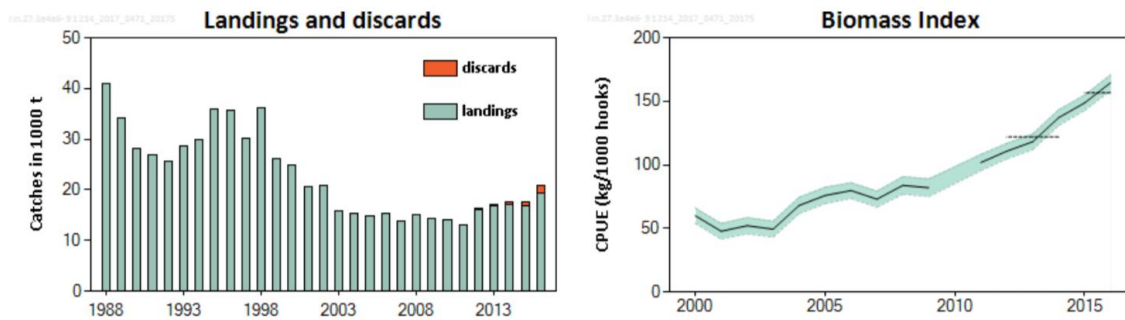
For the UoAs fishing the North Sea/West of Scotland saithe stock, the main retained species are hake and ling (Table 6, Table 7, Table 8). Both species were equally considered as 'main' during the reassessment.

The Northern hake spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased significantly since 2006 and is well above historical estimates. Fishing mortality (F) has decreased significantly after 2005, and has been below F<sub>MSY</sub> since 2012. The recruitment (R) estimate for 2016 is above average (Figure 3). For 2018, ICES advises that catches should be no more than 115,335 tonnes.



**Figure 3. Catches, recruitment, F and SSB for Northern hake, from ICES advice (ICES, 2017z).**

For ling, standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) based on data from the Norwegian longline fleet shows a positive trend since 2004 (Figure 4). ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 17,695 tonnes in each of the years 2018 and 2019. If discard rates do not change from the average of the last three years (2014–2016) this implies landings of no more than 16,793 tonnes.



**Figure 4. Catches, recruitment, F and SSB for Ling, from ICES advice (ICES, 2017v).**

#### Northeast Arctic (NEA) UoA2 and UoA4

For the two UoAs fishing in the Northeast Arctic region, the main retained species and stocks are the same as identified during the reassessment: Northeast Arctic cod and haddock and Greenland halibut (Table 9 and Table 10).

For Greenland halibut, there are no harvest control rules or MSY reference points, so the advice is based on a precautionary approach where priority is given to keeping the stock biomass above  $B_{pa}$ . In 2017, ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in each of the years 2018 and 2019 should be no more than 23,000 tonnes (ICES, 2017w).

For NEA Cod, ICES notes that the spawning–stock biomass (SSB) has been above MSY  $B_{trigger}$  since 2002. Fishing mortality (F) was reduced from well above  $F_{lim}$  in 1997 to below  $F_{MSY}$  in 2008 and the most recent estimate is likely to be below  $F_{MSY}$ . There has been no strong recruitment since the 2004 and 2005 year classes, the SSB reached a peak in 2013 and now shows a downward trend (Figure 5, ICES 2017m). ICES advice states that when the Joint Russian–Norwegian Fisheries Commission management plan is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 712,000 tonnes. An important note is added, also in the scientific advice for NEA saithe, that the bycatch of coastal cod (not caught by this fishery) and golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) should be kept as low as possible. For redfish, this was examined in the section above.

For NEA haddock, ICES notes that the spawning–stock biomass (SSB) has been above MSY  $B_{trigger}$  since 1989. The exceptionally strong year classes of 2004–2006 have contributed to the strong increase in all-time high levels of SSB seen in later years. However, recruitment at age 3 in 2016 was slightly below average and the SSB in 2017 is declining, although fishing mortality has been below  $F_{MSY}$  since 2008 (Figure 6, ICES, 2017n). ICES advice states that when the Joint Russian–Norwegian Fisheries Commission management plan is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 202,305 tonnes.



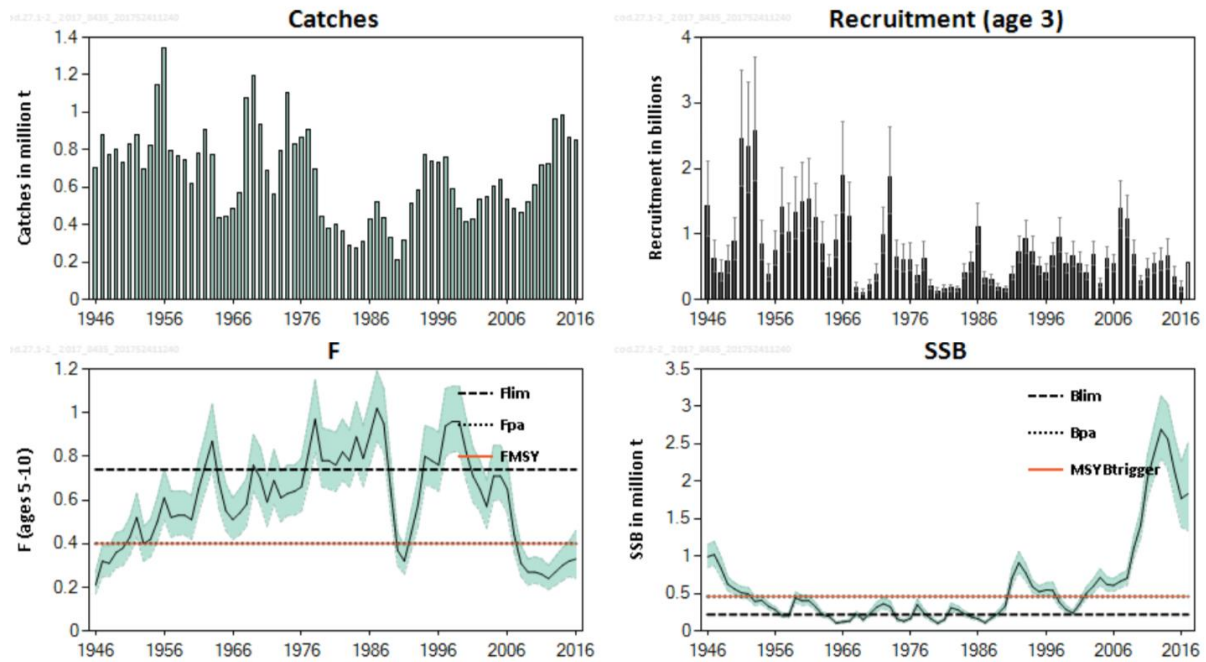


Figure 5. SSB and F for NEA cod, from ICES advice 2017 (ICES, 2017m).

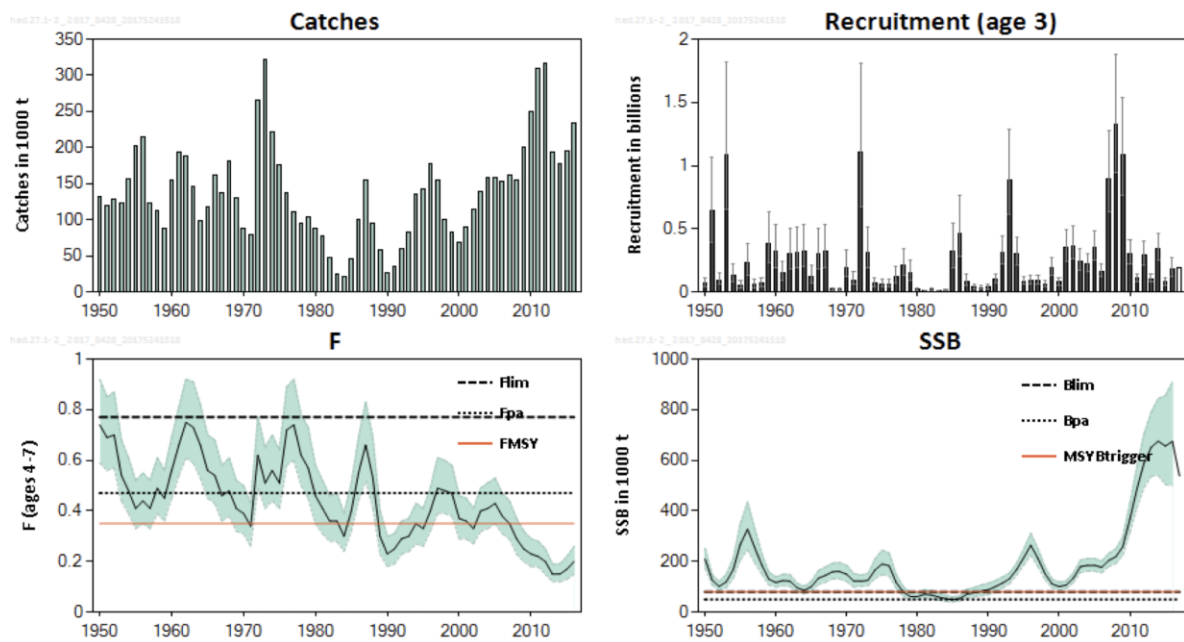


Figure 6. SSB and F for NEA haddock, from ICES advice 2017 (ICES, 2017n).

### 2.2.3 ETP species

The three conditions were set in respect of two protected species: starry ray and common skate, both caught by the three UoAs (1, 3 and 5) targeting saithe in the North Sea and Rockall and West of Scotland. Progress against these conditions is further discussed in Section 4.

The Observer reports were equally reviewed for UoAs 1, 3 and 5 and no ETP species interactions were noted.

## 2.3 Principle 3

There has been no substantive change to the fishery's management system since 2016.

Norway has had a no-discard policy in its waters for more than a decade. Under the EU landing obligation, below minimum size fish caught in EU waters that would formerly have been discarded would now be reported as below minimum size (BMS) landings in logbooks. However according to ICES, reported BMS landings are still close to zero while observer programmes estimate discards at 13% of the total catch. For the North Sea saithe stock, however, this concerns mostly small vessels. Vessels in the UoAs are all large and target larger saithe aggregated offshore. The observer reports examined in detail for the reassessment showed that they have no discards of BMS saithe (MEC, 2016).

The landing obligation does not yet apply to all demersal fisheries. For the Scapêche fleet, which operates a variety of mixed demersal fisheries and catches some species of skates and rays commercially, the landing obligation will be applied in full from 1 January 2019 (STECF, 2017). The Action Plans proposed and actions already taken by the company to fulfill the conditions will greatly contribute to their preparedness.

Reports received from the Norwegian, Scottish and French fisheries authorities show that there have been no compliance issues and the compliance level in this fishery continues to be good.

## 2.4 Traceability

Euronor lands both fresh and frozen saithe. Its traceability systems for both scenarios remain as described in MEC (2016).

Cie des Pêches de St. Malo: The Grande Hermine has not changed its fishing gear or fishing zones, and only lands saithe products as frozen. The traceability systems remain as described in MEC (2016).

Scapêche: The traceability systems remain as described in MEC (2016).



## 3 Assessment Process

### 3.1 Scope and history

The Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery was certified on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (Euronor) and on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo). It was re-certified on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 (MEC, 2016), following a reduced reassessment. The reassessment merged two previously certified fisheries: the Euronor saithe fishery, certified in March 2010, and the Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches de St Malo saithe fishery, certified in January 2011.

