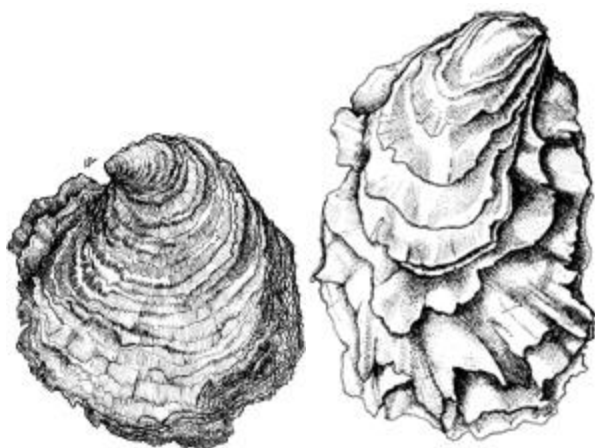


MSC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

Off-Site Surveillance Visit - Report for Dutch Oyster Association Oyster Fishery



Third Surveillance stage

February 2016

Certificate Code	F-ACO-0049
Prepared for:	Nederlandse Oestervereniging
Prepared by:	Acoura Marine
Authors:	Andy Hough and Andy Brand



Assessment Data Sheet

Certified Fishery	Dutch Oyster Association Oyster
Fishery Management Agency	Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
Species	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>), Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
Fishing Method	Oyster Dredge
Certificate Code	F-ACO-0049
Certification Date	28 th February 2013
Certification Expiration Date	27 th February 2018
Certification Body	Acoura Marine Ltd 6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ, Scotland, UK Tel: +44(0)131 335 6601 MSC Fisheries Department Email: fisheries@Acoura.com Web: www.Acoura.com
Surveillance Stage:	Third Surveillance stage
Surveillance Date:	16 th February 2016

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Introduction

The purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is fourfold:

1. to establish and report on whether or not there have been any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
2. to monitor the progress made to improve those practices that have been scored as below “good practice” (a score of 80 or above) but above “minimum acceptable practice” (a score of 60 or above) – as captured in any “conditions” raised and described in the Public Report and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client;
3. to monitor any actions taken in response to any (non-binding) “recommendations” made in the Public Report;
4. to re-score any Performance Indicators (PIs) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of any “conditions” raised.

Please note: The primary focus of this surveillance audit is assess changes made in the previous year. For a complete picture, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report for this fishery assessment.

1 General Information

1.1 Certificate Holder details

Fishery name	Dutch Oyster Association Oyster		
Unit(s) of assessment	A statement of the current UoCs are given in tables 1.1.1-1.1.4 below		
Date certified	28 th February 2013	Date of expiry	27 th February 2018
Surveillance level and type	Surveillance level 5 – offsite surveillance audit		
Date of surveillance audit	16 th February 2016		
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance	✓	
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc.)		
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Andy Hough Assessor: Andy Brand		
CAB name	Acoura Marine Ltd		
CAB contact details	Address	6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ, Scotland, UK	
	Phone/Fax	+44(0)131 335 6601	
	Email	fisheries@Acoura.com	
	Contact name(s)	Billy Hynes	
Client contact details	Address	Nederlandse Oestervereniging, 's-Gravenpoldersweg 72, 4462 CH Goes, The Netherlands	
	Phone/Fax	+31653722133	
	Email	info@zeeuwseesters.nl	
	Contact name(s)	Jaap de Rooij	

Statement of the unit (s) of Certification (UoC)

Table 1.1.1 The current unit of Certification (UoC 1)

Species	Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
Geographical area	Oosterschelde
Method of capture	Oyster dredge
Stock	Pacific Oyster, Oosterschelde (Eastern Scheldt)
Management	Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
Client Group	Members of Dutch Oyster Association

Table 1.1.2 The current unit of Certification (UoC 2)

Species	Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
Geographical area	Lake Grevelingen
Method of capture	Oyster dredge
Stock	Pacific Oyster, Lake Grevelingen (Grevelingenmeer)
Management	Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
Client Group	Members of Dutch Oyster Association

Table 1.1.3 The current unit of Certification (UoC 3)

Species:	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)
Geographical area:	Lake Grevelingen
Method of capture:	Oyster dredge
Stock:	Native Oyster, Lake Grevelingen (Grevelingenmeer)
Management System:	Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
Client Group:	Members of Dutch Oyster Association

