

Ref. 2860N12A

31st March 2015

Proposed Peer Reviewer Announcement for the DPPO North Sea herring by Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation

ME Certification Ltd (MEC) are undertaking the full MSC certification assessment process for the DPPO North Sea herring conducted by Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation and are proposing the following peer reviewers:

- **Mr John Nichols**

Mr John Nichols is a retired UK government fisheries biologist with 42 years research experience in plankton ecosystems in the North Atlantic, specialising in the taxonomy of plankton including phytoplankton, micro and meso-plankton, ichthyoplankton and juvenile fish. John has been a member of ICES working groups on herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardine and anchovy assessments, as well as mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys. He has also been a member of ICES study groups on herring larval surveys and plankton sampling. John has led numerous research vessel surveys for fish stock assessment purposes and has been directly involved in the assessment of pelagic and western demersal fish stocks from 1994 to 2000. During his career, John has been involved in the publication of over fifty scientific papers and reports, more than half of which have appeared in peer reviewed journals. Since retiring from his government post, John has participated in a total of 29 different MSC fisheries assessments and reassessments as a Principle 1 expert and is qualified as a MSC Fishery Assessment Team Leader. These assessments include the Thames Blackwater herring drift-net, PFA North Sea herring, MINSA North East Atlantic mackerel, DPPO Atlanto-Scandian herring and Hastings fleet Dover sole fisheries. In addition to this, he has also acted as a peer reviewer for numerous MSC certification reports and participated in two MSC preassessments.

- **Dr Stephen Lockwood**

Dr Stephen Lockwood is an independent marine fishery and environmental consultant. He was previously the vice chairman of North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee and chairman of both the Welsh Assembly Government Agri-Food Partnership Fish & Aquaculture Group and the Welsh Minister's fishing industry consultation group. John was also appointed as an independent, non-executive director of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, Seafish, for the maximum period of six years. Prior to this, Stephen was Head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (now Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Fisheries Laboratory Conway, where he undertook research and development work for fish and shellfish cultivation, together with the environmental effects of fishing. More recently, Stephen has participated in various stages of Marine Stewardship Council assessments. To date, he has conducted 28 assessments and reassessments, including Norway spring spawning herring, SPPO Baltic herring and sprats, ISF Icelandic cod and Greenland lumpfish fisheries. In addition to this, he has also conducted numerous peer reviews and been involved in annual surveillance audits.

Full CVs are available on request to MEC at the address above.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Vicki Gravestock at vicki.gravestock@me-cert.com or Chrissie Sieben at chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com by email, telephone or post at the below number and address.

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The deadline for consultation is **17:00 GMT** on the **10th April 2015**.