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President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

# MRAG Americas, Inc.

## Schleswig-Holstein Blue Shell Mussel

### MSC Surveillance Announcement

### 18 August 2021

**Table 1 – Surveillance announcement**

1	Fishery name	
	Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel fishery	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Blue mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) UoA 1: Bottom dredge for wild seed, which is then relayed on culture plots and harvested by dredge when grown UoA 2: Spat/seed collectors deployed as settlement substrata for larval mussels, which are transferred to culture plots and harvested by dredge when grown ICES IVb – in the Schleswig-Holstein part of the Wadden Sea	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	24 October 2016	23 April 2022
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 4, Off-site  Surveillance type has changed, see Appendix 2 for details	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	

	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	XX
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	<p><b>Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot</b> will serve as team leader for the assessment. Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;</li> <li>• She has passed the MSC team leader training;</li> <li>• She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2;</li> <li>• She has passed the MSC Traceability training module;</li> <li>• She meets ISO 19011 training requirements;</li> <li>• She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and</li> <li>• She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 &amp; 3 assessors as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>	
7	Proposed team members	
	<p><b>Ms. Christine Grieve</b> has 25+ years' experience in fisheries management and policy-making from local to global levels. First as research assistant to Australian stock assessment scientists, then the manager of some complex Australian demersal fisheries. She moved to the UK in 2000 to lead the Sustainable Fisheries Policy Research Programme for a London-based think tank where the vision was to influence change in the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. In 2002, Chris became the International Policy Director for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), responsible for leading the MSC's work on standards, certification and accreditation, governing bodies and developing world fisheries. Chris's role evolved to become Associate Director between 2005 and 2010 after she established Meridian Prime as a consulting company with a diverse portfolio of work. Chris has led and participated in work on the development, evolution and implementation of the MSC standard and certification requirements. She has also led and participated in sustainable fisheries-related projects for client organisations in Europe and the USA. On a consultancy</p>	

	<p>basis, Chris is the Executive Director of the EDGE Certified Foundation: a Swiss-based, global certification scheme dedicated to pursuing gender equality in Fortune 500 companies. Chris is an associate of the GrowHouse Initiative: a company that helps businesses explore beyond the boundaries of their current practice to create compelling, unique and sustainable futures. Chris is a member of the Board of Directors for WOCAN (a non-profit focusing on gender equality in natural resource management in the global south) and on the Advisory Board of Ocean Outcomes (a US-based non-profit focusing on sustainable fisheries). Chris was a founding Trustee and Vice Chair of the ISEAL Alliance, the global sustainability standards organization; and a statutory-appointed member of two Australian fisheries management public boards.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Grieve meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;</li> <li>• She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years;</li> <li>• She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored;</li> <li>• She has passed the MSC Traceability training module.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	A remote surveillance audit will occur the week of 20-24 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 and will be held in conjunction with the reassessment site visit.
9	Assessment and review activities
	The surveillance will review any changes in science and management and will monitor progress in closing out conditions.
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet in person or remotely (FCP v2.2 7.28.15.b).</p> <p>Provide input or comments to the team regarding the Surveillance Audit. Stakeholders must use the <a href="#">MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Surveillance Audits v1.0</a> (Ctrl+click to follow link).</p>

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery, to the surveillance and expedited assessments of the fisheries. Unless covered by FCP 4.3.3 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the surveillance audit, used to determine the surveillance audit outcome or used as the basis for an objection to certification. The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template ([MSC template for stakeholder input into a surveillance audit](#)) for stakeholder response available at [MSC program supporting documents](#). Stakeholders are encouraged not to withhold information, including concerns and knowledge about the fishery.

You must use the template to provide your response. All comments and inquiries should be directed to MRAG Americas. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details

- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm UTC on 13 September 2021.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/schleswig-holstein-blue-shell-mussel/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: 11 August 2021

## Appendix 1: Summary of CVs of team leader and team member(s)

**Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot** will serve as team leader for the assessment. Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.

**Ms. Christine Grieve** has 25+ years' experience in fisheries management and policy-making from local to global levels. First as research assistant to Australian stock assessment scientists, then the manager of some complex Australian demersal fisheries. She moved to the UK in 2000 to lead the Sustainable Fisheries Policy Research Programme for a London-based think tank where the vision was to influence change in the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. In 2002, Chris became the International Policy Director for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), responsible for leading the MSC's work on standards, certification and accreditation, governing bodies and developing world fisheries. Chris's role evolved to become Associate Director between 2005 and 2010 after she established Meridian Prime as a consulting company with a diverse portfolio of work. Chris has led and participated in work on the development, evolution and implementation of the MSC standard and certification requirements. She has also led and participated in sustainable fisheries-related projects for client organisations in Europe and the USA. On a consultancy basis, Chris is the Executive Director of the EDGE Certified Foundation: a Swiss-based, global certification scheme dedicated to pursuing gender equality in Fortune 500 companies. Chris is an associate of the GrowHouse Initiative: a company that helps businesses explore beyond the boundaries of their current practice to create compelling, unique and sustainable futures. Chris is a member of the Board of Directors for WOCAN (a non-profit focusing on gender equality in natural resource management in the global south) and on the Advisory Board of Ocean Outcomes (a US-based non-profit focusing on sustainable fisheries). Chris was a founding Trustee and Vice Chair of the ISEAL Alliance, the global sustainability standards organization; and a statutory-appointed member of two Australian fisheries management public boards.

## Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

**Table 2 – Surveillance level justification**

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
4	Off-site audit	Two auditors off-site	The MSC's Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing enables CABs to conduct remote audits when international, national, or local travel restrictions that impact the assessment team or auditor or certificate holder are in place.

**Table 3 – Timing of surveillance audit**

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
4	April 2021	September 2021	The surveillance audit was delayed to accommodate the schedules of key fishery representatives and to align with the reassessment site visit.

**Table 4 – Fishery surveillance program**

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 4	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit and recertification site visit.