Table 1.1.4 The current unit of Certification (UoC 4)

Species:	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)
Geographical area:	Oosterschelde
Method of capture:	Oyster dredge
Stock:	Native Oyster, Oosterschelde (Eastern Scheldt)
Management System:	Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
Client Group:	Members of Dutch Oyster Association

2 Background

2.1 Changes in the management system

The Oyster fishery takes place in the Oosterschelde and Lake Grevelingen. Both of these are European Sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Nature conservation therefore plays a major role in the management of the fishery; in particular, the fishery, as a 'plan or project' under the Directive, requires a regularly updated Appropriate Assessment identifying any impacts arising from the fishery which could compromise its nature conservation status. As both systems have been the subject of enclosures following the floods of 1953, management of the water bodies, and ecological stabilisation, are both ongoing.

In both Oosterschelde and Grevelingen, the majority of the fishery takes place in 'plots' allocated to individual fishers; all individual plots are of 5 ha. In Oosterschelde, fishers are also able to fish on 'free grounds'; fishing in Grevelingen is restricted to plots. Plots are subject to rental agreements (Overeenkomst voor de verhuring van visrecht voor oesterpercelen in de Oosterschelde) for three years. Fishing on free grounds requires a private law and public law fishing licence (Schriftelijke toestemming voor het vissen van oesters op de vrije gronden in de Oosterschelde), as well as a Nature Conservation Permit (Nb-vergunning) under the Nature Conservation Act.

Permit holders are all members of the Dutch Oyster Association (NOV); membership of the DOA is outlined below. Permit and other restrictions are developed by the NOV into a 'Fishing Plan' which provides an operational document for fishers.

As noted in the last surveillance, the only significant change since certification is that the Dutch Fish Board (Productschap Vis) was closed as of 1 Jul 2013. The reporting of landings is now being undertaken by the Central Bureau of Statistics (with reporting now in tonnes rather than number of oysters, although this corresponds to a standard 10 oysters per kilo as assumed in previous statistics). The other implication of the closure of PVis has been that food safety monitoring and regulation is now undertaken by the Ministry. These changes are seen as being neutral with respect to MSC scoring.

2.2 Changes in relevant regulations

The fishery operates within a legal framework designed for both fishery management and nature conservation. Key legislation includes:

- Visserijwet 1963 (Dutch Fishery law) which sets out basic operating parameters for fisheries.
- Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000, in Dutch: Kaderrichtlijn Water, KRW) which requires maintenance of ecological function of waterbodies
- Natuurbeschermingswet 1998 (Nb-wet; Nature protection law/ Nature Conservation Act)
- Designation of Oosterschelde as State Nature Reserve (aanwijzing Staats-natuurmonument) (20 December 1990)
- Designation of Oosterschelde and Grevelingen as SAC Birds Directive and SAC Habitats Directive; Designations Natura 2000: Aanwijzingsbesluit Oosterschelde (23 December 2009), Ontwerp Aanwijzingsbesluit Grevelingen: (draft, 10 September 2008).

Policy documents on the shellfish fishery "Ruimte voor een zilte oogst" (2004)

- Oosterschelde: 16% areas closed for (shellfish)fishery;
- Food reservation policy (cockles, mussels) for Oystercatchers
- "Beleidslijn inzake Verplaatsing Schelpdieren (TRC 97/2901)"; adapted in 2003; expert judgement on "Verplaatsingsproblematiek Schelpdieren". This policy document deals with transports of shellfish between different parts of the Wadden Sea and between the South of the NL and the Wadden Sea. There are risks of transporting diseases and of introducing exotic or invasive species.

No significant changes in regulation are reported. It is noted that biosecurity measures following the population growth of two species of 'oyster driller' (*Ocenebra inornatus* and *Urosalpinx cinerea*) has led to prohibitions on movement of mussels from Oosterschelde to the Waddenzee, but this has not affected oysters (which are not translocated in the same way).

The proposal to develop a hand-gathered fishery for oysters in the Oosterschelde have been suspended and the development of new plots in Lake Grevelingen (to be distributed between oyster fishers and former eel fishers) are currently still under discussion.