The reassessment was carried out procedurally in line with the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0 although Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 was used as assessment tree.

Three conditions were set, all related to the fishery's impacts on skates and rays, scored under PI 2.3. A surveillance level of 6 was awarded in accordance with the MSC FCR v2.0 (7.23.2). Level 6 is the maximum level of surveillance requiring 4 annual on-site audits.

### 3.2 Audit process

The year 1 surveillance on-site audit took place at the Euronor offices in Boulogne-sur-Mer on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. The audit was carried out by Dr Sophie des Clers (Team Leader) with remote support from Chrissie Sieben. The audit was attended by Martine Edouard and Patrick Soisson (Compagnie des Pêches Saint Malo), Maëla Gidouin (Scapêche) and Bruno Leduc (Euronor) - all client representatives. No other stakeholders were present and no written stakeholder comments were received although the surveillance was formally announced on the MSC website on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The audit team reviewed the fishery to see if there had been any significant changes since certification that may lead to changes in the scoring against Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3. This involved a review of fisheries data for 2015 and 2016 (landings of all species, observer reports where available), a review of ICES advice for relevant species (target and main retained) and interviews with the three companies' representatives. Each Principle was discussed in detail, the results of which are presented in the sections above. The audit also reviewed progress in meeting the three conditions as set out in the three Clients' Action Plans (Section 4). The traceability in the fishery was also reviewed. The surveillance audit process was carried out in line with the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0.

This fishery remains in conformity with the MSC scope requirements (FCR 7.4).

### 3.3 Harmonisation

In line with the MSC FCR v2.0, Annex PB3, the audit team reviewed the harmonisation requirements for the fisheries listed in Table 12 to ensure that they continue to be met.

For the Northeast Arctic, two demersal trawl fisheries were recertified in 2017: the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo cod and haddock fishery and the UK

Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe fishery. Both fisheries were harmonised in relation to the Habitats Component (2.4). A similar harmonisation exercise was therefore required for this fishery. Note that this only affects UoAs 2 and 4, i.e. the Euronor and Compagnie des Peches St Malo fishing activities in the Northeast Arctic. The harmonised 2.4 scores and resulting new conditions are shown in Appendix 2.

In June 2017 MSC issued new guidance on the interpretation of ICES reference points, more specifically on 'scoring stock status against  $B_{MSY}$  for ICES stocks' (see Appendix 5). Together with the new guidance a calibration workshop was held among MSC and P1 experts in London. The workshop resulted in a more streamlined approach to scoring of ICES stocks and is likely to impact some of the existing scoring for certified fisheries. The North Sea saithe stock is currently being assessed as part of the Joint North Sea demersal fisheries assessment which follows the recently issued guidance. This assessment is managed by MEC and is currently still in the scoring stage. As such, the audit team considered it more prudent to wait until the scoring for the North Sea assessment is finalised. Full harmonisation for this stock will therefore take place at the next surveillance audit.

**Table 12. Saithe Fisheries in the MSC programme**

Fisheries	Certification expiry	Difference in outcome at most recent assessment?
Arkhangelsk trawl fleet Barents Sea cod, haddock & saithe	Jan-21	No
Barents Sea cod, haddock & saithe	Sep-21	No
DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe	Mar-19	Part of Joint North Sea demersal fisheries assessment
Faroe Islands and Iceland NEA cod, haddock & saithe	Aug-22	No
Germany North Sea saithe trawl	Oct-18	Surveillance ongoing
Greenland cod, haddock & saithe	May-20	In re-assessment
Norway North Sea saithe	Jun-18	No
SFSAG saithe	Oct-18	This fishery is part of an expedited assessment to be added to the SFSAG North Sea haddock certificate and is being harmonised with the Harmonisation with the Joint North Sea demersal fisheries assessment.
UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group NEA cod, haddock and saithe	Nov-2022	Yes on habitats – see Appendix 2 and Section 4
UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group saithe	Apr-2021	Yes on habitats – see Appendix 2 and Section 4
Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters (including various previously	Ongoing	Scoring in progress, harmonisation will be

Fisheries	Certification expiry	Difference in outcome at most recent assessment?
previously certified demersal fisheries (DFPO, SFPO, EG and CVO)		completed at Year 2 surveillance

## 4 Results

The fishery was certified with three conditions, all regarding ETP species in Principle 2, as reviewed below. Not all UoAs are concerned by all the conditions. The UoAs are indicated in bold in Table 13 to Table 15.

As previously mentioned, UoAs 2 and 4 were harmonised with the Habitats Component (2.4) scoring for the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo cod and haddock fishery and the UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe fishery. The resulting conditions are shown in Table 16 to Table 18.

**Table 13. Condition 1 - ETP species outcome**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.1 – ETP species outcome	The fishery meets national and international requirements for protection of ETP species. The fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to ETP species and does not hinder recovery of ETP species.	75 (UoA 1, UoA 5) 65 (UoA 3)
Condition	<p><b>UoA 1:</b> Euronor should show by the end of Year 5 that direct effects of their fishery are highly unlikely to create unacceptable impacts to starry ray in the North Sea.</p> <p><b>UoA 3:</b> Cie des Pêches St. Malo should show by the end of Year 5 that direct effects of their fishery are highly unlikely to create unacceptable impacts to starry ray in the North Sea. The effects of the fishery should be shown to be highly likely to be within limits of national and international requirements for protection of starry ray in the North Sea.</p> <p><b>UoA 5:</b> Scapêche should show by the end of Year 5 that the direct effects of their fishery are highly unlikely to create unacceptable impacts to common skate in Subarea VI.</p>		
Milestones	<p>Note: Euronor and Cie des Pêches St. Malo may collaborate on addressing this condition or may address it independently, as they choose.</p> <p><u>UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea):</u></p> <p>Year 1: Euronor should collate available data on bycatch and populations of starry ray in the North Sea, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 2: Euronor should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are ‘highly unlikely’</p>		

	<p>(probability &lt; 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 3: If the analysis cannot demonstrate this, Euronor should evaluate ways in which starry ray bycatch could be reduced. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on starry ray in the North Sea to an acceptable level. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. <b>Score 80.</b></p> <p><u>UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea):</u></p> <p>Year 1: Cie des Pêches St Malo should collate available data on bycatch and populations of starry ray in the North Sea, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. <b>Score 65.</b></p> <p>Year 2: Cie des Pêches St Malo should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are 'highly unlikely' (probability &lt; 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). <b>Score 65.</b></p> <p>Year 3: If the analysis cannot demonstrate this, Cie des Pêches St Malo should evaluate ways in which starry ray bycatch could be reduced. <b>Score 65.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on starry ray in the North Sea to an acceptable level. <b>Score 65.</b></p> <p>Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. <b>Score 80.</b></p> <p><u>UoA 5 (Scapêche):</u></p> <p>Year 1: Scapêche should collate available data on bycatch and populations of common skate in the area of the fishery, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 2: Scapêche should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are 'highly unlikely' (probability &lt; 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 3: If required, Scapêche should evaluate ways in which common skate bycatch could be reduced. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on common skate to an acceptable level. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. <b>Score 80.</b></p>
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 3) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above.</p> <p>UoA1 and UoA3: 1. Create logbook for ray catches (years 1, 2 and 3); 2. Spatial and temporal mapping of starry ray catches (year 3);</p> <p>UoA 5: 1) Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis; 2) Identification and collection of missing data to back up management.</p>
<b>Progress on Condition Year 1</b>	<p><u>UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea):</u> Actions have taken place since the first certification period to improve on-board identification of skates and rays, especially the common skate. The starry ray is a much rarer encounter, but some have been identified in catches and are also described in detail by on-board observers. The</p>

	vessels take scientific observers on board regularly, and often enough to ensure that specific trawls targeting saithe are sampled within trips for each vessel. The number of OBSMER trips per vessel per year are given below		
	<b>Euronor (UoA1)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
	Andre Leduc	3	2
	Bressay Bank	2	5
	Cap Saint Georges	1	7
	Halten Bank	2	6
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>
	<p><u>UoA3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea):</u> The company did not fish in the North Sea in 2015 or 2016. However, the Grande Hermine has introduced a new system to record elasmobranchs (skates, rays, sharks) and any other bycatch species caught from each trawl. The captain and crew have been briefed, copies of the Species identification Guide have been distributed, as well as digital cameras in order for all bycatch species to be photographed and identified. An example of the new data sheets and pictures (albeit from the NEA waters) are shown in Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>UoA5 (Scapêche):</u> The Scapêche vessels in UoA5 take scientific observers on board regularly, and often enough to ensure that specific trawls targeting saithe are sampled within trips for each vessel. The number of OBSMER trips per vessel per year are given below.</p>		
	<b>Scapêche (UoA5)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
	CORAIL	2	
	FASTNET	3	3
	JEAN CLAUDE COULON II	4	5
	JEAN-PIERRE LE ROCH	1	1
	JULIEN COLEOU	3	1
	MARIETTE LE ROCH II	6	5
	ROSELEND	4	3
	ROSSOREN	1	1
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Status of condition</b>	On target		

**Table 14. Condition 2 - ETP species management**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.2 – ETP species management	The fishery has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to ETP species; - ensure the fishery does not hinder recovery of ETP species; and - minimise mortality of ETP species.	75 (UoA 1, 3 and 5)
Condition	<p><u>UoA 1 and 3:</u> In relation to Euronor and Cie des Pêches St Malo, the fishery needs to show by the end of Year 5 that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect starry ray in the North Sea will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or the species involved.</p> <p><u>UoA 5:</u> For Scapêche, the fishery needs to show by the end of Year 5 that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect common skate in Subarea VI will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or the species involved.</p>		
Milestones	<p>Year 1: No milestone. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 2: From the information gathered and analysed under Condition 1, determine how likely the existing strategy to protect starry ray (UoA 1 and 3) / common skate (UoA 5) is likely to work. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 3: Evaluate ways in which the strategy could be improved, as per Condition 1 Year 3 milestone. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Develop a plan to improve the existing strategy. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 5: Implement the revised strategy and demonstrate that there is an objective basis for confidence that it will work to reduce impacts on starry ray (UoA 1 and 3) or common skate (UoA 5) to acceptable levels. <b>Score 80.</b></p>		
Client action plan	<p>The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 3) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above.</p> <p>UoA1 and UoA3: 3. Put in place an avoidance plan for starry rays (Years 4 and 5)</p> <p>UoA 5: 3) Design and implement management measures based on data analysis and assessments.</p>		
Progress on Condition Year 1	<p>The three companies with vessels in three UoAs are on target with their actions aiming to identify precisely the species of skates and rays encountered, and the circumstances of encounters (time, depth, full species composition) as per conditions 1 and 3. No milestone was set for Year 1, but progress with the other two conditions is key to reaching the Year 2 milestone.</p>		
Status of condition	On target		

