

SAI Global

**Ireland bottom grown mussel
and the linked
Northern Ireland bottom grown mussel**

MSC Surveillance Announcement

1. Introduction

MSC certification requires regular surveillance audits of all certified fisheries, this Announcement marks the start of a surveillance audit of this 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	
	Ireland bottom grown mussel and the linked Northern Ireland bottom grown mussel	
2	Surveillance level and type	
	Surveillance level 1 ' <i>Minimum surveillance</i> ', review of information. The surveillance program for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR published 27 July 2018.	
3	Surveillance number	
	1 st Surveillance	X
	2 nd Surveillance	
	3 rd Surveillance	
	4 th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	
4	Proposed team leader	
	<p>Conor Donnelly (Note. Conor is also the Assessor primarily responsible for Principles 2, 3 and Traceability)</p> <p>As this assessment will be conducted by a team of 2 or more auditors, the requirements set out in MSC FCP v2.1; 7.28.14.1.a apply meaning that the team must cumulatively meet at least 3 of the Fishery Team qualifications and competency requirements outlined in MSC FCP v2.1; Table PC3. Conor meets the following criteria outlined in MSC FCP v2.1; Table PC3:</p> <p>3. Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems: Conor has extensive experience (17+ years) in marine ecology, conservation legislation (EU and UK), fisheries management, strategic planning/ risk management.</p> <p>4. Fishery management and operations: Conor has extensive experience (17+ years) in marine ecology, conservation legislation (EU and UK), fisheries management, strategic planning/ risk management</p> <p>5. Current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context: Conor is a native speaker of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders (English) and, having taken part in MSC assessments of both this fishery (re-assessment) and the Ireland rope grown mussel fishery (initial assessment), has also completed 2 assignments in Ireland within the last 10 years.</p> <p>6. Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements: Conor has passed the MSC's Traceability training module within the last 5 years</p> <p>Conor does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be off-site during this assessment; a brief summary of Conor's C.V. is provided in Appendix 1 below.</p>	
5	Proposed team members <i>[remove if not applicable]</i>	
	<p>Sam Dignan (Note. Sam is the assessor primarily responsible for Principle 1 and RBF)</p> <p>Sam meets the following criteria outlined in MSC FCP v2.1; Table PC3:</p> <p>1. Fish stock assessment: Sam has 3+ years' experience as a Fisheries Scientist including applying stock assessment techniques (i.e. CSA) relevant to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>2. Fish stock biology/ecology: Sam has +3 years' experience as a Fisheries Scientist working with a similar species (scallops and scallop fisheries).</p>	

	<p>5. Current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context: Sam is a native speaker of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders (English) and, having taken part in MSC assessments of both this fishery (re-assessment) and the Ireland rope grown mussel fishery (initial assessment), has also completed 2 assignments in Ireland within the last 10 years.</p> <p>7. Use of the Risk-Based Framework (RBF) (applicable as the RBF was used during the re-assessment): Sam has passed the MSC RBF training course within the last 5 years.</p>
6	Audit/review time and location
	Surveillance activities will be carried out from 19 th December 2019 to 2 nd January 2020. As this is a review of information audit, activities will be carried out from SAI Global's office in Dundalk, Ireland.
7	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The following will be assessed/reviewed during this audit (note this may not be an exhaustive list):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the fishery and its management. 2. Any developments or changes within the fishery that impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products. 3. Any other significant changes in the fishery.

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Assessments

During each surveillance audit, SAI Global is required to hold interviews and actively seek the views of stakeholders to ensure that the Audit Team is aware of stakeholders' concerns. Therefore, SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to meet with the Audit Team and/or provide information relevant to the surveillance process.

SAI Global would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. At the same time, we must inform you that we are unable to reference or use information that cannot be shared with all stakeholders. An exception may be possible where the information relates to either; 1) financial transactions about certification; 2) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or; 3) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the Client's country.

Prior to becoming involved, and to ensure effective participation in the MSC process, SAI Global would encourage stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the process using the resources provided on the MSC's website (www.msc.org).

Those wishing to make written submissions **must** use the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which can be found on the MSC website (<https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents/1>).

To be considered by the Assessment Team, submissions **must** be made no later than **17:00 UTC, Thursday 2nd January 2020**.

Submissions should be sent to:

SAI Global Ireland Client Services

E: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Surveillance Audit Team Leader: Conor Donnelly, Primary Responsibility for P2/P3 and Traceability.

Conor is an experienced marine ecologist and environmental manager with a background of over 17 years at the UK statutory nature conservation body, Natural England, where he was Senior Marine Adviser responsible for marine delivery across the East Midlands, Norfolk and Suffolk. He has a BSc. in Environmental Science from King's College, University of London and an MRes. in Marine and Coastal Ecology and Environmental Management from the University of York.

Conor has extensive experience of working with fisheries managers, the fishing sector, local communities and eNGOs, particularly from assessing the environmental impacts of mussel, cockle and shrimp fisheries in The Wash, UK and providing advice on their management. He was Natural England's representative on the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and its predecessor. He also advised and supported the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on fisheries casework in the southern North Sea under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) including meetings with other member states. Other experience includes Marine Protected Area designation, conservation advice and condition assessment; conservation legislation and policy; and working with partners and stakeholders to deliver positive environmental outcomes. Conor is certified as a Fisheries Team Leader under MSC FCR versions 1.3, 2.0 and 2.1 and an ISO lead auditor.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: Sam Dignan, Primary Responsibility for P1.

Sam Dignan is SAI Global's Fisheries and Aquaculture Scheme Manager. Prior to joining SAI Global, Sam worked as a fisheries scientist with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a B.Sc. in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an M.Sc. in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions. Sam is an ISO-approved lead auditor.

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance program for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the Public Certification Report published 27th July 2018. Therefore, the most up-to-date fishery surveillance program may be viewed in that report.

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.0'. 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.

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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

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

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