2.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

The Dutch Oyster Association (NOV) is the umbrella organisation of Dutch oystercatchers and oyster growers. The Ministry of Economic Affairs has overall responsibility for fishery management, with general inspection activities carried out by the Inspectorate division AID (Algemene Inspectie Dienst). Fishing permits and plot licences are issued by Ministry. The Netherlands marine science provider, IMARES, has a long involvement with fisheries in the area, including oyster fisheries, and carries out, among other activities, an annual survey of intertidal oyster beds (the latest survey is reported below).

No changes in personnel or organisations (other than those resulting from the closure of PVIs noted above) are reported which would materially affect the MSC certification.

2.4 Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments

The Research Institute IMARES, part of Wageningen-UR, carried out stock assessments of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) beds in the littoral areas of the Wadden Sea, Oosterschelde and Westerschelde estuaries in 2015. Both the surface area of the oyster beds and the total stock biomass was assessed. These surveys are part of the annual shellfish inventories, commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and carried out by IMARES in collaboration with the fishing industry and the ministry. The surveys are conducted to aid policy makers with regard to the shellfish industry and are an important source of information for further ecosystem studies.

Surface area

Mapping of oyster beds mainly takes place on foot during low tide; the position, size and contours of the beds are logged with hand-held GPS equipment. As many beds as possible are visited each year. However, as it is impossible to visit all beds within a single year, the data are combined with those from the previous and following years to estimate the total surface area. This means that the final size estimation can only be given after two years, as until then changes may still occur. Prior to the surveys in the Wadden Sea and Oosterschelde estuary an aerial inspection flight was made. Newly appeared, disappeared or changed beds are compared with last year's information and locations where much has changed are given priority. In the Oosterschelde and Westerschelde estuaries aerial photographs are also used to localize beds. Total surface area of the Pacific oyster beds in the Oosterschelde estuary was estimated at 614 hectares in 2015, compared with 652 ha in 2014. Of this, 422 hectares was in mixed beds including mussels, and 192 hectares consisted of oyster-only beds.

Biomass

The biomass in the surveyed beds is quantified based on bottom samples using a stratified sampling grid. In the Oosterschelde, 138 samples were taken on the beds in 2015, while the areas outside the mapped beds were sampled during the cockle survey, and those samples were also included in the estimations (though few oysters are expected in them). Oyster biomass was estimated at 27.3 million kg, which is marginally higher (1.6 million kg) than last year.

2.5 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)

There are no significant changes affecting traceability. Fishers take oyster from their own plots to meet customer requirements. Landings are recorded by BoA and now the Central Bureau of Statistics. Oysters may then be sold or transported to market by fishers. Fishers would only operate within Oosterschelde and Grevelingen – all fishing would therefore be within the Units of Certification and there would be no opportunity for substitution of product prior to landing.

2.6 TAC and catch data

Table 2.6-1 TAC and Catch Data

TAC	As fishing is mostly a culture process in plots owned by fishers, no TAC is set. Oyster biomass in largely unfished littoral beds was estimated at 27.3 million kg in 2015, which is marginally higher (1.6 million kg) than last year.			
UoA share of TAC				
UoC share of TAC				
Total green weight catch by UoC (tonnes) Source CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)	Year (most recent)	2014	Amount	Native: 378.5 Pacific: 2885.5
	Year (second most recent)	2013	Amount	Native: 208.5 Pacific: 2750.0

2.7 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Table 2.7-1 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	2.2.3	Closed	75	80

3 Assessment Process

3.1 Details of 3rd Surveillance Audit Process

As a result of the assessment, one condition of certification was raised by the assessment team, and maintenance of the MSC certificate is contingent on the DOA Oyster fishery moving to comply with these conditions within the time-scales set at the time the certificate was issued.

3.2 Scope & History of the Assessment

3.2.1 Surveillance team details

This off-site surveillance visit was carried out by Andrew Hough and Andrew Brand. The Team Leader was Andrew Hough.

Dr Andrew Hough PhD. Lead auditor contracted from Hough Associates and Dr Andrew Brand, PhD. Retired university lecturer were both members of the original assessment team for this fishery.

3.2.2 Date & Location of surveillance audit

This was an off-site audit, carried out on Tuesday 16th February 2016.

3.2.3 Stakeholder consultation & meetings

The only stakeholder engaged in the surveillance was the client representative, Bert Keus. No other stakeholders expressed a desire to participate in the audit.