**Table 15. Condition 3 – ETP species information**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.3 – ETP species information	Relevant information is collected to support the management of fishery 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..	75 (UoA 5)
<b>Condition</b>	By the end of Year 5, Scapêche should show that information on common skate in Subarea VI is sufficient to determine whether the Scapêche saithe fishery may be a threat to protection and recovery of the species.		
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Year 1: Scapêche should collate available data on bycatch and populations of common skate in the area of the fishery, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 2: Scapêche should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it is able to provide sufficient information to demonstrate whether Scapêche is a threat to the recovery of common skate populations. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 3: Work with a suitable scientific body (e.g. Ifremer, Marine Scotland Science, ICES Elasmobranch Working Group or another suitable individual or organisation) to support further data collection and analysis of common skate in the area of the fishery if required. <b>Score 75.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Analyse data, show that information is now sufficient to evaluate the threat to common skate, or that there is a reasonable expectation of such an evaluation being possible. <b>Score 80.</b></p>		
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 3) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above.</p> <p>UoA 5: 1) Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis; 2) Identification and collection of missing data to back up management</p>		
<b>Progress on Condition Year 1</b>	All skates and rays are identified to the species level, and their weight (discarded or landed) are recorded in logbook data per ICES subdivision. Through the OBSMER protocol, on board scientific observers measure, weigh and record individual numbers of starry rays, by trawl separately, which can be linked back to exact trawl, location, depth and amount of saithe as the target species.		
<b>Status of condition</b>	On target		



**Table 16. Condition 4 – Habitat outcome**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.1 – Habitat outcome	The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis, and function	70 (UoA 2 and 4)
Condition	There is insufficient evidence to be able to state that the fishery is 'highly unlikely' to have impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens. All vessels in the UoC need to provide data on i) any known interactions with VMEs (e.g. any relevant benthic species attached to the trawl) and ii) the location of fishing activities, so that interactions can be evaluated with more precision and certainty.		
Milestones	<p>Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering system; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary / desired. <b>Score: 70</b></p> <p>Year 2: Implementation of systematic data-gathering on all vessels. <b>Score: 70</b></p> <p>Year 3: Review of first year's data; evaluation of likely impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens (as well as other VMEs); design of new management measures to reduce impacts if necessary. <b>Score: 80 if no management measures are required; 70 otherwise.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Continuation of data collection. Implementation of new management measures if necessary. <b>Score: 80</b></p>		
Client action plan	<p>Annee 2:</p> <p>Instruction renouvelée aux capitaines :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- De consulter avant chaque départ le site Mareano.no (qui répertorie et cartographie les habitats sensibles en eaux norvégiennes).</li> <li>- De le consulter pendant la navigation si les moyens techniques le permettent.</li> </ul> <p>Instruction donnée aux capitaines de collecter sur un document « Habitats » les données relatives aux quantités et à la localisation des éponges, des coraux et des autres espèces similaires qui seraient accidentellement remontées avec le chalut. Le document suivra l'exemple (Appendix 4) de celui développée par la flotille espagnole en collaboration avec l'institut AZTI</p> <p>Instruction renouvelée aux capitaines de collecter sur un document « prises accidentelles » les prises des requins, raies et chimères.</p> <p>Year 2:</p> <p>Renewed instruction to captains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consult before each departure the Mareano.no site (which lists and maps sensitive habitats in Norwegian waters).</li> <li>- Consult it during navigation if technical means permit.</li> </ul> <p>Instructions given to masters to collect data on quantities and location of sponges, corals and other similar species that would have been accidentally brought up with the trawl on a Habitats document. The document will follow the example (Appendix 4) of the one developed by the Spanish fleet in collaboration</p>		



with the institute AZTI.

Renewed instruction to captains to collect on a document "accidental" catches of sharks, rays and chimeras.

Annee 3 :

Poursuite de la collecte des données sur tous les bateaux, en utilisant si possible les possibilités informatiques du nouveau navire construit en commun par les deux armements français concernés par l'Unité de Certification.

Year 3 :

Continue collecting data on all vessels, using, if possible, the computing capabilities of the new ship built jointly by the two French vessels concerned by the Certification Unit.

Annee 4 :

Poursuite de la collecte des données sur tous les bateaux.

Revue des données en comparant notamment les localisations des traits de chaluts et la localisation des éponges, des jardins de corail et autres espèces similaires.

Estimation des impacts éventuels.

Définition de nouvelles mesures si nécessaires.

Year 4 :

Continue collecting data on all vessels.

Review of data by comparing trawl location and location of sponges, coral gardens and other similar species.

Estimation of potential impacts.

Definition of new measures if necessary.

Annee 5 :

Poursuite de la collecte des données sur tous les bateaux.

Application des mesures éventuellement décidées en année 4.

Revue des données.

Year 5 :

Continue collecting data on all vessels.

Application of the measures decided upon in year 4.

Review of data

Progress on Condition Year 1	Not applicable
Status of condition	To be reviewed at Year 2 surveillance

**Table 17. Condition 5 – Habitat management**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.2 – Habitat management	There is a strategy in place that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to habitat types	60 (UoA 2 and 4)
Condition	The fishery requires a ‘partial strategy’ to achieve the 80 outcome for PI 2.4.1. Specifically it is required that impacts on VMEs, particularly sponges and coral gardens, are monitored in more detail, and that management actions are put in place if necessary.		
Milestones	<p>Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering element of partial strategy; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary. <b>Score: 60</b></p> <p>Year 2: Implementation of data-gathering partial strategy on all vessels. <b>Score: 60</b></p> <p>Year 3: Review of first year’s data; evaluation of likely impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens (as well as other VMEs); design of partial strategy to reduce impacts as required. <b>Score: 80 if no management measures required; 60 otherwise.</b></p> <p>Year 4: Implementation of partial strategy as required. <b>Score: 80</b></p>		
Client action plan	See Condition 4		
Progress on Condition Year 1	Not applicable		
Status of condition	To be reviewed at Year 2 surveillance		

**Table 18. Condition 6 – Habitat information**

Performance Indicator(s)	PI number(s)	scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.3 – Habitat information	Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types	75 (UoA 2 and 4)
Condition	Sufficient data need to be collected on an ongoing basis to evaluate the risk to habitats with sufficient precision for PI 2.4.1 to meet SG80.		
Milestones	Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering system; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary / desired. <b>Score: 75</b>		

	Year 2: Implementation of systematic data-gathering on all vessels. <b>Score: 80</b> Year 3+: Continuation of data gathering. <b>Score: 80</b>
<b>Client action plan</b>	See Condition 4
<b>Progress on Condition Year 1</b>	Not applicable
<b>Status of condition</b>	To be reviewed at Year 2 surveillance

The audit team also added the following recommendation:

**Table 19. Recommendation 1**

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	The companies that target saithe in Northeast Arctic waters (UoA2 and UoA4) should ensure that the most precise species code is used for the incidental catch of redfish, in order to clarify the risks posed by this fishery to the recovery of the <i>Sebastes norvegicus</i> NEA stock, for which a zero catch policy is in place
<b>Progress on recommendation Year 1</b>	Not applicable

## 5 Evaluation Results

As previously stated, the Habitats Component scores were revised for UoAs 2 and 4 following harmonisation with other Northeast Arctic fisheries. No other scores were revised. The up to date final principle and PI level scores are shown in the following sections (revised scores are shown in red).

### 5.1 Principle Level Scores

Table 20. Final Principle Scores

Principle	Euronor		Cie de Pêches		Scapêche
	UoA 1 (North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 2 (NEA)	UoA 3 (North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 4 (NEA)	UoA 5 (North Sea / West of Scotland)
Principle 1 – Target Species	89.4	91.9	89.4	91.9	89.4
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	82.0	83.0	81.3	83.0	81.7
Principle 3 – Management System	90.0	93.0	90.0	93.0	90.0

## 5.2 Summary of PI Level Scores

Principle	Component	Weighting	PI number	Performance Indicator	Scores				
					UoA 1 (Euronor North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 2 (Euronor Northeast Arctic)	UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 4 (Cie des Pêches Northeast Arctic)	UoA 5 (Scapêche North Sea / West of Scotland)
1	Outcome	0.5	1.1.1	Stock status	80	100	80	100	80
			1.1.2	Reference points	90	80	90	80	90
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	-	-	-	-	-
	Management	0.5	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	100	100	100	100	100
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools	90	90	90	90	90
			1.2.3	Information and monitoring	90	90	90	90	90
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	95	95	95	95	95
2	Retained species	0.2	2.1.1	Outcome	85	85	85	85	85
			2.1.2	Management	85	85	85	85	85
			2.1.3	Information	85	85	85	85	85
	Bycatch species	0.2	2.2.1	Outcome	80	80	80	80	80
			2.2.2	Management	80	85	80	85	80
			2.2.3	Information	80	80	80	80	80
	ETP species	0.2	2.3.1	Outcome	75	85	65	85	75
			2.3.2	Management	75	85	75	85	75
			2.3.3	Information	80	80	80	80	75
	Habitats	0.2	2.4.1	Outcome	80	70	80	70	80

Principle	Component	Weighting	PI number	Performance Indicator	Scores				
					UoA 1 (Euronor North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 2 (Euronor Northeast Arctic)	UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches North Sea / West of Scotland)	UoA 4 (Cie des Pêches Northeast Arctic)	UoA 5 (Scapêche North Sea / West of Scotland)
	Ecosystem	0.2	2.4.2	Management	80	60	80	60	80
			2.4.3	Information	80	75	80	75	80
			2.5.1	Outcome	90	90	90	90	90
			2.5.2	Management	85	100	85	100	85
			2.5.3	Information	90	95	90	95	90
3	Governance and Policy	0.5	3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	95	95	95	95	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles and responsibilities	95	95	95	95	95
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	100	100	100	100	100
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainability	90	90	90	90	90
	Fishery- specific management system	0.5	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90	90	90	90	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	85	85	85	85	85
			3.2.3	Compliance and enforcement	80	100	80	100	80
			3.2.4	Research plan	80	80	80	80	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	90	100	90	100	90

## 6 Conclusion

The audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing. Progress against the three conditions is on track for all UoAs concerned. Three new conditions were raised in relation to the Habitats Component following harmonisation with other Northeast Arctic fisheries. One new recommendation was also made in relation to the reporting for redfish bycatch. The surveillance plan has not been revised and remains at Level 6.

The audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified.

## 7 References

- ICES. 2016. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on North Sea Stocks (WKNSEA), 14–18 March 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:37. 698 pp.
- ICES, 2017a. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat), pok.27.3a46 . In: ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Greater North Sea and Celtic Seas Ecoregions, 10p.
- ICES, 2017b. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic). In ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Arctic Ocean , Barents Sea , Faroes , Greenland Sea , Iceland Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions pok.27.1-2, 10p. Published 13 June 2017 DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3205
- ICES, 2017c. OSPAR request on the production of spatial data layers of fishing intensity/pressure. ICES Technical Services sr.2017.17, 8p. Published 25 August 2017.
- ICES, 2017d. New information regarding the impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem. ICES Advice, North Atlantic Ecoregion, wme.eu. Published 20 June 2017. DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3059, 12p.
- ICES, 2017x. Golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) . ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions, Published 10 June 2016, 6p.
- ICES 2017y. 3.3.6. Beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) , ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Arctic Ocean, Barents Sea, Faroes, Greenland Sea, Icelandic Waters, and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions reb.27.1-2 , Published 13 June 2017 DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3212
- ICES, 2017z. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Greater Northern Sea, Celtic Seas, and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregions hke.27.3a46-8abd Published 30 June 2017, 8p. DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3134
- ICES, 2017v. Ling (*Molva molva*) in subareas 6–9, 12, and 14, and in divisions 3.a and 4.a (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean) lin.27.3a4a6-91214, 6p. ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean Ecoregions Published 7 June 2017, DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3138
- ICES, 2017w. Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Arctic Ocean, Barents Sea, Faroes, Greenland Sea, Iceland Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions ghl.27.1-2
- ICES, 2017m. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Arctic Ocean , Barents Sea , Faroes , Greenland Sea , Icelandic Waters and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions cod.27.1-2, 10p. Published 13 June 2017 DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3092
- ICES, 2017n. Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic) ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Arctic Ocean , Barents Sea ,



Faroes , Greenland Sea , Iceland Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions had.27.1-2, 9p.  
Published 13 June 2017 DOI: 10.17895/ices.pub.3117

MEC, 2016. Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Public Certification Report for the Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fisheryfishery. Gascoigne, J., Cardinale, M., Lowenberg, U., 216p. ME Certification Ltd.

