

SAI Global

ISF Greenland halibut

MSC Surveillance Announcement

22 December 2020

1. Introduction

MSC certification requires regular surveillance audits of all certified fisheries and this Announcement marks the start of a surveillance audit of the above fishery. SAI Global is required to submit this announcement for posting on the MSC website at least 30 days before the audit activities are carried out.

The information SAI Global is required to provide when formally announcing annual surveillance activities, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

2. Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	ISF Greenland halibut	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Units of Assessment (UoAs) 1 – 6 (of 6)	
	Common across all UoAs	
	Species:	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>
	Common name(s):	Greenland halibut; Greenland turbot
	Stock(s):	Greenland halibut in Icelandic grounds and East of Greenland
	Management System:	Not defined in PCR.
	Client Group and other eligible fishers*:	All registered Icelandic vessels and a list of client approved foreign vessels operating longlines that carry valid permits for fishing within the Icelandic EEZ issued by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries.
		Other eligible fishers are any new entry to the group of registered Icelandic vessels operating bottom trawl targeting the Greenland halibut stock and/or that are incidentally catching Greenland halibut in other MSC certified fisheries within Icelandic jurisdiction.
	Unique to each UoA	
	Fishing methods:	UoA 1 Bottom trawl
		UoA 2 Shrimp trawl
		UoA 3 Gillnet
		UoA 4 Longline
		UoA 5 Pelagic trawl
		UoA 6 Bottom trawl
	Geographical Areas:	UoA 1
		UoA 2
		UoA 3 North East Atlantic, FAO area 27, Icelandic EEZ (ICES division 5a).
		UoA 4
		UoA 5
		UoA 6 North East Atlantic, FAO area 27, East of Greenland EEZ (ICES division 14 and 12a3 As per the PCR, FAILS
	*Includes any other eligible fishers that are outside the Unit of Certification	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	19/10/2017	18/04/2023
4	Surveillance level and type	
	The surveillance level for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR but the programme has changed slightly in that the site visit will be conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As this is the only amendment an updated surveillance programme has not been provided.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1 st Surveillance	
	2 nd Surveillance	
	3 rd Surveillance	X
	4 th Surveillance	

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

	Other (expedited etc)
6	<p>Proposed team leader</p> <p><u>Dr. Virginia Polonio (Team Lead, P2 Assessor and Traceability)</u></p> <p>Virginia meets the competency criteria as she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ +3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team leader training within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Passed an appropriate ISO Lead Auditor training course as required by MSC requirements. <p>With respect to her additional duties under Principle 2, she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +3 years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) Bycatch and ii) Habitats. <p>With respect to her additional duties as the team member with primary responsibility for Traceability, she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passed the MSC's traceability module within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC's traceability requirements at least annually where relevant. <p>Virginia does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of her CV is provided in Appendix 1. Virginia will be off-site during this assessment.</p>
7	<p>Proposed team members <i>[remove if not applicable]</i></p> <p><u>Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor):</u></p> <p>Giuseppe meets the fishery team member qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 1, Giuseppe has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +3 years' experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. ▪ +3 years' experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or similar species. <p>Giuseppe does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of his CV is provided in Appendix 1. Giuseppe will be off-site during this assessment.</p> <p><u>Dr. Geir Hønneland (P3 Assessor):</u></p> <p>Geir meets the fishery team member qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 3, Geir has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +3 years' experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst. ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders. ▪ +2 years' fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years.

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

	Geir does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of his CV is provided in Appendix 1 . Geir will be off-site during this assessment.
8	Audit/review time and location
	Surveillance activities will be conducted between 25 and 29 January 2021. As this is a remote assessment, activities will be carried out from the assessment team's home offices.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>During the assessment, the team will review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Any potential or actual changes in management systems. – Any changes or additions/deletions to regulations. – Any personnel changes in science, management or industry and their impact on the management of the fishery. – Any potential changes to scientific information, including stock assessments. – Any changes affecting traceability. – Any changes affecting harmonisation of overlapping fisheries, see PB1.3.5 <p>The team will also evaluate progress against any open conditions, and if necessary to close a condition(s) whose deadline becomes due at this surveillance audit, rescore the relevant Performance Indicator(s).</p>
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders may submit written input using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which is available here. ▪ Stakeholders may consult directly with the audit team during the period specified in the 8. Audit/review time and location above. <p>Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in 3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits opportunities below.</p>

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits

During surveillance audits, CABs are required to seek the views of relevant parties. With this in mind, SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to provide written information relevant to the surveillance audit process and/or consult directly with the audit team.

Prior to participating, stakeholders should familiarise themselves with the MSC process using the resources provided on the MSC's website: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>.

SAI Global would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. With this being said, information that they cannot be shared with all stakeholders cannot be referenced in an assessment or used in determining assessment outcomes unless it relates to; a) financial transactions about certification, b) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or c) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client's country.

