Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments



Lloyd's Register 6 Redheughs Rigg South Gyle Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ United Kingdom T +44 (0)13 1335 6600 E <u>fisheries-ca@lr.org</u> www.lr.org

South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl



Surveillance Report

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Lloyd's Register	CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD
Assessment team	Jim Andrews and Paul Medley	MSC www.msc.org
Fishery client	Polar Ltd.	1
Assessment Type	Third Surveillance	



Assessment Data Sheet

Fishery name	South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl		
Species and Stock	Mackerel Icefish (Champsocephalus gunnari) Antarctic Mackerel Icefish CAMMLR Area 48 Atlantic within sub-area 48.3		
CAB name	Lloyd's Register		
CAB contact details	Address	6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ	
	Phone/Fax	0131 335 6662	
	Email	fisheries-ca@lr.org	
	Contact name(s)	Kate Morris	
Client contact details	Address	Polar Ltd. 37 Fitzroy Road PO Box 215 Stanley Falkland Islands	
	Phone/Fax	+500 22669	
	Email	alex.reid@seaview.gs	
	Contact name(s)	Alex Reid	

Copyright $\ensuremath{\textcircled{C}}$ 2019 by Lloyd's Register

All rights reserved. No portion of this report may be reproduced in any manner for use by any other MSC Conformity Assessment Body without the express written permission of Lloyd's Register, and subject to such conditions specified by Lloyd's Register in any such permission.



Contents

Asse	essment	Data Sheet	2
Con	tents		3
List	of Figure	S	4
List	of Tables		4
Exe	cutive Su	mmary	5
1	Report [Details	6
1.1	Su	veillance information	6
2	Backgro	und	8
2.1	Ch	anges in fleet structure or operation	8
	2.1.1	Changes in management system	8
	2.1.2	Changes in relevant regulations	8
	2.1.3	Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry	8
	2.1.4	Changes to scientific base of information, including stock assessments	9
	2.1.4.1	Target species stock status	9
	2.1.4.2	Management Advice	9
	2.1.4.3	Observer coverage	10
	2.1.4.4	Marine environment	10
	2.1.5 to segre certified	Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the abi gate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (no fish)	lity on- 11
2.2	Ve	sion Details	11
2.3	Co	nfirmation of Scope	11
	2.3.1	Destructive fishing practices	11
	2.3.2	Controversial unilateral exemptions	11
	2.3.3	Enhancement activities	11
	2.3.4	Forced & Child Labour	11
3	Results		12
3.1	Su	veillance results overview	12
	3.1.1	Summary of conditions	12
	3.1.2	Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data	12
	3.1.3	Recommendations	12
3.2	Clie	ent Action Plan	12
3.3	Re	-scoring Performance Indicators	12
4	Append	ces	13
4.1	Eva	aluation processes and techniques	13
	4.1.1	Site visits	13
	4.1.2	Stakeholder Participation	13
4.2	Sta	keholder input	13
4.3	Re	vised surveillance program	14
4.4	На	rmonised fishery assessments	15

4.5

ster ice Report ia icefish pelagic trawl	LR	Lloyd's Register
References		5

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Current extent of Marine Protected Areas within the South Georgia EEZ following enhancement	s introduced
in 2019. (GS	SSGSSI 2019)	10

List of Tables

Table 1:	Scope of South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery MSC Unit of Certification.	5
Table 2:	Surveillance Information	6
Table 3:	List of licensed vessels in the South Georgia icefish trawl fishery, for the period 2017-19	8
Table 4.	MSC Fisheries program document versions used for this assessment	11
Table 5:	TAC and Catch Data for the South Georgia Icefish Pelagic Trawl Fishery	12
Table 6:	List of meetings and attendance for this surveillance audit.	13
Table 7:	Surveillance levels (table reproduced from MSC FCR, Table 5)	14
Table 8:	Timing of surveillance audit	14
Table 9:	Fishery Surveillance Program	14
Table 10:	Summary information describing the MSC-certified fisheries for icefish. [Source: MSC website]	15
Table 11:	Scoring difference table Principle 3	15



Executive Summary

This is the 3rd Annual Surveillance of the South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery, which was re-certified against the MSC Standard in 2016. The scope of the certified fishery and therefore of this surveillance is specified in the Unit of Certification set out below:

Table 1: Scope of South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery MSC Unit of Certification.