STECF, 2017. Long-term management of skates and rays. Report of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries - STECF-17-16. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017, Available from [https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=b42c2b81-066c-401f-8871-9fb62acb19fb&groupId=43805](https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=b42c2b81-066c-401f-8871-9fb62acb19fb&groupId=43805)

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: VME and elasmobranch recording system Compagnie des Pêches de St Malo (UoA 3 and 4)

New recording system with detail of elasmobranch bycatch species and VMEs from each individual trawl: example of logsheet and pictures

ÉCHANTILLONNAGE DES POISSONS DES ESPÈCES CAPTURÉS					
heure de mise à		N° du trait :		53	
Latitude de mise à		Date du trait :		07.10.2017	
Longitude du trait		Volume total			
Prof. Mise à l'eau :		200			
Heure de		Observations :			
Latitude de la		HABITATS MARINS			
Longitude de la		VULNÉRABLES :			
Prof. avant remontée :		OUI NON			
224					
	Nom commun	Nom scientifique	Code	Retenu (kg)	Accessoire
Poissons	Cabillaud	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	COD	1678	150.
	Eglefin	<i>Melanogrammus</i>	HAD		
	Flétan noir	<i>Reinhardtius</i>	GHL	14	
	Flétan blanc	<i>Hippoglossus</i>	HAL		
	Sébaste du nord	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	REB		
	Sébaste doré	<i>Sebastes marinus</i>	REG		
	Lompe, lièvre de	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	LUM		
	Loup de mer	<i>Anarhichas</i>	CAB		
	Loup de	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	CAA		
	Loup tacheté	<i>Anarhichas minor</i>	CAS		
	Loups	<i>Anarhichas spp</i>	CAT		
	Brosme	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	USK		
	Plie canadienne	<i>Hippoglossoides</i>	PLA		
Raies	Raie à queue	<i>Bathyrhaja</i>	RJQ		
	Raie arctique	<i>Amblyraja</i>	RJG		
	Raie épineuse	<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>	RJR	4 Raies	
	Pocheteau gris	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	RJB		
	Pocheteau noir	<i>Dipturus</i>	RJO		
	Raie chardon	<i>Leukoraja fullonica</i>	RJF		
	Raie bouclée	<i>Raja clavata</i>	RJC		
	Raie ronde	<i>Rajella fyllae</i>	RJY		
	Raies non				
Requin	Sagre commun	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	ETX		
	Requin du	<i>Somniosus</i>	GSK		
	Aiguillat	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	DGS		
	Requin-pèlerin	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	BSK		
	Requin-taupe	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	POR		
	Pristiure à	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	SHO		
	Petite roussette	<i>Scyliorhinus</i>	SYC		
	Requin-hâ	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	GAG		
	Ange de mer	<i>Squatina squatina</i>	AGN		
Cétacés					
Oisea					
Au					



## Appendix 2. Re-scoring Habitats component UoAs 2 and 4

Note : these scoring tables are duplicates of the scoring tables shown in the Public Certification Report for the Euronor and Compagnie des Peches St Malo cod and haddock fishery (MEC, 2017). With the exception of the target species, UoAs 2 and 4 are identical to those listed in that report. For further background information, the reader is invited to consult MEC (2017) and the references therein.

Evaluation table PI 2.4.1

PI 2.4.1		The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis, and function		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guide post	The fishery is unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	The fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	There is evidence that the fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.
	Met?	Y	Y – commonly encountered habitats N – VMEs	N
	Justification	<p>Scoring elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft sediment habitats (mud, silt and sand) – ‘commonly-encountered habitat’</li> <li>• Soft-bottom sponge communities, hard-bottom coral gardens – VME</li> <li>• Minor habitats not included in scoring</li> </ul> <p>This fishery takes place in areas which have been trawled consistently for many years, and habitat protection has to be seen in that context (Denisenko and Zgurovsky, 2013). The main habitat in the area of the fishery is soft sediment with the dominant macro-epibenthic fauna being echinoderms of various kinds. These types of habitat are not particularly vulnerable to disturbance from demersal fishing gear, although some differences may be apparent between trawled and untrawled areas; the team did not consider, however, that this constitutes ‘serious or irreversible harm’ for these habitat types. SG80 is met for main habitats. In relation to SG100, while there is extensive research evidence that demersal fishing causes changes to various different habitat types (reviewed in Kaiser et al., 2001), the evidence required here would be something specific to the area / habitat in question; e.g. comparison between trawled and untrawled areas in the Barents Sea. As far as the team is aware, this information is not available; SG100 is not met.</p>		

	<p>An analysis of VMEs overlapping with the fishery suggests that the main concern is over potential interactions with soft-bottom sponge communities and hard-bottom coral gardens. It is not clear whether the fishery impacts these habitat types or not. The fishing companies report that sponges are not brought up in the net and that any interactions of this kind are avoided as these types of organisms damage catch and gear. The Barents Sea management plan reports, however, that there has been significant damage to this habitat type in the past (over the many decades of trawling in this area) – so lack of interaction may be at least partly a function of the fact that the habitat is less extensive than it used to be.</p> <p>For coral gardens (which include sea pen aggregations as per Lancaster et al. (2014)), likewise, there are no reports that corals are brought up in the trawl, but this does not mean that damage is not done. There is no significant protection for this habitat type in the Barents Sea; so far closed areas have concentrated on corals (although this is reportedly set to change) and the Norwegian move-on rule, which applies, allows for up to 30 kg of corals and 400 kg of sponges in a haul before a vessel has to move on – reportedly this has never happened to these vessels or to any others in the Norwegian EEZ in the last 2 years. Note that move-on rules in general are thought by ICES to be ineffective when used alone as they may run the risk of spreading the impacts to a wider area, rather than containing them (ICES, 2010a).</p> <p>Conversely, there are various factors which mitigate against the likelihood of damage by these vessels. The previous certification was subject to a condition on habitats, which means that the fishing companies and vessel skippers are strongly aware of habitat issues. MAREANO is checked on a regular basis although the maps are not integrated into the vessels' navigational systems. Note that MAREANO is only relevant to the NEZ; no such maps are currently available for the SFPZ, although information is available (see 2.4.2 and 2.4.3); mapping is ongoing in this area, according to the most recent management plan. Perhaps more importantly, however, the rules on haddock bycatch limits for the EU fleets have the effect of ensuring that vessels keep to areas where they know that the catch will be mainly cod – i.e. it keeps the fishery within a known and established footprint.</p> <p>During the harmonisation meeting for Barents Sea habitats, held on 10 March 2016, it was noted that different fisheries may have different outcomes for the scoring of this PI based on various factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differences in target species (saithe fished further south, cod and haddock intermediate latitudes and prawn furthest north)</li> <li>• Differences in information on habitats available about the fishing zone (best information in NEZ, less information in SFPZ although improving, Russian zone a bit unclear - information may exist but be hard to access).</li> <li>• Differences in the number and type of vessels in the fleet (size but also what technology they have on board for identifying bottom types and how they use it)</li> <li>• Vessel/operation nationalities; e.g EU vs non-EU fishing activity - this is relevant in the Barents Sea because due to the rules on haddock bycatch for the EU fleet their footprint is more constrained than that of the Norwegian and Russian fleets.</li> <li>• Spatial extent of the vessel footprint – whether they continuously fish over the same areas vs. widely dispersed.</li> </ul> <p>In relation to target species (fishing area), since a key area is in the far south of the Barents Sea (the area mapped by MAREANO), any of the species targeted by this fishery may overlap with VMEs. However, a major concern is the expansion of the fishery into new areas</p>
--	---

	<p>as Arctic ice retreats – this is not likely for this fishery which does not fish anywhere north of Svalbard (The spatial footprint of the fishery is relatively constrained). This is at least partially due to the fact that as an EU fleet the vessels are constrained in their footprint by haddock bycatch rules.</p> <p>Overall, considering all these factors, the team concluded that for sponges and coral gardens, SG60 is met – serious and irreversible harm to Barents Sea habitats can be shown to be unlikely (MSC definition) from this fishery, based on VMS plots and what we know about the activity of the fishery. It is most likely ‘highly unlikely’ but evidence is lacking in some areas; e.g. there is some unconfirmed evidence of minor fishing activity outside the main footprint of the fishery in VMS areas (WWF, pers. comm.) and there is as yet no system for logging and reporting any benthic bycatch and taking action on that basis. SG80 is not met for VMEs.</p> <p>Note: The fishery was previously certified with a condition on this PI which was closed at the Year 2 audit further to additional management measures put in place. However, additional data and an extensive discussion and harmonisation process about the scoring of this PI has resulted in the condition being re-opened here.</p>	
References	<p>Denisenko and Zgurovsky, 2013</p> <p>Kaiser et al., 2001</p> <p>Dr Philipp Kanstinger, WWF, pers. comm.</p> <p>Norwegian Ministry of the Environment 2011. First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea–Lofoten Area. Meld. St. 10 (2010–2011) Report to the Storting.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mareano.no">www.mareano.no</a></p> <p>Move-on rule: <a href="http://www.fiskeridir.no/Yrkesfiske/Regelverk-og-reguleringer/J-meldinger/Gjeldende-J-meldinger/J-40-2016">http://www.fiskeridir.no/Yrkesfiske/Regelverk-og-reguleringer/J-meldinger/Gjeldende-J-meldinger/J-40-2016</a></p>	
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:		70
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):		4



