

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Due to significant changes in the assessment, MEC would like to re-announce this fishery assessment. The certificate is now open to certificate sharing and there has been additional to the assessment team.

The initial assessment is now open for 30-day stakeholder consultation and the assessment team would like to welcome interested stakeholders to comment. Please see the details of the assessment below.

Name of Fishery	Bahamian Spiny Lobster Fishery
Assessment number	Initial assessment
Reduced re-assessment	This is an initial assessment
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>The CAB confirms that the fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements [FCR 7.4] for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1]. The CAB further confirms the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery is within scope of the MSC standard, i.e. it does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute; • The certificate is open to certificate sharing; • IPI stocks are not caught; • The fishery is enhanced; • This fishery does not overlap with any MSC fisheries; • The fishery is not based on an introduced species; <p>The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.</p>

Certificate sharing statement

This fishery is open to certificate sharing. The sharing arrangement from the client is documented below:

Bahamas Marine Exporters Association (BMEA)**Certificate Sharing for Bahamas spiny lobster fishery**

The Bahamas spiny lobster fishery is currently undergoing assessment against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) fisheries standard.

If successfully acquired, access to the MSC certificate for the Bahamas spiny lobster will be limited to the Client group members of Bahamas Marine Exporters Association (BMEA) that are in good standing.

In accordance with MSC requirements, the BMEA agrees to share the certificate fairly and equitably with lobster processors/exporters facilities that are eligible to be covered by the MSC certificate, subject to:

- Being current licensed and registered with the Bahamas government, and meet all legal and regulatory requirements mandated under the spiny lobster fishing laws of the Bahamas.
- Consents to an ongoing cost-sharing mechanism for the expenses associated with obtaining, advancing and maintaining the MSC certification.

In accordance with the above conditions, the BMEA agrees to accept and include new members within the coverage of the MSC certificate.

For further information, please contact Mia Isaacs (mia@jjhseafood.com) or Glenn Pritchard (gpritchard@tropicseafood.com).

Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period
	Fishery announcement	12 th January 2017	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process
	Site visit	14 th February 2017	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit. Exact dates TBC.
	Peer Reviewer Announcement	1 st June 2017	Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment
	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	15 th July 2017	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	1 st October 2017	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination
	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	1 st November 2017	

<p>Name of proposed Team Leader</p>	<p>It is proposed that Dr Jo Gascoigne will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this assessment and Principle 2.</p> <p>Dr Joanna Gascoigne – Team Leader & Principle 2</p> <p>Dr Joanna Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales and a shellfisheries expert, with over 25 years’ experience working in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Her Principle 2 work experience comes from bycatch studies, development of management and monitoring programmes for marine protected areas, environmental impacts studies on a range of topics, including shipping accidents, cable and pipeline installations and marine fouling. Jo also used to lecture in physical oceanography and conversation and resource management.</p> <p>Based on the above experience MEC is confident that Dr Gascoigne meets the 5-year competency requirement for Principle 2 experience (Row 3 in Table PC3 of the MSC Certification Requirements v2.0).</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne’s a fully qualified MSC Team Leader and has been involved as expert and lead auditor in over 15 MSC pre- and full assessments.</p> <p>She has also been involved in the use of the RBF on numerous occasions, having completed the required training, and this has also furthered her experience in specific stakeholder interview.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne has recently completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.0 Fisheries Certification Requirements. In addition, she has also completed the fisheries traceability version 2.0 MSC online training module in 2015.</p> <p>MEC can confirm that no conflicts of interest have been identified for this assessor in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
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<p>Names of proposed assessors</p>	<p>Dr Johan Groeneveld – Principle 1</p> <p>Johan has 22 years’ experience working in the field of fisheries. Specifically relating to Principle 1, Johan completed his PhD in the biology and ecology of the deep-water rock lobsters <i>Palinurus gilchristi</i> and <i>Palinurus delagoae</i> in relation to their fisheries. He has various scientific publications including in composition and abundance of deep-water crustaceans in the Southwest Indian Ocean, phylogeography of the scalloped spiny lobster and growth studies of spiny lobsters using censusing and modelling approaches. He has also worked on regional capacity building through advanced data analysis and writing of scientific publications based on deep-water crustacean trawl surveys in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar. Johan therefore meets the requirements set out in rows 1 and 2 of Table PC3.</p> <p>Johan has also completed his MSC online training modules as required.</p> <p>Thomas Matthews – Principle 3</p> <p>Tom has worked almost exclusively with lobster research and management issues in Florida and the Caribbean for 27 years. He has worked on specific lobster management issues in Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. He has also consultation with lobster researchers and managers in most countries in the Caribbean and have organised or chaired several international meetings.</p> <p>Tom currently works as the lobster research programme administrator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in the Florida Keys. FWC is the lead agency responsible for management of the spiny lobster fishery in Florida. Here he is responsible for analysis of all lobster fishery research for management of the fishery.</p> <p>His experience meets Row 4 of Table PC3, as he has worked for more than 5 years in fishery management and policy.</p> <p>Tom has also completed his MSC online training modules as required.</p> <p>The team collectively meets Row 5 of Table PC3 as all assessors are fluent in the English, the common language of the client and have more than 2 years work experience in the region where this fishery is situated.</p> <p>MEC can confirm that no conflicts of interest have been identified for these assessors in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
<p>Assessment tree to be used</p>	<p>Default Assessment Tree will be used. Although the fishery is enhanced under the MSC guidelines, neither Annex SB nor SC is applicable. A review has been conducted and concluded that no modifications to the Default Assessment Tree is required.</p>
<p>Site visit</p>	<p>14th – 17th February 2017 – Nassau, Grand Bahama, Bahamas</p> <p>This has already been held but due to the extent of the changes, the team would like to open the assessment for comment for any interested and relevant stakeholders.</p>

MEC would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the assessment. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Kat Collinson (kat.collinson@me-cert.com) or Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team remotely, meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above-mentioned email addresses.

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.

The deadline for stakeholder submission is the 15th April 2017

Submitted by: Kat Collinson

Date: 14th March 2017