Species:	Mackerel Icefish (Champsocephalus gunnari)
Geographical area:	South Georgia Maritime Zone
Method of capture:	Pelagic trawl
Stock:	Antarctic Mackerel Icefish
	CAMMLR Area 48 Atlantic within sub-area 48.3
Management System:	Management advice by CCAMLR, enacted by GSGSSI
Client Group:	Polar Ltd.
Other Eligible Fishers:	none

This surveillance was carried out in accordance with the MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 by a team of two assessors (Dr Jim Andrews and Dr Paul Medley). The assessment team met with the client, officers of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), and scientists from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and also with South Georgia stakeholders in London, England.

No conditions of certification were raised nor were any certification recommendations made when the fishery was recertified (against MSC FCR v1.3) in 2016. At this surveillance audit the assessment team carried out a review of current information about fishing operations, target stock status, environmental impacts and management of the fishery. The assessment team found that: -

- a) There have been no significant changes in the status of the target stock of mackerel icefish, *Champsocephalus gunnari;*
- b) There have been no changes in the interaction between the fishery and the marine environment;
- c) There have been no significant changes in the management system for the fishery;
- d) There have been no changes that would affect the traceability arrangements in place for the fishery; and
- e) That the fishery remains "in scope" for MSC Certification.

The assessment team found that: -

- a) There were commercial catches of 1.3t of icefish in the 2018-19 season. This is a lot less than the GSGSSI TAC of 3,269t. The low catches are a result of the limited fishing opportunities and also the shoaling behaviour of the icefish, which have tended to be too close to the seabed to be caught in pelagic trawls.
- b) GSGSSI have continued to improve the management of the marine environment within the EEZ by updating their approach to marine habitat management in response to new information. During 2019 the GSGSSI has extended the extent of No Take Zones (NTZs) in the UoA for pelagic vessels: the NTZ around South Georgia now extends 30km offshore, and the NTZ around the South Sandwich Islands extends 50km offshore of each Island

The assessment team conclude that following this surveillance audit the MSC Certification of the South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery **should continue subject to annual surveillance audits.**



1 Report Details

1.1 Surveillance information

Information about the nature of this surveillance audit, including the membership of the assessment team is presented below.

Table 2: Surveillance Information

1	Fishery name	
	South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl	
2	Surveillance level and type	
	Surveillance level 1 – onsite	
3	Surveillance number	
	3rd Surveillance	x
4	Proposed team leader	
	Jim Andrews – Team Leader and Principle 2 & 3 expert	
	Jim Andrews is a marine biologist with over 20 years' experience environmental management. His previous experience includes run Wales Sea Fisheries Committee as its Chief Executive from 2001 SFC's Marine Environment Liaison Officer (from 1996-2001), and p Government's nature conservation advisor, English Nature on wildlit northwest England (from 1992-1996). During his time with the SFC h management and assessment of inshore finfish and shellfish stocks as assessment and management of fisheries interactions with aquative extensive practical knowledge of fisheries and environmental mana and regulation of fisheries under UK and EC legislation. Jim has form a special interest in the policy, governance and management of fisher in the UK, EU and globally (this particular subject being the focus of 1997-99). He has worked as an assessor and lead assessor on mo the UK, in Europe and in India since 2007. In 2008 he worked with th assessments using the new MSC Risk Based Assessment Framev MSC Chain of Custody assessments within the UK. Jim has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation the MSC RBF training in the past 3 years. Full CV available upon rec	the working in marine fisheries and aning the North Western and North to 2005, previously working as the prior to that working for the English fe and coastal zone management in e was responsible for the regulation, a along a 1,500km coastline, as well c ecosystems in this area. He has an gement as well as the enforcement al legal training & qualifications, with eries impacts on marine ecosystems of his LLM research over the period re than 20 MSC certifications within e MSC and WWF on one of the pilot vork. Jim has carried out numerous on to this fishery. Jim has completed quest.
Leadership Experience	Jim has carried out multiple MSC assessments as Team Lead over th 19011:2018 lead auditor training.	e last 5 years and has passed his ISO
5	Proposed team members	
	Paul Medley – Principle 1 expert (off-site) Dr Paul Medley is an experienced fishery scientist and population knowledge and experience in the assessment of pelagic stocks (and and ecosystems). He holds a first degree in Biology and Computer S University of York, and a doctorate from Imperial College, London, ba Longline and Purse Seine in the South-West Pacific Tuna Fishery".	on analyst and modeller, with wide ongst a range of marine fish stocks Science (1st class honours) from the used on a thesis "Interaction between He has travelled widely and worked