Evaluation table PI 2.4.2

PI 2.4.2		There is a strategy in place that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to habitat types		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guide post	There are measures in place, if necessary, that are expected to achieve the Habitat Outcome 80 level of performance.	There is a partial strategy in place, if necessary, that is expected to achieve the Habitat Outcome 80 level of performance or above.	There is a strategy in place for managing the impact of the fishery on habitat types.
	Met?	Y	N	N
	Justification	<p>MSC define 'measures' and a 'partial strategy' as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Measures" are actions or tools in place that either explicitly manage impacts on the component or indirectly contribute to management of the component under assessment having been designed to manage impacts elsewhere.</li> <li>• A "partial strategy" represents a cohesive arrangement which may comprise one or more measures, an understanding of how it/they work to achieve an outcome and an awareness of the need to change the measures should they cease to be effective. It may not have been designed to manage the impact on that component specifically.</li> </ul> <p>From the overall management point of view, there is a process underway in the Barents Sea to map habitats and designate MPAs in sensitive areas (see MAREANO, Barents Sea management plan). Key areas of cold water corals and carbonate mounds have already been closed to towed gears in Norwegian waters, and authorities are now considering options for other vulnerable habitats such as sponge aggregations and coral gardens. There is a move-on rule (2 nm) if vessels bring up &gt;30kg of corals or &gt;400kg of sponges, but this is reportedly never triggered.</p> <p>In relation to the actions of these vessels specifically, a key point is that the need to avoid bycatch (haddock bycatch restrictions and a discard ban in the NEA) means that vessels tends to keep within a known footprint where they can get a clean catch of cod as far as possible.</p> <p>The team considered that the combination of the above measures constitutes a 'partial strategy' from the perspective of the Norwegian management system. The fact that there is a plan in place may constitute a full strategy, but the team felt that as regards habitat impacts specifically, they were not sufficiently detailed, and that SG100 would not be met until the process of mapping, designation of vulnerable areas and agreeing management was completed. The strategy is less complete for other VMEs (including sponges and coral gardens) than for cold water corals, and is hence 'partial' in that sense.</p> <p>From the point of view of implementation, however, it is not clear that this is yet sufficient to constitute a 'partial strategy', although there are measures (avoidance of sponges, constrained footprint linked to haddock bycatch) which probably act to keep the habitat impacts of</p>		

		the vessels to a low level. The team concluded, however, that this does not yet constitute a 'partial strategy', since it does not incorporate the elements of awareness of how they work to achieve an outcome (there is no formal commitment to a constrained footprint for example), or the need to change them if they are not effective; it is mainly still at the information-gathering stage. While the Norwegian government does have a partial strategy, it is not yet far enough implemented to achieve by itself the 80 level for VMEs. Therefore, overall, SG60 is met but SG80 is not fully met.		
b	Guide post	The measures are considered likely to work, based on plausible argument (e.g. general experience, theory or comparison with similar fisheries/habitats).	There is some objective basis for confidence that the partial strategy will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or habitats involved.	Testing supports high confidence that the strategy will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or habitats involved.
	Met?	Y	N	N
	Justification	Norwegian waters are largely mapped, but there are gaps, particularly around Svalbard. Norway has undertaken, however, to complete mapping and designate 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. A habitat map for the entire area has just been made available (Lepland et al., 2014). Norway has a record of closing areas where vulnerable habitats are found (e.g. closed areas for corals, inshore areas around Svalbard), although the focus up till now has been corals specifically, with other VMEs not specifically protected in closed areas. The 2011 updated Barents Sea-Lofoten plan acknowledges that habitat damage in north Norway has been worse than previously thought, and includes further management actions for habitat protection. This provides a reasonable basis for considering that the Norwegian strategy will work to protect other VMEs as it has corals, once fully implemented. SG60 is met. For now, however, as argued above, the partial strategy is not fully implemented (e.g. formal protection is lacking for most VMEs, habitat maps are not integrated with charts, mapping is limited in some areas, objectives are not explicit etc.). SG80 is not met.		
c	Guide post		There is some evidence that the partial strategy is being implemented successfully.	There is clear evidence that the strategy is being implemented successfully.
	Met?		N	N
	Justification	In the absence of a partial strategy, this scoring issue is not met.		
d	Guide post			There is some evidence that the strategy is achieving its objective.
	Met?			N



	<b>Justification</b>	The Barents Sea plan acknowledges that habitat damage was worse than previously through and more work is needed to ensure habitat protection in this area. Not met.
<b>References</b>	<p>Norwegian MPAs, including maps: <a href="http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/Areas-of-activity1/Marine-and-coastal-areas/Marine-protected-areas-in-the-OSPAR-network/">http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/Areas-of-activity1/Marine-and-coastal-areas/Marine-protected-areas-in-the-OSPAR-network/</a></p> <p>Norwegian Ministry of the Environment 2011. First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea–Lofoten Area. Meld. St. 10 (2010–2011) Report to the Storting (white paper).</p> <p>MAREANO: <a href="http://www.mareano.no">www.mareano.no</a></p> <p>Lepland et al., 2014</p> <p>Latest Norwegian regulations (in Norwegian) <a href="http://www.fiskeridir.no/English/Fisheries/Regulations">http://www.fiskeridir.no/English/Fisheries/Regulations</a></p>	
<b>OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:</b>		<b>60</b>
<b>CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):</b>		<b>5</b>

Evaluation table PI 2.4.3

PI 2.4.3		Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guide post	There is basic understanding of the types and distribution of main habitats in the area of the fishery.	The nature, distribution and vulnerability of all main habitat types in the fishery are known at a level of detail relevant to the scale and intensity of the fishery.	The distribution of habitat types is known over their range, with particular attention to the occurrence of vulnerable habitat types.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	The MAREANO programme provides good information on marine habitats in some areas. It does not (as yet) cover the whole coast in relation to VMEs; notably the SFPZ, although habitat maps are available for this area from various sources. Overall, the Barents Sea is probably one of the better-mapped areas for marine habitats. On this basis, SG80 is met but SG100 is not met in full for the NEA, because of more limited data in the SFPZ (although mapping is underway according to the Barents Sea / Lofoten Management Plan).		
b	Guide post	Information is adequate to broadly understand the nature of the main impacts of gear use on the main habitats, including spatial overlap of habitat with fishing gear.	Sufficient data are available to allow the nature of the impacts of the fishery on habitat types to be identified and there is reliable information on the spatial extent of interaction, and the timing and location of use of the fishing gear.	The physical impacts of the gear on the habitat types have been quantified fully.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	<p>The habitats are mainly mapped, as set out for scoring issue a; while data are limited for the SFPZ, precluding a score of 100 for scoring issue a.</p> <p>In relation to fishing gear, all vessels &gt;12m are required to have VMS, which provides the authorities with detailed information about the fishery footprint. Since the habitats are mapped and the footprint of the fishery is known, the impacts of the fishery can be identified – in fact, an assessment is provided in the updated Barents Sea / Lofoten Management Plan. SG80 is met.</p> <p>In relation to SG100, it seems that quantifying the physical impacts of the gear (particularly historical impacts) remains a work in progress – the latest iteration of the Barents Sea Management Plan notes that historical impacts of trawl on habitats has been more significant than previously thought. SG100 is not met.</p>		

<b>c</b>	<b>Guide post</b>		Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to habitat (e.g. due to changes in the outcome indicator scores or the operation of the fishery or the effectiveness of the measures).	Changes in habitat distributions over time are measured.
	<b>Met?</b>	Y	N	N
	<b>Justification</b>	The footprint of the fishery is continually mapped via VMS; this is the key element which would indicate an increased risk to habitat – e.g. if a vessel operated outside the usual footprint of the fishery, or made an incursion into a closed area. However, at the moment, although the data are available, they are not applied to detect changes in the risk level for this component specifically. While it is true that the move-on rule has yet to be triggered in this fishery (and in other fisheries in the Norwegian EEZ), it does not preclude the possibility of lower-level interactions not taking place (i.e. below the identified thresholds). As such, the team considered that better, more fishery-specific data should be available to detect changes in the risk level. SG80 is not met.		
<b>References</b>		MAREANO: <a href="http://www.mareano.no/kart/mareano_en.html?language=en">http://www.mareano.no/kart/mareano_en.html?language=en</a> Kaiser, M.J., Collie, J.S., Hall, S.J., Jennings, S. and Poiner I.R. 2001. Impacts of fishing gear on marine benthic habitats. Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem. 19pp. <a href="ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/reykjavik/pdf/12kaiser.PDF">ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/reykjavik/pdf/12kaiser.PDF</a> Norwegian Ministry of the Environment 2011. First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea–Lofoten Area. Meld. St. 10 (2010–2011) Report to the Storting.		
<b>OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:</b>				<b>75</b>
<b>CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):</b>				<b>6</b>

## Appendix 3. Client Action Plan

### Appendix 3.1 Client Action Plan – Euronor



#### Plan d'actions pour lever la condition concernant la raie radiée (starry ray, *Amblyraja radiata*).

#### Client action plan to close the condition related to starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*)

Voici pour mémoire les principales raies identifiées par Ifremer dans nos zones de pêches avec la liste UICN :

For reference, please see below the main ray species indentified by IFREMER in our fishing areas with IUCN listing :

## DE QUELLE RAIE PARLONS-NOUS ?

NOM COMMUN	NOM LATIN	INFORMATIONS SUR L'ESPÈCE	LISTE UICN (échelle mondiale)
Raie fleurie	<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>	Reconnaissable grâce à la présence sur chaque aile d'une ocelle, large marque sombre et arrondie au centre, ornée de taches claires.	Préoccupation mineure
Raie douce	<i>Raja montagui</i>	Tachetée de mille points qui n'atteignent pas le bord des ailes.	Quasi menacée
Raie bouclée	<i>Raja clavata</i>	Appelée ainsi en raison de la présence de grosses épines recourbées sur le dos et sur le ventre.	Vulnérable
Raie lisse ou raie blonde	<i>Raja brachyura</i>	Recouverte d'une multitude de petits points sur l'ensemble de sa face supérieure.	En danger
Raie mêlée ou raie batarde	<i>Raja microocellata</i>	Dos sombre, la seule à être ornée de lignes blanchâtres.	En danger critique d'extinction
Pocheteau noir	<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>	Stock épuisé en Atlantique Nord-Est.	Éteinte à l'état sauvage
Raie chardon	<i>Leucoraja fullonica</i>	Elle se reconnaît à son museau pointu.	Préoccupation mineure
Raie circulaire	<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	Une dizaine de tâches claires recouvrent son dos.	Quasi menacée
Raie brunette ou raie ondulée	<i>Raja undulata</i>	Dos teinté comme un bel imprimé cachemire. TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	Vulnérable
Raie blanche	<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	Stock épuisé en Atlantique-Nord-Est.	En danger
Pocheteau gris	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	Museau long et pointu, autrefois abondant sous les criées françaises (plusieurs milliers de tonnes dans les années 70). TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	En danger critique d'extinction

En analysant les données de rejets contenues dans les rapports d'observateurs OBSMER. Il est également apparu des rejets de **raie radiée**. En extrapolant ces données à l'ensemble de notre activité, il apparaît que ces rejets occasionnés par notre pêcherie de lieu noir pourraient avoir un impact sur le stock de raie radiée.

Analysis of the discard data available in the OBSMER reports has indicated that discarding of starry ray takes place. Extrapolation of these data to the scale of our fishery indicates our saithe fishery may have an impact on the population of starry ray.

Il est donc nécessaire et urgent d'établir un plan d'actions ayant pour objectifs :

It is therefore necessary and urgent to set up an action plan with the following objectives :

- 1 - De s'assurer que les spécimens de raies rejetées, aujourd'hui identifiées comme raies radiées, soient effectivement toutes des raies radiées.
- 2 – Pour la partie rejetée qui concerne effectivement des raies radiées. Mieux comptabiliser les quantités rejetées et mieux identifier le zonage géographique et temporel.

3 – Réduire l'impact de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée.

1 – To ensure that the discarded rays – currently identified as being starry rays – are indeed the correct species

2 - For those correctly identified starry rays that are being discarded, improve the estimates of discarding and identify the spatio-temporal patterns involved.

3 – Reduce the impact of our saithe fishery on the starry ray population

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, voici les mesures que nous allons mettre en œuvre :

To achieve these objectives, the following actions will be implemented :

**Objectif 1 : identification des raies rejetées.**

**Objective 1 : identification of discarded rays**

Travail en coopération entre les équipages et les observateurs OBSMER.

Chaque spécimen de raie capturé doit être confronté au guide des raie disponible à bord afin de s'assurer de ne pas rejeter une autre espèce de raie sous la dénomination raie radiée.

« **Création d'un registre des captures de raie** » pour chaque navire, tenu par le capitaine et rempli conjointement avec l'observateur quand un observateur est embarqué.

Les informations à reporter dans le registre sont reprises d'ans l'annexe du présent plan d'actions.

Colaboration between crew and OBMSER observers

Each starry ray will be checked against the identification guides aboard to prevent misidentification in the discard data.