3.2.4 What was inspected

The audit concentrated on progress against meeting the condition of certification, stock status and any changes in management and operation of the fishery. A record of the meeting is attached as Appendix 4.

3.2.5 Stakeholder Consultation

A total of 11 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and consulted during this surveillance audit. The interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.

3.3 Surveillance Standards

3.3.1 MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used

This surveillance audit was carried out according to the standard of MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v1.3 and the assessment process of CR v2.0.

3.3.2 Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced

It was confirmed during the surveillance audit that neither of these practices is in evidence for this fishery.

4 Results

4.1 Condition 1

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.2.3	Qualitative information and some quantitative information are available on the amount of main bycatch species affected by the fishery. Information is sufficient to estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits. Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main bycatch species. Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to main bycatch species (e.g., due to changes in the outcome indicator scores or the operation of the fishery or the effectivity of the strategy).	75
Condition	Information on by-catches in the fishery should be collected so as to allow quantification of the main by-catch species (including plots, but concentrating on free-ground fishery in the Oosterschelde). Factors which may increase the risk to main bycatch species should be identified (e.g., due to changes in the status of bycatch populations or the operation of the fishery or the effectivity of the management strategy) and monitored at a suitable frequency.		
Milestones	<p>A by-catch sampling strategy should be in place by the first anniversary of certification (Score 65)</p> <p>Quantification of main by-catch species should be carried out by second anniversary of certification (Score 75).</p> <p>Factors which may increase the risk to main bycatch species, and a suitable frequency for monitoring these should be identified and monitoring implemented by the third anniversary of certification (Score 80).</p>		
Client action plan	<p>During the first year of certification an independent scientific research organisation or scientist will be contracted by DOV to estimate discard levels in the oyster fishery with emphasis on the fishery on the free grounds.</p> <p>Quantitative estimates of by-catch levels in the fishery will be presented to the team at the second surveillance visit. During the third year of certification the estimation of discard levels will be continued.</p> <p>The results of the first two years of monitoring will be analysed and main by-catch species will be identified. Factors that may increase risk to main by-catch species will be identified and a suitable frequency of an ongoing monitoring of discard levels will be discussed with the independent scientist or organization and implemented by the third surveillance visit.</p> <p>The results will be presented to the team at the third surveillance visit. After the third year of certification discards will be monitored on an ongoing basis and management measures will be implemented by the third anniversary of certification if considered necessary.</p>		
Progress on Condition [Year 3]	The bycatch monitoring programme carried out in 2014 and 2015 was repeated in January 2016.		

	<p>A lot of empty shell and other benthic material (including algae and sponge from mainly unused plots) is collected in the dredge; the live animals representing a significant proportion of the bycatch are oyster, slipper limpet, sea squirts and periwinkles. Average percentages of total live animals collected over the three years of monitoring were in the order of:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Used Plots</td><td>Unused Plots</td><td>Free Ground</td></tr><tr><td>Oyster</td><td>72.1</td><td>36.5</td><td>35.7</td></tr><tr><td>Slipper limpet</td><td>8.35</td><td>18.15</td><td>10.7</td></tr><tr><td>Sea squirt</td><td>1.7</td><td>0.2</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Periwinkle</td><td>1.75</td><td>1.3</td><td>0.5</td></tr></table> <p>The only species which may be considered ‘main’ is therefore the slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i>.</p> <p>The client’s analysis and proposed actions are set out below:</p> <p><i>“Analysis of the results of the by-catch monitoring thus shows that only Crepidula fornicata is called a "main-bycatch species." Therefore, for this species we have analysed the factors that may increase the risk for this species. Given the fact that this species is an exotic species that is introduced with imports of oysters from the United Kingdom, the fact that the species very commonly found in the Oosterschelde, that the occurrence of the species is more encouraged than inhibited by oyster culture and the fact that this species generally survives the treatment on board and is discarded alive and intact, we have concluded that in the current oyster fishery there are virtually no factors that constitute significant risks to the species Crepidula fornicata.</i></p> <p><i>Given the results of this analysis, we note that it is currently not necessary to take measures regarding this species. We should however keep monitoring the possible impact of the oyster fishery on this and other bycatch species since it would be possible that changes in the fishery or increase in catches of other species could lead to increased risks for bycatch species.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, we will continue monitoring bycatches in the oyster fishery in the future. Annual monitoring is, given the current low risk factors, not necessary. A sampling that takes place once every three years will suffice. If the results of this sampling program or a change in fishing practices will warrant so the frequency of sampling will be increased again”.</i></p> <p>The assessment team consider that the monitoring undertaken fully support the conclusions drawn, and that the ongoing monitoring and management is consistent with the data and the requirements of the MSC standard.</p>		Used Plots	Unused Plots	Free Ground	Oyster	72.1	36.5	35.7	Slipper limpet	8.35	18.15	10.7	Sea squirt	1.7	0.2	0	Periwinkle	1.75	1.3	0.5
	Used Plots	Unused Plots	Free Ground																		
Oyster	72.1	36.5	35.7																		
Slipper limpet	8.35	18.15	10.7																		
Sea squirt	1.7	0.2	0																		
Periwinkle	1.75	1.3	0.5																		
Status of condition	<p>This PI was assessed using the RBF, and so Scoring Issue (SI) b is not relevant. There are therefore three scoring issues to be considered at SG80 and SG100.</p> <p>SIa SG80: <i>Qualitative information and some quantitative information are available on the amount of main bycatch species affected by the fishery.</i> This requirement is met at SG80. As the consequences for the status of affected populations cannot be accurately and verifiably determined, SG100 is not met.</p> <p>SIc SG80: <i>Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main bycatch species.</i> This requirement is met at SG80. The information available is not considered sufficient to support a comprehensive strategy to manage bycatch, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether a strategy is achieving its objective, and so SG100 is not met.</p> <p>SId SG80: <i>Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to main bycatch species (e.g., due to changes in the outcome indicator scores</i></p>																				