3.1 Submitting written information

Please note that SAI Global can only accept written stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which can be found on the MSC website here: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>.

When submitting information, stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact.

In order for your written submissions to be considered as part of this audit, you must:

1. Use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments.
2. Submit it by **17:00 UTC on Friday, 22 January 2021**.
3. Send it to SAI Global Ireland Client Services: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com.

3.2 Consulting directly with the audit team

As part of this audit, the audit team will be available for direct consultations with stakeholders during the period specified in the "Audit/review time and location" Section of Table 1 above.

If you would like to consult directly with the audit team during this period, please advise us of your interest in doing so by:

1. Contact us at SAI Global Ireland Client Services: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com.
2. **17:00 UTC on Friday, 22 January 2021**.
3. Provide at least the following details when doing so:
 - Your name and contact details.
 - Your association with the fishery.
 - The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Surveillance Audit Team Leader: Dr. Virginia Polonio, Primary Responsibility for P2 and Traceability.

Virginia has a B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences) and a M.Sc. in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture, both from the University of Cádiz. She also obtained her PhD in Biodiversity and Natural resources from the University of Oviedo during which she gained experience in the field of research of fisheries and protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems such as coral reefs. During her thesis she wrote several articles describing new species of corals and developed skills in the fields of benthic ecology and ecosystem management. Before her PhD, Virginia was contracted as technician in the Spanish Oceanographic Institute where she realized work at sea and gained field experience to assess fisheries stocks. She participated in the Spanish National Basic Plan of Data to collect and evaluate the fishing in the ICES and CECAF areas. During this period, she carried out feeding habit and age/size studies of *Pagellus Bogaraveo* and others commercial species (hake, anchovy, sharks, mackerel, squid, etc.) to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Cadiz and the strait of Gibraltar.

Virginia has extensive experience working on MSC assessments as both a team member and lead assessor. She has worked on several full assessments such as ISF Capelin, ISF Mackerel, CSHMAC herring, Cantabrian sardine, North Atlantic albacore, squat lobster, blue sharks and swordfish, among others and is a full-time employee at SAI Global.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella, Primary Responsibility for P1.

With a PhD in Marine Biology and Ecology at the Università Politecnica delle Marche (2009), Giuseppe has worked for the last 10+ years as a project scientist in several research programs about artificial reef and the impact of offshore platform. During this time he has gained experience in benthic ecology, fish assemblages of artificial structures, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otolith analysis, population dynamic. As a scientist at CNR-ISMAR, he is responsible for the sampling design and statistical analyses of numerous research activities. In particular, he has worked as a project scientist on several research programs about fishery activities in the Mediterranean and Black sea. In the framework of such activities he has gained experience in stock assessment, management plans, benthic ecology, fish assemblages of artificial structures, analysis of stomach contents, fisheries ecology and the impacts of fishing activities. Moreover, during his employment at ISMAR-CNR he worked as part of a team of scientists operating within different fields of marine biology, including population dynamics, taxonomy and fisheries as well as with physical oceanographers and fisheries technologists. The application of EAF principles to fisheries management have been at the core of these collaborations. For some years now, Giuseppe has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Giuseppe has previously worked on other MSC-certified Icelandic fisheries including lemon sole and Greenland halibut and as such is familiar with the Icelandic fisheries management system.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: Dr. Geir Hønneland, Primary Responsibility for P3.

Dr. Geir Hønneland is Director at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Oslo, Norway, and adjunct professor at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He holds a PhD in political science from the University of Oslo and has studied international fisheries management (with main emphasis on compliance issues), international environmental politics and international Arctic politics.

Among his recent books are *Arctic Politics, the Law of the Sea and Russian Identity* (Palgrave, 2014), *Making Fishery Agreements Work* (Edward Elgar, 2012), *International Environmental Agreements* (Routledge, 2011), *Arctic Politics and International Cooperation* (Routledge, 2007) and *Law and Politics in Ocean Governance: the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and Regional Fisheries Management Regimes* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2006). He worked in the Norwegian Coast Guard from 1988 to 1994, where he was certified as a fisheries inspector.

Geir also has a wide range of evaluation and consultancy experience, e.g. for the FAO and OECD, relating to responsible fisheries management. He has been involved in MSC assessments since 2009 (covering cod, blue whiting, haddock, herring, mackerel and shrimp fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic and krill in the Southern Ocean) and was certified as MSC Team Leader in 2014. As with Giuseppe, Geir has also been recently involved in MSC assessments in Iceland.

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance programme for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR apart from the fact that this assessment is being conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As such the most up-to-date fishery surveillance programme may be viewed in the PCR or previous surveillance report.

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2020. All rights reserved.

Table 2. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue.
1.1	12 June 2015	Appendix 2 with surveillance frequency Table added.
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1.
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability.
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2.

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

Marine Stewardship Council
Marine House
1 Snow Hill
London EC1A 2DH
United Kingdom

Phone: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901
Email: standards@msc.org