Creation of a ray catch logbook for each vessel, held by the captain and completed together with the observer (when aboard)

The information contained within the logbook is shown in the annex at the end of this document.

**Objectif 2 : Connaissance des conditions de capture.****Objective 2 : Understanding of catch conditions**

Chaque spécimen de raie radiée accidentellement capturé sera identifié et concernant les raies radiées, sera pesé et reporté dans le registre avec le poids du spécimen, la position de virage du chalut ainsi que la date.

Ces informations seront recueillies sur les 3 prochaines années. Elles permettront de juger si les quantités de raie radiées accidentellement capturées sont jugées suffisantes pour justifier la mise en œuvre d'actions supplémentaires.

Le cas échéant un « **travail de cartographie des raies radiées** » sera entrepris à l'aide des informations contenues dans les 3 années du registre à propos des raies radiées. Cette cartographie mettra en évidence le zonage de la présence de raie radiées dans nos zones de pêche et également la saisonnalité de cette présence.

Each starry ray caught will be identified, weighed and recorded in the logbook with information on the weight of the individual, the haul position and the date.

These data will be gathered over the coming three years and will enable to determine whether the accidental catches of starry ray are such that they necessitate further management action.

If this is the case, a project 'spatial mapping of starry ray' will be undertaken on the basis of the years' collected data on starry ray. This mapping will highlight zones of increased starry ray presence in our fishing areas, as well as any seasonal patterns.

**Objectif 3 : Minimisation des captures.****Objective 3 : Minimise catches**

Si le plan les 2 premiers objectifs du plan d'action indique au terme des 3 prochaines années que l'impact de notre pêcherie sur le stock de raie radiée peut être considéré comme significatif par les experts, nous nous servirons alors de l'outil cartographique pour effectuer nos opérations de pêche en minimisant au mieux cet impact. En d'autres termes, les zones géographiques où la présence de raie radiée a été observé à certaines périodes de l'année

pourront être évité et, a contrario, le lieu noir sera en priorité ciblé là où la présence de raie radiée a été observée comme la plus faible au cours des trois premières années de ce plan d'action. Si cette mesure doit être mise en œuvre pendant les années 4 et 5 du plan d'action, nous la nommerons « **plan d'évitement des raies radiées** ».

If the two initial phases of the action plan indicate over the 3 coming years that the fishery's impact on the starry ray population is significant, we will make use of the spatio-temporal mapping to inform on our fishing operations and minimise our impact. In other words, areas or seasons with high starry ray presence would be avoided and saithe would preferentially be targeted in areas or seasons with low starry ray abundance. If this measure needs to be implemented during year 4 and 5 of the action plan, we will call it the 'ray avoidance plan'.

Pour récapituler, les 3 actions à mettre en œuvre – en fonction des résultats qui seront obtenus – pour atteindre les objectifs du plan d'action sont :

- 1 – la création d'un registre des captures de raies. Années 1,2 &3**
- 2 – un travail de cartographie (zonal et temporel) des raies radiées. Au terme de l'année 3.**
- 3 – un plan d'évitement des raies radiées. Années 4 & 5.**

To summarise, the three actions to put in place – depending on the results obtained – to achieve the action plan's objectives are :

- 1. Create logbook for ray catches (years 1, 2 and 3)**
- 2. Spatial and temporal mapping of starry ray catches (year 3)**
- 3. Put in place avoidance plan for starry rays (Years 4 and 5)**

Nous sommes confiants que ce plan d'action, simple et efficace, nous permettra de mieux connaître l'impact éventuel de notre pêche de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée et au besoin de le minimiser pour poursuivre notre activité.



We are confident that this action plan, which is simple and efficient, will enable us to better understand the impact our saithe fishery is having on the starry ray population and where required to minimise it so that we can continue our activities.



## REGISTRE DE CAPTURES DE RAIES

[illegible]

Le registre est tenu pour tous les voyages de pêche, même s'il n'y a pas d'observateur embarqué. Dans ce cas seul le Capitaine signe le registre.

## Appendix 3.2 Client Action Plan – Compagnie des Pêches St Malo

(note: see Euronor action plan for translation into English)



### Plan d'actions pour lever la condition concernant la raie radiée (starry ray, *Amblyraja radiata*).

Voici pour mémoire les principales raies identifiées par Ifremer dans nos zones de pêches avec la liste UICN :

#### DE QUELLE RAIE PARLONS-NOUS ?

NOM COMMUN	NOM LATIN	INFORMATIONS SUR L'ESPÈCE	LISTE UICN (échelle mondiale)					
Raie fleurie	<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>	Reconnaissable grâce à la présence sur chaque aile d'une ocelle, large marque sombre et arrondie au centre, ornée de taches claires.	Préoccupation mineure	Quasi menacée	Vulnérable	En danger	En danger critique d'extinction	Éteinte à l'état sauvage
Raie douce	<i>Raja montagui</i>	Tachetée de mille points qui n'atteignent pas le bord des ailes.						
Raie bouclée	<i>Raja clavata</i>	Appelée ainsi en raison de la présence de grosses épines recourbées sur le dos et sur le ventre.						
Raie lisse ou raie blonde	<i>Raja brachyura</i>	Recouverte d'une multitude de petits points sur l'ensemble de sa face supérieure.	Préoccupation mineure	Quasi menacée	Vulnérable	En danger	En danger critique d'extinction	Éteinte à l'état sauvage
Raie mée ou raie batarde	<i>Raja microocellata</i>	Dos sombre, la seule à être ornée de lignes blanchâtres.						
Pocheteau noir	<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>	Stock épuisé en Atlantique Nord-Est.						
Raie chardon	<i>Leucoraja fullonica</i>	Elle se reconnaît à son museau pointu.						
Raie circulaire	<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	Une dizaine de taches claires recouvrent son dos.	Préoccupation mineure	Quasi menacée	Vulnérable	En danger	En danger critique d'extinction	Éteinte à l'état sauvage
Raie brunette ou raie ondulée	<i>Raja undulata</i>	Dos teinté comme un bel imprimé cachemire. TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	Préoccupation mineure	Quasi menacée	Vulnérable	En danger	En danger critique d'extinction	Éteinte à l'état sauvage
Raie blanche	<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	Stock épuisé en Atlantique-Nord-Est.						
Pocheteau gris	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	Museau long et pointu, autrefois abondant sous les criées françaises (plusieurs milliers de tonnes dans les années 70). TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	Préoccupation mineure	Quasi menacée	Vulnérable	En danger	En danger critique d'extinction	Éteinte à l'état sauvage

En analysant les données de rejets contenues dans les rapports d'observateurs OBSMER. Il est également apparu des rejets de **raie radiée**. En extrapolant ces données à l'ensemble de notre activité, il apparaît que ces rejets occasionnés par notre pêcherie de lieu noir pourraient avoir un impact sur le stock de raie radiée.

Il est donc nécessaire et urgent d'établir un plan d'actions ayant pour objectifs :



1 - De s'assurer que les spécimens de raies rejetées, aujourd'hui identifiées comme raies radiées, soient effectivement toutes des raies radiées.

2 – Pour la partie rejetée qui concerne effectivement des raies radiées. Mieux comptabiliser les quantités rejetées et mieux identifier le zonage géographique et temporel.

3 – Réduire l'impact de notre pêche de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, voici les mesures que nous allons mettre en œuvre :

#### **Objectif 1 : identification des raies rejetées.**

Travail en coopération entre les équipages et les observateurs OBSMER.

Chaque spécimen de raie capturé doit être confronté au guide des raie disponible à bord afin de s'assurer de ne pas rejeter une autre espèce de raie sous la dénomination raie radiée.

« **Création d'un registre des captures de raie** » pour chaque navire, tenu par le capitaine et rempli conjointement avec l'observateur quand un observateur est embarqué.

Les informations à reporter dans le registre sont reprises d'ans l'annexe du présent plan d'actions.

#### **Objectif 2 : Connaissance des conditions de capture.**

Chaque spécimen de raie radiée accidentellement capturé sera identifié et concernant les raies radiées, sera pesé et reporté dans le registre avec le poids du spécimen, la position de virage du chalut ainsi que la date.

Ces informations seront recueillies sur les 3 prochaines années. Elles permettront de juger si les quantités de raie radiées accidentellement capturées sont jugées suffisantes pour justifier la mise en œuvre d'actions supplémentaires.

Le cas échéant un « **travail de cartographie des raies radiées** » sera entrepris à l'aide des informations contenues dans les 3 années du registre à propos des raies radiées. Cette cartographie mettra en évidence le zonage de la présence de raie radiées dans nos zones de pêche et également la saisonnalité de cette présence.

#### **Objectif 3 : Minimisation des captures.**

Si le plan les 2 premiers objectifs du plan d'action indique au terme des 3 prochaines années que l'impact de notre pêche sur le stock de raie radiée peut être considéré comme significatif par les experts, nous nous serviront alors de l'outil cartographique pour effectuer nos opérations de pêche en minimisant au mieux cet impact. En d'autres termes, les zones géographiques où la présence de raie radiée a été observé à certaines périodes de l'année pourront être évitées et, a contrario, le lieu noir sera en priorité ciblé là où la présence de raie radiée a été observée comme la plus faible au cours des trois premières années de ce plan d'action. Si cette mesure doit être mise en œuvre

pendant les années 4 et 5 du plan d'action, nous la dénommerons « **plan d'évitement des raies radiées** ».

Pour récapituler, les 3 actions à mettre en œuvre – en fonction des résultats qui seront obtenus – pour atteindre les objectifs du plan d'action sont :

- 1 – la création d'un registre des captures de raies. Années 1,2 &3**
- 2 – un travail de cartographie (zonal et temporel) des raies radiées. Au terme de l'année 3.**
- 3 – un plan d'évitement des raies radiées. Années 4 & 5.**

Nous sommes confiants que ce plan d'action, simple et efficace, nous permettra de mieux connaître l'impact éventuel de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée et au besoin de le minimiser pour poursuivre notre activité.



[illegible]

Le registre est tenu pour tous les voyages de pêche, même s'il n'y a pas d'observateur embarqué. Dans ce cas seul le Capitaine signe le registre.

**Appendix 3.3 Client Action Plan – Scapêche**

## Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery MSC Re-assessment

### UoA5 : Scapêche North Sea / West of Scotland

Lors de la réévaluation de la pêcherie de lieu noir Euronor, Scapêche et Compagnie des Pêches est apparue une inquiétude sur l'impact des captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris (*Dipturus batis*) sur la population de cette espèce. Cette inquiétude est basée sur l'extrapolation des captures observées lors du programme Obsmer à l'ensemble de l'activité.

Afin de préciser cet impact potentiel, et le réduire si cela s'avère nécessaire, Scapêche propose un plan d'action pour les 5 années à venir dont les objectifs sont fondés sur les conditions soulevées lors de l'évaluation :

- Condition 1 (C1) : montrer qu'il est « très improbable » que la pêcherie de lieu noir Scapêche ait des impacts inacceptables sur le pocheteau gris ;
- Condition 2 (C2) : montrer que la stratégie de protection du pocheteau gris en zone VI est effective avec un degré de confiance suffisant ;
- Condition 3 (C3) : montrer que le degré d'information sur le pocheteau gris est suffisant pour déterminer l'impact de la pêcherie au regard des enjeux de protection et de rétablissement de l'espèce.