	<p><i>or the operation of the fishery or the effectively of the strategy</i>). The monitoring programme proposed by the client is considered sufficient to meet this requirement at SG80. Monitoring of bycatch data may not, however, be conducted in sufficient detail to assess ongoing mortalities to all bycatch species and so SG100 is not met.</p> <p>This PI is therefore rescored at 80 and the condition closed (see appendix 1).</p>
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5 Conclusion

5.1 Summary of findings

Performance Indicator 2.2.3 has been rescored at 80 and the condition (Condition 1) closed. No conditions now remain. No changes in the fishery have occurred which require the rescoring of any PIs. Certification should therefore continue with ongoing surveillance audits as set out below.

6 References

Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek 2016. Landing data provided.

IMARES 2015. Mosselbanken en oesterbanken op droogvallende platen in de Nederlandse kustwateren in 2015: bestand en arealen

Den Heijer Producties – Scheveningen. 2016. By catch sampling in the Dutch oyster fishery 2014 - 2016

Dutch Oyster Association 2016. Onderwerp: Bijvangstonderzoek en frequentie monsternamen

K. Didderen and A. Gittenberger. 2013. Distribution and Risk analysis of the American and Japanese oyster drill (*Urosalpinx cinerea*, *Ocenebra inornata*) update 2013. Bureau Waardenburg b.v.

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch	
SG	Issue	Met? (Y/N)	Justification/Rationale
			<p>The client’s analysis of the bycatch monitoring results and proposed actions are set out below:</p> <p><i>“Analysis of the results of the by-catch monitoring thus shows that only Crepidula fornicata is called a "main-bycatch species." Therefore, for this species we have analysed the factors that may increase the risk for this species. Given the fact that this species is an exotic species that is introduced with imports of oysters from the United Kingdom, the fact that the species very commonly found in the Oosterschelde, that the occurrence of the species is more encouraged than inhibited by oyster culture and the fact that this species generally survives the treatment on board and is discarded alive and intact, we have concluded that in the current oyster fishery there are virtually no factors that constitute significant risks to the species Crepidula fornicata.</i></p> <p><i>Given the results of this analysis, we note that it is currently not necessary to take measures regarding this species. We should however keep monitoring the possible impact of the oyster fishery on this and other bycatch species since it would be possible that changes in the fishery or increase in catches of other species could lead to increased risks for bycatch species.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, we will continue monitoring bycatches in the oyster fishery in the future. Annual monitoring is, given the current low risk factors, not necessary. A sampling that takes place once every three years will suffice. If the results of this sampling program or a change in fishing practices will warrant so the frequency of sampling will be increased again”.</i></p> <p>The assessment team considers that the monitoring undertaken fully supports the conclusions drawn, and that the ongoing monitoring and management is consistent with the data and with the requirements of the MSC standard. SG80 is met.</p>
100	a	N	Accurate and verifiable information is available on the amount of all bycatch and the consequences for the status of affected populations.
			As the consequences for the status of affected populations cannot be accurately and verifiably determined, SG100 is not met.
	b	n/a	Information is sufficient to quantitatively estimate outcome status with respect to biologically based limits with a high degree of certainty.
			n/a
	c	N	Information is adequate to support a comprehensive strategy to manage bycatch, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether a strategy is achieving its objective.
			The information available is not considered sufficient to support a comprehensive strategy to manage bycatch, and evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether a strategy is achieving its objective, and so SG100 is not met.
d	N	Monitoring of bycatch data is conducted in sufficient detail to assess ongoing mortalities to all bycatch species.	
		Monitoring of bycatch data may not be conducted in sufficient detail to assess ongoing mortalities to all bycatch species and so SG100 is not met.	
References		Wijnsman et al., 2008 Den Heijer Producties – Scheveningen. 2016. By catch sampling in the Dutch oyster fishery 2014 - 2016 Dutch Oyster Association 2016. Onderwerp: Bijvangstonderzoek en frequentie monsternamen	