	with a range of fishery systems and biological stocks, both as principal researcher and as evaluator. He is familiar with MSC assessment procedures, having participated in a significant number of MSC full assessments across a range of fisheries, undertaken a substantial number of pre-assessments and acted as peer reviewer in still others. He is familiar with a wide range of fisheries in the North East Atlantic and other parts of the world, and over the period 2000 to 2005 he has been serving with the Centre for Independent Experts, University of Miami, as an evaluator of various US fishery research programmes. He has been working with the MSC on the development of guidelines for certification of small scale, data poor fisheries. He is based in York (UK). Paul has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request.
	English is widely spoken by the client.
Context	Both Jim and Paul have had assignments in the region in the last 10 years.
Traceability	Jim has completed the MSC traceability module
RBF	Jim has completed the RBF training.
6	Audit/review time and location
	The audit took place in London (UK), week commencing the 9 th September
7	Assessment and review activities
	Review of all relevant data.



2 Background

Mackerel icefish *Champsocephalus gunnari* is found in both the Atlantic (Bouvet Island, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney, South Shetland Islands and the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula) and Indian Oceans (Kerguelen and Heard and McDonald Islands). The species is now exploited only at South Georgia and in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands fishery.

Catch data from this fishery highlight relatively heavy exploitation in the late 1970s and a peak in 1983. Before 1987, no catch limit was set for the South Georgia fishery and catches reported to CCAMLR between 1976 and 1987 are considered highly uncertain due to species reporting issues and potential over-reporting of catch. The reported catches since then have fluctuated widely, between 80,000 tonnes in 1986/87 and 0 tonnes between 1992 and 1997 (with a variation in TAC since 1986/87 of between 0 and 1300 tonnes). CCAMLR closed the bottom trawl fishery in the early 1990s and the fishery reopened as a pelagic trawl fishery in 1995.

The client for this assessment, Polar Ltd, are the only licensed operator in the South Georgia Icefish fishery and they operate two vessels in the fishery (see Table 3).

2.1 Changes in fleet structure or operation

The vessels licensed to fish in the icefish pelagic trawl fishery over the period 2018-19 are listed in Table 3.

 Table 3:
 List of licensed vessels in the South Georgia icefish trawl fishery, for the period 2017-19.

Vessel	PLN
SIL	ZDLR1
Robin M Lee	ZDLZ1

There have been no changes in the type of fishing gear used in the fishery since it was re-certified.

There has been very little fishing activity during 2018-19. The vessels operating in the fishery have caught 1.3t of icefish over 16 pelagic trawl tows in October 2018.

The poor catches of icefish in the past season and in recent years appear to be a result of changes in the behaviour of the fish, which are in turn attributed to the relatively warm surface water temperatures around South Georgia. The icefish appear to be staying close to the seabed where the water is cooler.