During the Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery MSC re-assessment, the analysis of Obsmer observer data revealed some concerns on bycatch of common skate (*Dipturus batis*) by UoA5 vessels (Scapêche in ICES area IV and VI) and its potential impact of on the population.



In order to evaluate this potential impact more accurately \_ and lower it to an acceptable level if necessary, Scapêche designed an action plan that will be carried out during the 5 years to come. This plan is directly derived from the conditions raised by the MEC evaluation:

- Condition 1 (C1): show that the fishery is “highly unlikely” to create unacceptable impacts to common skate in Subarea VI.
- Condition 2 (C2): show that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect common skate in Subarea VI will work.
- Condition 3 (C3): show that information on common skate is sufficient to determine whether the fishery may be a threat to the recovery of the species.

Le plan d'action sera mis en œuvre selon 3 axes:

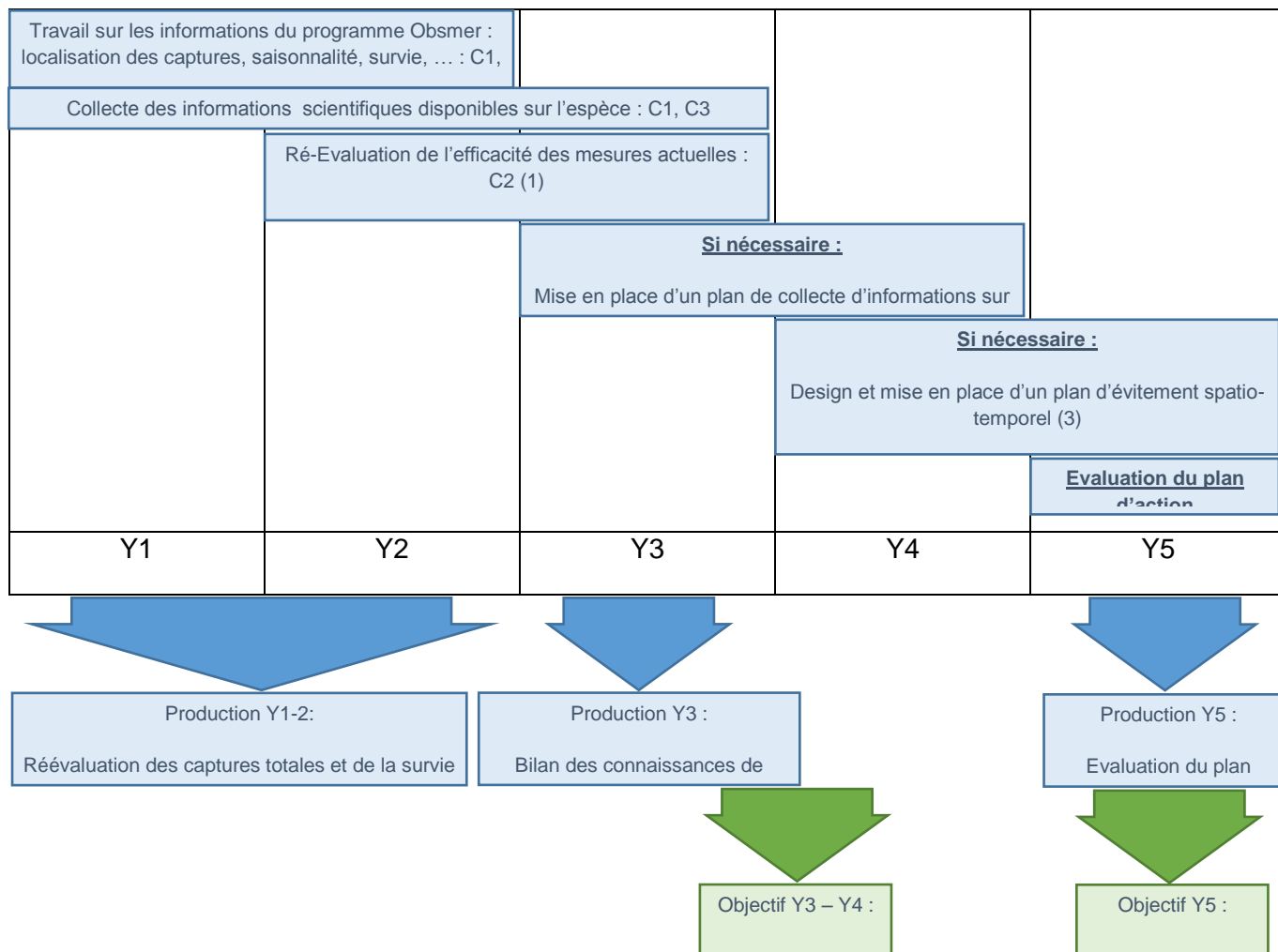
- L'évaluation des données existantes et leur exploitation optimisée pour préciser le diagnostic actuel
- L'identification des données manquante et leur collecte pour alimenter les décisions
- La mise en œuvre de mesures de gestions optimales basées sur les deux premiers points

The action plan will be implemented with 3 leads:

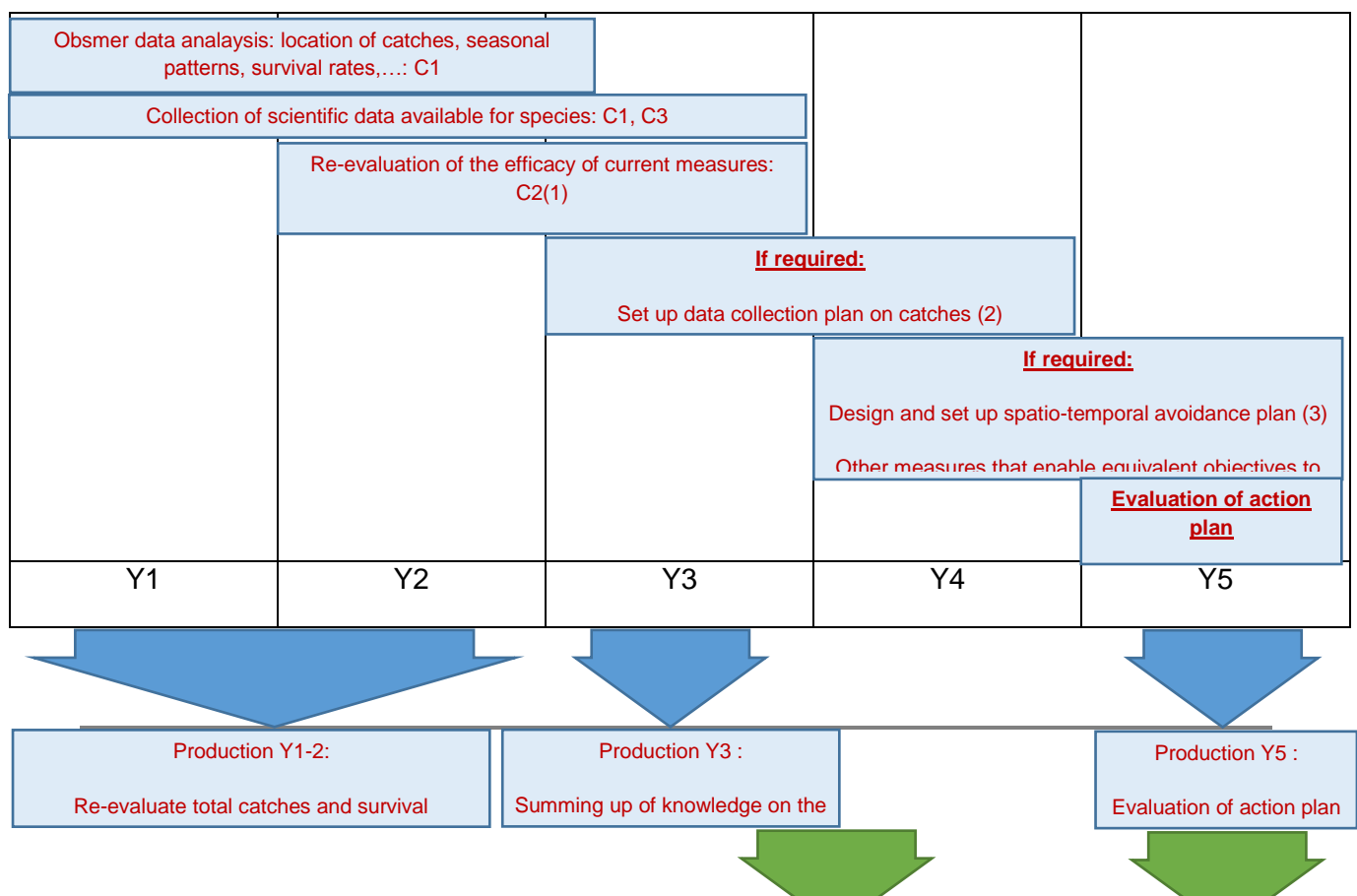
- Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis
- Identification and collection of missing data to back up management
- Design and implement management measures based on latter assessments

Plan d'action « captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris »

Action plan “accidental catches of common skate”



- (1) Le processus d'évaluation des connaissances actuelles et la nécessité de collecte de plus amples informations pourront se faire, le cas échéant, en relation avec un ou des organismes scientifiques (Ifremer, MNHN, etc...).
- (2) Le plan de collecte supplémentaire visera à obtenir des renseignements sur la saisonnalité, la localisation, l'abondance des captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris à bord des navires de l'UoA, en complément de l'échantillonnage Obsmer. Ces observations seront réalisées sur la totalité des marées par l'équipage.
- (3) Dans le cas où les données collectées mettraient en évidence que l'évitement d'une ou plusieurs zones par un ou plusieurs navires pendant une période de l'année permettrait de diminuer l'impact de la pêche sur le pocheteau gris, des mesures internes d'interdiction de zones pourraient être prises.



- (1) The evaluation of current knowledge and requirement for further data collection could be done, if applicable, in consultation with a scientific organisation (IFREMER, MNHN, etc.)
- (2) The plan for the collection of additional data will aim to obtain further information on the seasonality, the distribution and abundance of accidental catches of common skate on UoA vessels, in addition to the OBSMER programme. These observations will be carried out by the crew on all trips.
- (3) In the case where the data collected indicate that the avoidance of one or more zones by one or more vessels during a certain time of year may reduce the impact of the fishery on the common skate, internal avoidance measures will be taken.