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and the amount of bycatch is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch	
SG	Issue	Met? (Y/N)	Justification/Rationale
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE All Units of Certification:			80
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):			

Appendix 2 - Stakeholder submissions (if any)

Meeting Record – Dutch Oyster Association Oyster 3rd surveillance audit

Attendees: Andy Hough (team leader) Andy Brand (team member) Bert Keus (client rep)

Date: Tuesday 16th February 2016

Time / Location: 9am GMT to 11:00– Skype call

Subjects Discussed:

- » Introduction
 - » Changes in the Fishery
 - » Stock status and landings
 - » Conditions
-

1. Introduction

- a. The participants were introduced, the change in CAB status and the Acoura opening statement on confidentiality etc. was discussed.
- b. The status of the surveillance was summarised, this being the third annual surveillance. The next surveillance will be combined with reassessment (if required). At which CRv1.3 can be used and a reduced reassessment should be possible.
- c. It was confirmed that destructive fishing practices were not used, there are no unilateral exemptions to an international agreement.

2. Changes in the fishery

- a. It was discussed that 'oyster driller' (a predator of oysters) has been introduced in Oosterschelde and has led to introduction of biosecurity re mussel transfers to Waddenzee.
- b. Proposal to allocate new plots in Lake Grevelingen has not progressed since last audit.
- c. Food safety inspections formerly undertaken by PVis now managed by Ministry. Industry, including DOA have formed foundation (Stichting Kwaliteitszaken Schelpdiervisserij) to provide input to Ministry.
- d. Collection of fishery statistics now undertaken by Central Bureau of Statistics rather than P Vis.
- e. Proposals to undertake hand gathering of oyster have been abandoned.
- f. No other regulatory or management changes have taken place.

3. Stock status and landings

- a. Survey data were discussed, noting an increase in stock since last year.
- b. Landings data were provided, noting that these are now in tonnes rather than numbers of oysters

4. Conditions

- c. One condition remains, bycatch information. Results of latest survey were presented and discussed. Final analysis and recommendations for ongoing data collection to be finalized by DOA in next few days.
-

Appendix 3 - Surveillance audit information (if necessary)

N/A

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

N/A

Appendix 5 - Revised Surveillance Program (if necessary)**Table 5.1 : Surveillance level rationale**

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
3	Off-Site Audit	2 off-site	<p>Relevant aspects of this fishery are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the first certification of this fishery. • There is only one condition, relating to Principle 2 • Information on meeting Conditions may be reviewed remotely, this being IMARES scientific reports on stock estimation and DOA sponsored studies on bycatch quantification and determination of risk factors. • Engagement with client and stakeholders through electronic media is widely available and used. <p>Two on-site surveillance audits have already been completed (2014 and 2015), and the fourth surveillance is expected to coincide with re-assessment of the fishery. Accordingly, it is proposed that the ongoing surveillance be undertaken accordance with Level 5</p>

Table 5.2: Timing of surveillance audit

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
4	28 Feb	February 2017	On or around anniversary of certification

Table 5.3: Fishery Surveillance Program Revised

Surveillance Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 5	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & re-certification site visit.