The client reported in previous surveillance audits that they have taken a new net and different skippers to South Georgia to see if it is possible to find a way to catch the fish while they are in the water column using a pelagic net fishing close to the seabed. It was confirmed at this audit that this has not resulted in any improvement in catches. The remote location of the fishing area coupled with the coincidence of the mackerel icefish fishery with other more reliable fisheries (such as for squid) is presently hampering further investigations by the client into achieving better catches.

2.1.1 Changes in management system

There have been no changes in the management system in the past year that have any implications for ongoing certification of the fishery.

It was noted at the last surveillance audit that in early 2018 the GSGSSI published its management plan for the icefish fishery (GSGSSI 2018a). This plan served to consolidate all of the existing management measures in a single document and did not introduce any changes in management practice.

Licences for the fishery continue to be issued by the GSGSSI for a period of 2 years, and the fishery is presently in the second year of this biennial cycle. Information on the management regime is provided to prospective applicants (GSGSSI 2018b). GSGSSI are considering whether it is appropriate to transition to a quadrennial licence for this fishery.

2.1.2 Changes in relevant regulations

There have been no significant changes in the regulations applying to fishing for icefish.

There have been some changes in the regulations applying to protection of the marine environment. These are summarised in section 2.1.4.4 of this report.

2.1.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

There have been no significant changes to personnel at the client fishery, GSGSSI or Cefas in the past year.

It was noted at this surveillance audit that for the period during which Dr Mark Belchier has been seconded from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) to the GSGSSI as their Director of Fisheries & Environment, his post at BAS is being



filled by Dr Martyn Collins (formerly the Director of Fisheries at GSGSSI). This change is not considered to have any implications for ongoing certification of the fishery.

2.1.4 Changes to scientific base of information, including stock assessments

2.1.4.1 Target species stock status

The assessment team were provided with draft copies of stock assessment reports which are due to be discussed at the upcoming CCAMLR 2019 stock assessment meetings in October 2019. The agreed stock assessment and the TACs that will be appropriate for 2020 and 2021 will not be available until after this CCAMLR meeting. The assessment team are, however, able to report that there have been no significant changes to the perception of stock status since the last assessment in 2017.

Stock Status

The stock of icefish within Area 48.3 is currently defined as a separate stock, relatively isolated from other populations and hence able to be managed separately. *C. gunnari* has never been found in waters deeper than 700m and most fish live shallower than 300m, which would clearly separate South Georgia as a management unit from other populations.

Strong icefish year classes (recruitment) have been produced around South Georgia at irregular intervals from 1972 until the present. Recruitment can range over 1 - 2 orders of magnitude. A population model-based assessment is not used to assess stock status, but this is based on demersal surveys.

Fishery independent stratified demersal surveys conducted every two years are used as the basis for the assessment of icefish stocks. Estimates of standing stock biomass are derived using catch densities based on the area swept by the trawl (calculated from wing-spread and tow distance). Biomass estimates can be used to derive robust precautionary catch limits taking into account sampling error.

Current Stock Status

The UK survey conducted in January and February 2019 (Gregory et al, 2019) indicated that the stock biomass is similar to the average since 2000, although a decrease on the stock estimated in 2015 and 2017.

The predictions from the 2017 assessment (Earl, 2017) under the scenario of no fishing in 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons estimated the lower 5 percentile biomass at the end of this period of 23,999 tonnes, whereas the recent 2019 estimate at this the end of the season was 32,399 tonnes, well above the projection. The projections used to calculate the TAC does not include recruitment as this is more precautionary.

The CCAMLR agreed HCR using length-based approach has previously been demonstrated to provide robust, precautionary estimates of catch limits and exploitation rates for subarea 48.3 icefish (Darby et. al. 2013) and is currently used to recommend catch limits in this fishery.

