Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Year 2 Surveillance Report

Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery

On behalf of Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo

Prepared by

Control Union Pesca Ltd

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Contents

1 General summary

Fishery name	Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery		
Unit(s) of assessment	**Species and stock:** • UoA1, 3, 5: Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in ICES Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall, and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat) • UoA2, 4: Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in ICES Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic) **Geographical range:** • UoA 1, 3, 5: Northeast Atlantic • UoA 2, 4: Northeast Arctic **Method of capture:** Bottom trawl (demersal otter trawl) **Management systems:** Common Fisheries Policy; French National management system; EU-Norway agreement; Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. ICES is scientific authority. Decisions taken by EU Fisheries Council. Stakeholder participation via North Sea Advisory Council. **Client group:** • UoA1: Euronor member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI. • UoA2: Euronor member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas I, II. • UoA3: Compagnie des Pêches St Malo member vessels fishing for saithe from the ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI. • UoA4: Compagnie des Pêches St Malo member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas I, II. • UoA5: Scapêche member vessels fishing for saithe from ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI.		
Date certified	21 September 2016	Date of expiry	20 September 2021
Surveillance level and type	Level 6, year 2 on-site audit (second certification cycle)		
Date of surveillance audit	8 January 2019		
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance	X	
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
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2   Background

This report outlines the process and outcome of the second annual surveillance audit (second certification cycle) for the Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery. The certified fishery targets saithe from two separate stocks, in the Northeast Atlantic (ICES Subareas IIIa, IV, VI) and the Northeast Arctic (ICES Subareas I, II) and is analysed as five Units of Assessment.

The fishery was re-certified by ME Certification Ltd (MEC, now CU Pesca) on the 21st September 2016 and is carried out by demersal otter trawl vessels from three French companies – Euronor, Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo and Scapêche. An up to date vessel list is shown in Table 1. At the time of writing, the Grande Hermine has been replaced by the Emeraude, which is owned by both Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo but is operated by Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo. However the Emeraude was not yet active during the period covered by the surveillance audit so its activities are not reported or assessed in this report.

A total of 15 vessels may operate in the certified fishery (Euronor: 6 Scapeche: 8, Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo:1) although as noted in the previous surveillance report, they do not all operate in the five UoAs each year. An example of this is the UoC3, Compagnie des Pêches North Sea: the Grande Hermine (now replaced by the Emeraude) has not fished in the North Sea since the last audit.

Table 1. Vessels included in the UoAs of this surveillance audit

Company	Vessel	Type	Length (m)
Euronor	André Leduc	Fresh	44
	Bressay Bank	Fresh	44
	Cap Nord	Freezer	54.55
	Cap Saint Georges	Fresh	44
	Halten Bank	Fresh	54
	Klondyke	Freezer	54.55
Scapêche	Corail	Fresh	35
	Fastnet	Fresh	28
	Jean Claude Coulon II	Fresh	46
	Jean Pierre Le Roch	Fresh	42
	Julien Coleou	Fresh	30

	Mariette Le Roch II	Fresh	46
	Roselend	Fresh	35
	Rossoren	Fresh	28
Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo	Grande Hermine	Freezer	61.55

2.1 Changes to the fishing operations within UoAs

UoC1 (Euronor, North Sea): No change since the last audit. The vessels continue to operate mainly by pair trawling in the North Sea.

UoC2 (Euronor, NE Arctic): No change since the last audit.

UoC3: (Compagnie des Pêches, North Sea): As indicated in the previous (Year 1) audit report, the Grande Hermine was replaced by a new vessel, the Emeraude, in 2018. The Emeraude is co-owned by Compagnie des Pêches and Euronor and is operated by Compagnie des Pêches. The Grande Hermine did not fish in the North Sea in 2017, and the Emeraude did not fish in the North Sea in 2018. There has therefore been no activity of this UoC since the last audit.

UoC4: (Compagnie des Pêches, NE Arctic): Aside from the replacement of the Grande Hermine by the Emeraude, no change since the last audit.

