

Change to use of Risk Based Framework (RBF) on the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters

ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would like to inform stakeholders that the RBF will not be used on the above fishery for the following performance indicator: PI 2.2.1 (Secondary species outcome).

At the announcement of the fishery, it was envisaged that the RBF would be used to score this PI as it was thought that there would be insufficient information on stock status reference points. However, the assessment team believe that this is no longer the case and it is therefore anticipated that the Default Assessment Tree will be used to score secondary species outcomes. A second site visit is due to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark on 5th-19th May 2017.

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

MEC is happy to receive comments from stakeholders on this change or on the assessment of this fishery. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) or Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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