The conclusion of the stock assessment was that the biomass is similar to the last (2017) survey, Recent catches have been very low compared to the biomass estimate. Therefore, the stock is currently only lightly fished.

2.1.4.2 Management Advice

The general management strategy implemented by CCAMLR and GSGSSI is to keep the exploitation rate low until better information is available on the stock size and population dynamics. Catch limits have been set biennially since 2012. Catch limits are based on a precautionary harvest control rule, assuming there is no recruitment in the second year of the assessment period. Catch limits for the second year of an assessment period (e.g. 2017) are therefore always lower than those for the first year. Annual catches, relative to catch limit, are variable depending on the extent of participation in the fishery. They are also influenced by both interannual variation in the icefish population abundance and the availability of fish to the fishery (i.e. changes in the location and depth of fish).

The results of the projections for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons applying the CCAMLR harvest control rule, catch limits (TAC) were set at 4,733 tonnes for 2017/18 and 3,269t tonnes for 2018/19 (CCAMLR 2018). These TACs are very low compared to historical catches reported for the 1970s and 1980s. In addition, catches in general have been well below the catch limit. Only 110 tonnes of icefish were caught in 2016/17 compared to the catch limit of 2,074t. Preliminary recommended catch limits in subarea 48.3 using the UK 2019 demersal trawl survey are 3,225 tonnes for the 2019/20 season and 2,132 tonnes for 2020/21.

Catches of icefish in recent years are thought to have been low as a result of icefish remaining close to the bottom and therefore difficult to catch with pelagic gear; a behavioural response to the warmer water currently found higher in the water column. The icefish are however taken in the survey's demersal trawl. Commercial demersal trawling is prohibited to protect demersal habitat.

The catch limit is highly precautionary (Hillary et al., 2009, Hillary et al., 2010, Edwards et al., 2010a, Edwards et al., 2010b, Darby et. al. 2013). No recruitment is assumed in the second year, so the TAC will fall in the second year. The lower 5% ile level is used as the basis of the biomass and an escapement of 75% is then calculated. MSC-SA Template 2.01 LR 20190530 Page 9 of 16 www.lr.org



The full range of conservation measures are described in Conservation Measure 42-01 (2014) and, as well as catch limits, also include measures discouraging catching immature icefish below 24cm. Fishing is also prohibited within 12 nautical miles (nmi) of the coast of South Georgia and within 3nmi of the South Sandwich Islands.

CM42-01 limits on seabird by-catch in Subarea 48.3 icefish fishery were carried forward from the last season. Should any vessel catch a total of 20 seabirds, it is required to cease fishing for the remainder of the 2017/18 seasons. Limitations of fish by-catch outlined in CM 33-01 have also been carried forward to the coming season.

2.1.4.3 Observer coverage

There is 100% observer coverage in the South Georgia Icefish fishery.

[SUE – when we saw you in September you mentioned that you were due to receive / had just received an observer report from the past season. I will include a precis here if you send it through]

2.1.4.4 Marine environment

At this surveillance audit the GSGSSI and Cefas provided the assessment team with a verbal report of progress with marine habitat mapping being carried out by scientists, and also the work the that fishing industry are doing with underwater video cameras to monitor seabed character and interactions in the toothfish longline fishery. Though this research is specifically relevant to the areas fished for toothfish, it is improving the overall understanding of the marine habitats and species within the South Georgia EEZ.

Over the past year the GSGSSI has enhanced its network of Marine Protected Areas (see Figure 1). The key changes that have been made have been to extend the 12nmi (22.2km) No Take Zone (NTZ) around South Georgia to extend 30km offshore. This change has been made in response to satellite tag data from gentoo penguins which shows that they forage for krill further offshore than previously thought. The move to 30km is consistent with the voluntary measures introduced by the Association of Responsible Krill harvesting companies (ARK) around the Antarctic Peninsula.