## Appendix 4. Habitats data collection – example document (AGARBA / AZTI)

### Egoitza Nagusia / Sede Central

Txatxarramendi Ugarteia z/g  
E-48395 Sukarrieta - Bizkaia (Spain)  
Tel.: +34 94 657 40 00 - Fax: +34 94 657 25 55

Parque Tecnológico de Bizkaia  
Astondo bidea - Edificio 609  
E-48160 Derio - Bizkaia (Spain)  
Tel.: +34 94 657 40 00 - Fax: +34 94 657 25 55

Herrera Kaia - Portu aldea z/g  
E-20110 Pasaia - Gipuzkoa (Spain)  
Tel.: +34 94 657 40 00 - Fax: +34 94 657 25 55

[www.azti.es](http://www.azti.es)  
[info@azti.es](mailto:info@azti.es)



## Asesoría y formación para la Asociación Gallega de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Bacalao (AGARBA) en cumplimiento a la certificación MSC

Informe final  
para:



Sukarrieta, 29 de abril de 2016





Tipo documento	Informe final
Titulo documento	Asesoría y formación para la Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Bacalao (AGARBA) en cumplimiento con la Certificación MSC
Fecha	29/04/2016
Código	IM16AGARBA
Cliente	Asociación AGARBA
Autores	Ane Iriondo
	Mikel Basterretxea
	Joxe Mikel Garmendia
	Ibon Galparsoro
	Estanis Mugerza
Revisado por	Marina Santurtún
Fecha	29/04/2016
Aprobado por	
Fecha	15/01/2016

## ÍNDICE

1	ANTECEDENTES .....	5
2	OBJETO DE LOS TRABAJOS .....	7
3	RESULTADOS.....	9
3.1	ESPECIES RETENIDAS Y ESPECIES ETP .....	9
3.1.1	Información sobre especies retenidas.....	9
3.1.2	Gestión sobre especies en peligro, amenazadas o protegidas (ETP) .....	9
3.1.3	Información sobre especies en peligro, amenazadas o protegidas (ETP)	10
3.2	HABITATS MARINOS VULNERABLES .....	12
3.2.1	Resultados de hábitat marinos vulnerables.....	12
3.2.2	Gestión de hábitat marinos vulnerables .....	20
3.2.3	Información de hábitat marinos vulnerables.....	21
3.3	DOCUMENTOS REALIZADOS .....	23
3.3.1	Fichas de identificación .....	23
3.3.2	Código de conducta de especies capturadas y hábitats marinos vulnerables .....	25
3.3.3	Estadillos .....	25
3.3.4	Curso de formación .....	26
4	CONCLUSIONES .....	27
5	ANEXO I .....	29



## 1 ANTECEDENTES

La Asociación Gallega de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Bacalao (AGARBA) solicita a AZTI una oferta para la preparación de la documentación y la formación complementaria requerida para superar la auditoría de certificación Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

En el proceso de certificación, AGARBA presentó un primer informe y pasó por una primera auditoría realizada por Bureau Veritas. En el informe de valoración se describe el estado de la asociación AGARBA y se identifican deficiencias en seis condiciones requeridas en el Plan de Acción definidos por el MSC y que en la actualidad no se están cumpliendo por parte de AGARBA.



## 2. Assessment process

### Scoring of the fishery

The allocation of weighted scores at Sub-criteria, Criteria and Principle levels can be found in the table below:

Principle	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
One	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	100
		1.1.2	Reference points	80
		1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	n/a
	Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	85
		1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	80
		1.2.3	Information & monitoring	90
		1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	90
Two	Retained species	2.1.1	Outcome	80
		2.1.2	Management	85
		2.1.3	Information	70
	Bycatch species	2.2.1	Outcome	100
		2.2.2	Management	80
		2.2.3	Information	80
	ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	85
		2.3.2	Management	75
		2.3.3	Information	75
	Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	70
		2.4.2	Management	75
		2.4.3	Information	75
	Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	90
		2.5.2	Management	90
		2.5.3	Information	90
Three	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal & customary framework	95
		3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	85
		3.1.3	Long term objectives	100
		3.1.4	Incentives for sustainable fishing	80



El informe completo puede encontrarse en el siguiente enlace:

[https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/agarba-spain-barents-sea-cod/assessment-downloads-folder/AGARBA\\_17022015\\_SR.pdf](https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/agarba-spain-barents-sea-cod/assessment-downloads-folder/AGARBA_17022015_SR.pdf)

Como síntesis del informe de valoración se exige mejorar los manuales de Capturas Accidentales y el desarrollo de un Libro de Gestión de Hábitats Vulnerables y la formación asociada para cumplir con un Código de Buenas Conductas frente a los anteriores puntos.

Anteriormente, AGARBA ha realizado cursos de formación tanto al patrón como a los marineros en relación a la identificación de las especies presentes en el by-catch, pero desde MSC han indicado que sería más adecuado que el curso lo impartiese alguien con experiencia y formación adecuada en temas relacionados con capturas accidentales y hábitats marinos vulnerables, por lo que han acudido a AZTI.

**Full document available on request to MEC.**

## Appendix 5. Scoring stock status against $B_{MSY}$ for ICES stocks

In the absence of defining  $B_{MSY}$ , how should CABs and assessment team members evaluate ICES stocks (and defined reference points) against the MSC requirements?

### MSC requirements (v2.0)

Reference points set by ICES are not directly translatable to those described in the MSC Standard – neither in value nor intent.

The MSC standard requires the following for PI 1.1.1

1. To score 60: Scoring issue (a) = It is likely (70% probability) that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired (point of recruitment impairment = PRI).
2. To score 80: Scoring issue (a) = It is highly likely (80% probability) that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired (PRI); AND scoring issue (b) = the stock is at or fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY.
3. To score 100: scoring issue (b) = There is a high degree of certainty (95% probability) that the stock is above the PRI; AND scoring issue (b) = there is a high degree of certainty that the stock has been fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY or has been above this level over recent years.

### Point of Recruitment Impairment (PRI)

The ICES reference point  $B_{lim}$  can be treated as the PRI.

Scoring issue (a): stock status with respect to the point of recruitment impairment (PRI)

1. To meet the 60 scoring guidepost  
To achieve a 60 score in scoring issue (a) the probability of being below the PRI should be no more than 30% (“likely” above the PRI). In the absence of an explicit probability distribution of stock size, CABs should normally assess this SG as met when the stock is estimated to be at or above 1/3 of the distance between  $B_{lim}$  and  $B_{pa}$  (though see note<sup>[1]</sup>).
1. To meet the 80 scoring guidepost  
In absence of an explicit probability distribution of stock size, CABs should normally assess this situation as met when the stock is estimated above 1/2 of the distance between  $B_{lim}$  and  $B_{pa}$  (though see note<sup>[2]</sup>).
1. To meet the 100 scoring guidepost  
MSC requires that a “high degree of certainty” generates only a 5% probability that a stock is less than the PRI. ICES states that, at  $B_{pa}$ , there is a very low probability of being below  $B_{lim}$ , which can be assumed to be equivalent to the MSC “high degree of certainty”.

### Maximum Sustainable Yield

ICES does not define  $B_{MSY}$ , in ICES own words “ $B_{MSY}$  is a notional value around which stock size fluctuates when fishing at  $F_{MSY}$ .  $B_{MSY}$  strongly depends on the interactions between the fish stock and the environment it lives in, including biological interactions between different species. Historical stock size trends may not be informative about  $B_{MSY}$  (e.g., when  $F$  has exceeded  $F_{MSY}$  for many years or when current ecosystem conditions and spatial stock structure are, or could be, substantially different from those in the past).”

It does define  $MSY$   $B_{trigger}$  (hereafter  $B_{trigger}$ ), which should not be interpreted by CABs as a target reference point equal in intent and outcome to  $B_{MSY}$ . Rather  $MSY$   $B_{trigger}$  is considered the lower bound of spawning–stock biomass fluctuation around  $B_{MSY}$ . It is a biomass reference point that triggers a cautious response [ICES 2016].

Scoring issue (b): stock status with respect to  $MSY$

The guidance states that in ICES assessments, fisheries with  $B > B_{trigger}$  may be regarded as fluctuating around  $MSY$ . However, a stock with  $B > B_{trigger}$  is not necessarily at or fluctuating around

$B_{MSY}$ . Irrespective of status with respect to  $B_{trigger}$ , CABs must ensure that there is evidence that the stock is 'fluctuating around'  $B_{MSY}$  in contrast to recovering towards  $B_{MSY}$ .

CABs should consider proxy indicators and reference points (SA2.2.3) where  $B_{MSY}$  is not defined by ICES. Fishing mortality rate is usually defined and thus should be used in accordance with SA2.2.4 which states that teams shall demonstrate that  $F$  has been low enough for long enough to ensure that corresponding biomass levels have been met (SA2.2.4). In ICES stocks,  $B_{MSY}$  is assumed to be achieved through consistent maintenance of fishing mortality at or below  $F_{MSY}$ . Consistent with requirements in PI 1.1.2a (Rebuilding PI) MSC recommends that to achieve an assumed status of  $B_{MSY}$ ,  $F$  should have been at or below  $F_{MSY}$  for at least 1 Generation Time (GT) from a starting point close to  $B_{pa}$  or  $B_{trigger}$ , and 2 generation times from a starting point close to  $B_{lim}$  (Carruthers and Agnew 2016), GT is assumed to be given by the proxy  $GT = AM_{50} + 1/M$ , where  $AM_{50}$  is the age at 50% maturity, and  $M$  is natural mortality.

An 80 score may also be met where stock size is very substantially higher than  $B_{pa}$ , for instance greater than  $2 \times B_{pa}$  ( $B_{trigger}$ ) (Froese et al, 2014), irrespective of the above  $F$  proxies.

### Expected values of $F$

In order to ensure that stock status is fluctuating around  $B_{MSY}$ , fishing mortality in ICES stocks should only exceptionally be greater than  $F_{MSY}$ .  $F$  may occasionally be greater than  $F_{MSY}$  when allowed for under a management strategy that has its outcome tested to be consistent with  $B_{MSY}$ , for instance on one or two planned occasions during recovery, or when  $B \gg B_{MSY}$ .

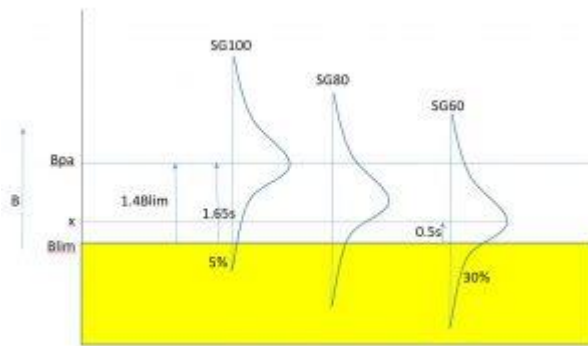
### References

Carruthers, T. & D. J. Agnew, 2016. Using simulation to determine standard requirements for recovery rates of fish stocks. Marine Policy 73, pp 146–153

ICES, 2015. Advice Basis, July 2015. [http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/General\\_context\\_of\\_ICES\\_advice\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/General_context_of_ICES_advice_2015.pdf)

Froese, R., Coro, G., Kleisner, K. and Demirel, N. (2014), Revisiting safe biological limits in fisheries. Fish and Fisheries. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/faf.12102/abstract>

[1] This result is derived from the assumption that the distance between  $B_{lim}$  and  $B_{pa}$  is  $1.645\sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the biomass estimate, and 1.645 is the distance in  $\sigma$  units between the mean of a Gaussian curve when this is  $B_{pa}$ , and the point at which 5% of the area under the curve is below  $B_{lim}$ . This corresponds to the ICES definition of the relationship between  $B_{pa}$  and  $B_{lim}$ . The distance in  $\sigma$  units between the mean and  $B_{lim}$  when 30% of the area under the curve is below  $B_{lim}$  (corresponding to the 70% probability required for scoring the SG60) is 0.525. The ratio  $0.525/1.645$  is approximately  $1/3$ . Note that non-Gaussian probability distributions of biomass are not unlikely and would give results that deviated in absolute terms from this guidance, although the general principal remains. CABs should take this into account in their scoring.



[2] Following from note<sup>1</sup>, the distance in sigma units between the mean and  $B_{lim}$  when 20% of the area under the curve is below  $B_{lim}$  (corresponding to the 80% probability required for scoring the SG80) is 0.842. The ratio  $0.842/1.645$  is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Note that non-Gaussian probability distributions of biomass are not unlikely and would give results that deviated in absolute terms from this guidance, although the general principal remains. CABs should take this into account in their scoring.