Figure 1: Current extent of Marine Protected Areas within the South Georgia EEZ following enhancements introduced in 2019. (GSGSSI 2019)

A further change has been the introduction of a pelagic closed area around the South Sandwich Island which extends 50km offshore. Again, this is largely to ensure that the krill resources in this area are available to the penguin colonies on the South Sandwich Islands.



In addition to these changes, a NTZ covering 62,900km² and which prohibits all fishing activity in the vicinity of the South Sandwich trench has been established. This will protect the deepest part of the Southern Ocean (>8000m). This area is likely to contain unique habitats that are currently poorly studied and mapped. Protecting the trench area will provide a pristine environment for scientific research and education. The no-take zone stretches 50km either side of the midpoint of the trench covering depths from 3000m - > 8000m from 55° S.

The GSGSSI is also due to formally designate the region of its Maritime Zone located south of 60° South as a full NTZ within the MPA which will be closed to all commercial fishing activity. This region contains complex bathymetry and habitats including seamounts, deep trenches and a large area of the South Sandwich Fracture Zone – a region of high hydrothermal and tectonic activity. The seafloor invertebrate communities are poorly described but thought to be diverse, including many species of deep-water coral. The region is an important area of biological connectivity between the South Sandwich Islands and the islands and seamounts of the Southern Scotia Arc. It lies within the seasonal pack-ice zone an area completely covered by sea ice in winter. The area protected exceeds 170,000 km².

As a further measure to protect the marine and terrestrial environment, the GSGSSI has introduced a ban on the use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for all vessels operating in the South Sandwich Islands and is due to roll out this ban to the rest of the SGSSI EEZ at the end of 2020.

2.1.5 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)

There have been no changes within the fishery that would impact traceability.

2.2 Version Details

The versions of the fisheries program documents used for this assessment are listed in the table below.

Table 4. MSC Fisheries program document versions used for this assessment

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	Version 2.1
MSC Fisheries Standard	Version 1.3
MSC General Certification Requirements	Version 2.4.1
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	Version 2.01

2.3 Confirmation of Scope

The fishery was considered to be "in scope" for MSC certification during its initial assessment (see MSC FCP at section 7.4). The surveillance team made enquiries during this audit to confirm that the fishery remains in scope. The findings are listed below.

2.3.1 **Destructive fishing practices**

The client confirmed that no destructive fishing practices (explosives or poisons) are used in this fishery.

2.3.2 Controversial unilateral exemptions

No indication was given during the site visit that the fishery is subject to any controversial unilateral exemptions.

2.3.3 Enhancement activities

This is not an enhanced fishery.

2.3.4 Forced & Child Labour

The assessment team confirmed that fishery operators have not been prosecuted for any violations against forced labour laws. The client has submitted a Declaration on Forced and Child Labour to the MSC as required by §7.4.4.2 *et seq* of FCP v2.1.



3 Results

3.1 Surveillance results overview

3.1.1 Summary of conditions

No conditions of certification were raised when the fishery was certified in 2016. Having reviewed the changes that have occurred since the fishery was re-certified, the assessment team has concluded that no Performance Indicators require re-scoring, and that there remain no conditions of certification.

3.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

The TAC and catch data for the most recent fishing year are summarised below.

Table 5: TAC and Catch Data for the South Georgia Icefish Pelagic Trawl Fishery

TAC	Year	2018-19	Amount	2,074t
UoA share of TAC	Year	2018-19	Amount	2,074t
UoC share of TAC	Year	2018-19	Amount	100%
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2018-19	Amount	1.3t*
	Year (second most recent)	2017-18	Amount	1.3t

* Reported catch in September 2019.

3.1.3 Recommendations

No recommendations were made by the assessment team when the fishery was re-certified in 2016, and no new recommendations have been made at this surveillance audit.

3.2 Client Action Plan

There is no client action plan as there are no conditions of certification for this fishery.

3.3 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Having reviewed the information presented by the client, Cefas and GSGSSI, the assessment team concluded that no Performance Indicators required re-scoring at this surveillance audit.



4 Appendices

4.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

4.1.1 Site visits

The audit was conducted through an interview with the client, GSGSSI and Cefas representatives in London on the 13th September 2019. Reports of stock status and fishery management actions were presented at the audit and retained by the assessment team.

On the day prior to the site visit, the assessment team attended a stakeholder meeting in London at which the fishing industry and other stakeholders were present, and where stakeholders from the fishing industry, science community and NGOs had the opportunity to comment on information presented by GSGSSI about South Georgia fisheries and environmental management activities in the past year and the GSGSSI proposals for future management.

A list of the meetings held during this surveillance audit and the attendance at each meeting is provided in Table 6.

 Table 6: List of meetings and attendance for this surveillance audit.

Date	Meeting and Attendance	
12 th September 2019	GSGSSI Stakeholder Engagement Meeting, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, London.	
	Attended by GSGSSI officials, scientific advisors, industry and NGO representatives.	
13 th September 2019	Surveillance Audit, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London. Attended by:-	
	Alex Reid, Polar Ltd Tim Earl, Cefas Chris Darby, Cefas Mark Belchier, GSGSSI Sue Gregory, GSGSSI Paddy Halling, Foreign & Commonwealth Office	

4.1.2 Stakeholder Participation

A total of 7 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and notified, via e-mail, of surveillance process. This e-mail highlighted the potential process for engagement in the surveillance, if desired. In addition, the interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.

No stakeholders came forward requesting a meeting with members of the assessment team during the site visit.

4.2 Stakeholder input

Verbal comments were made by the stakeholders listed in section 4.1.1 above. The comments are referred to in the relevant sections of this report.

No verbal comments or queries were made to the audit team which required a formal or written response.

No written comments from stakeholders were received during this surveillance audit.



4.3 Revised surveillance program

The MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0 specify that after each certification, surveillance and re-certification the Certified Accreditation Body (CAB) shall determine the level at which subsequent surveillance of the fishery shall be undertaken.

The MSC require that surveillance audits should be conducted at the default level, unless the team decides on a reduced programme (for instance because there has been good progress towards meeting the conditions; there is confidence that the CAB can verify information remotely; and/or that there are few (or no) conditions).

This fishery presently has no conditions of certification, has returned a high score against all 3 MSC **Principles, and** has demonstrated an excellent track record of compliance with the MSC Scheme requirements as well as conditions of certification generated during earlier periods of certification. The fishery is well documented, and the GSGSSI has consistently provided comprehensive and verifiable information about the fishery that enables remote surveillance to be carried out.

The surveillance levels available under the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements are reproduced below in Table 7 of this report. The assessment team has concluded that a **Minimum (Level 1) Surveillance level** is appropriate for this fishery.

Surveillance level	Surveillance requirements
Level 6	4 on-site surveillance audits
Default Surveillance	
Level 5	3 on-site surveillance audits
	1 off-site surveillance audit
Level 4	2 on-site surveillance audits
	2 off-site surveillance audits
Level 3	1 on-site surveillance audits
	3 off-site surveillance audits
Level 2	1 on-site surveillance audits
	2 off-site surveillance audits
	1 review of information
Level 1	1 on-site surveillance audit
Minimum	1 off-site surveillance audit
Surveillance	2 review of information

Table 7: Surveillance levels (table reproduced from MSC FCR, Table 5)

The CAB is required to document its rationale for determining the surveillance level and schedule for the fishery. The surveillance schedule was amended from that set out in the PCR for this fishery. The amended schedule is presented below.

Table 8: Timing of surveillance audit

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
4	July 2020	September 2020	Stakeholder meetings are held in London in September at which the client is present so audit is timed to coincide with these dates.

Table 9:Fishery Surveillance Program

Surveillance Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 1	Off-site	Review of information	Review of invormation	On-site (possible re- assessment).



4.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

There are three MSC-certified icefish fisheries listed on the MSC website. Summary information describing each fishery is listed in Table 10 below. The Australia mackerel icefish fishery has recently been combined with the Australian Heard Island and McDonald Islands Toothfish & Icefish fishery certificate.

Table 10: Summary information describing the MSC-certified fisheries for icefish. [Source: MSC website].

Fishery	Species	Gear types	Locations	MSC status
South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl	Mackerel icefish (Champsocephalus gunnari)	Trawls - Midwater trawls	Atlantic & Antarctic (FAO Area 48)	Certified
AustralianHeardIslandandMcDonaldIslandsToothfishLcefishfisheries	Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus</i> <i>gunnari</i>), Toothfish (Patagonian) (<i>Dissostichus</i> <i>eleginoides</i>)	Hooks And Lines - Set longlines Trawls - Bottom trawls.	Antarctic and Southern & Indian Ocean (FAO Area 58)	Certified

The assessment team note that there is no spatial overlap between the South Georgia fishery and the Australian Heard Island fisheries, and that the fishing method used to catch icefish in that fishery is a demersal (rather than pelagic) trawl. There is thus no rationale for harmonising the Principle 1 and Principle 2 scores since the fisheries target different stocks in different sea areas.

The Australian and South Georgia fisheries both operate within the area managed by CCAMLR. The scores awarded for Principle 3 in these two icefish fisheries are very similar and the conclusions of the assessments are identical.

The assessment team has concluded that there is no need for further harmonisation activity at this surveillance audit.

Table 11: Scoring difference table Principle 3

Performance Indicator	South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl	Australian Heard Island and McDonald Islands Toothfish & Icefish fisheries
PI 3.1.1	100	100
PI 3.1.2	100	100
PI 3.1.3	100	100
PI 3.1.4	100	90
PI 3.2.1	100	90
PI 3.2.2	100	100
PI 3.2.3	100	100
PI 3.2.4	80	90
PI 3.2.5	90	100



4.5 References

- CCAMLR. 2018. Annex 7: Report of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (Hobart, Australia, 2 to 13 October 2017). Pages 243–344. CCAMLR, Hobart. https://www.ccamlr.org/en/system/files/e-sc-xxxvi-a07.pdf.
- Earl, T. 2017. Preliminary assessment of mackerel icefish Champsocephalus gunnari in Subarea 48.3 based on the 2017 groundfish survey. Page 30. CCAMLR, Hobart. https://www.ccamlr.org/en/wg-fsa-17/47.
- GSGSSI. 2018a. South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Mackerel Icefish Fishery (48.3) Management Plan 2018-2019. Page 12. Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, Stanley, Falkland Islands. http://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Fisheries/180105%20Icefish%2048_3%20Fishery%20Management%20Plan% 20-%20Final.pdf.
- GSGSSI. 2018b. Icefish Licensing 2018-2019 Information for Applicants. Page 14. Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, Stanley, Falkland Islands. http://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Fisheries/180105%20Icefish%20Licensing%202018-2019%20Information%20for%20Applicants%20-%20Final.pdf.
- GSGSSI. 2019. South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area Enhancements. Page 3. Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

MRAG. 2017. CCAMLR Scientific Observer Cruise Report: FV Robin M Lee, 6th-31st October 2017. Page 18.

Darby, C, T. Earl, H. Peat. (2013) An evaluation of the performance of the CCAMLR mackerel icefish (*Champsocephalus gunnari*) harvest control rule as applied within CCAMLR Subarea 48.3. CCAMLR working document WG-SAM-13/31 Rev. 1, CCAMLR, Hobart, Australia.

Gregory *et al.* (2019) Report of the UK Groundfish Survey at South Georgia (CCAMR sub-Area 48.3) in January 2019. Submitted to CCAMLR WG-FSA-2019