UoC5: (Scapêche, NW Scotland): No change since the last audit. As a reminder for this fishery (which is more complicated than the other UoCs), three of the vessels in the fleet take the vast majority of the catch of saithe; these are the Jean-Pierre Le Roch, the Mariette Le Roch II and the Jean-Claude Coulon II. These vessels practice three métiers, normally in the same trip, starting by targeting deep-water species (to 800m;), then monkfish and hake, and finally targeting saithe at the end of a trip.

2.2 Conditions: original and new (harmonised)

The conditions are summarised in Table 2. To harmonise with conditions on the certification for Euronor / Compagnie des Pêches NE Arctic cod and haddock (MEC-F-008 and MEC-F-009), UoCs 2 and 4 have been given new conditions relating to impacts on vulnerable habitats (PIs 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3; Conditions 4-6). For these conditions, we are auditing here against the Year 1 milestones and Client Action Plan, rather than Year 2 (as for Conditions 1-3 which were imposed at certification). This also aligns the condition audit timetable for this fishery with the cod/haddock fishery.

Table 2. Summary of Assessment Conditions

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	UoCs to which it applies	Status after this Y2 audit	PI score after Y1 audit	PI revised score
1	2.3.1	1,3,5	Ahead of target for all UoCs	75,65,75	75,65,75
2	2.3.2	1,3,5	Ahead of target for all UoCs	75,75,75	75,75,75

3	2.3.3	5	Ahead of target	75	75
4	2.4.1	2,4	Ahead of target	70	Not Revised
5	2.4.2	2,4	Ahead of target	60	Not Revised
6	2.4.3	2,4	Ahead of target	75	Not Revised

2.3 Change in scoring in P1

Recently, the North Sea and West of Scotland saithe stock status improved, and several fisheries that have been harmonized with for Principle 2 Habitat PIs have scored the PI 1.1.1 (Stock Status) higher than in this assessment. The audit team believe that the variation in stock status should be reflected in the relevant audit, and for this reason the score for PI 1.1.1 was improved from 80 to 90. Rationales are provided in the full scoring table in Appendix 1.

2.4 Principle 1

For the target stocks, TACs, quotas (after swaps) and UoC catches (2016 and 2017) are given in Table 3. The status of the stocks is summarised below.

Table 3. TAC and Catch data per stock and company (tonnes)

Quantity	Stocks & Fishing Zone	Year	Euronor	Scapêche	Cie des Pêches
TAC	IIa (south 62°), IIIa, IV and VI (POK/3A46)	2017	100,287 (IIIa and IV) + 10,404 (VI) = 110,691		
UoAs		2017	**UoA1**	**UoA5**	**UoA3**
UoA share of TAC (after swaps)			21,846	3,800	-
Total catch (live weight)		2017	11,980	3,102	-
		2016	11,514	1,883	-
TAC	NEA – I and II (POK/1N2AB)	2017	150,000		
UoAs		2017	**UoA2**		**UoA4**
UoA share of TAC (after swaps)		2017	35.66		275.24
Total live weight catch		2017	296*		
		2016	255		153

*the catch data provided to the team for 2017 was amalgamated for Euronor and Cie des Pêches (the certified Scapêche fishery does not operate in Areas I and II)

2.4.1 North Sea and W. Scotland saithe stock

According to ICES advice (November 2018), SSB continues to be above $MSYB_{trigger}$ with high probability, while F is below F_{MSY} with ~95% probability (Figure 1).

The EU North Sea multi-annual plan (MAP) came into force in 2018 (Regulation 2018/973, 4 July 2018). This regulation provides for a range of F corresponding to F_{MSY} for a given stock (the idea being to allow for more flexibility in TACs). ICES use this range (F_{MSY}upper and F_{MSY}lower) as two of the catch options in their advice, but since the MAP has not been validated by Norway, they

continue to base their main advice on the previous MSY approach (i.e. based on their best estimate of F_{MSY}, as given in Figure 1). For 2016-8, the TAC is consistent with ICES advice, but for 2017 and 2018 provides some top-up to account for saithe entering into the Landing Obligation (for vessels targeting saithe), hence for 2018 the TAC was set slightly below the ICES advice based on catch (wanted and unwanted) but above the advice based on landings (wanted catch) (landings advice: 93980 t, catch advice: 107325 t, TAC: 105793 t).
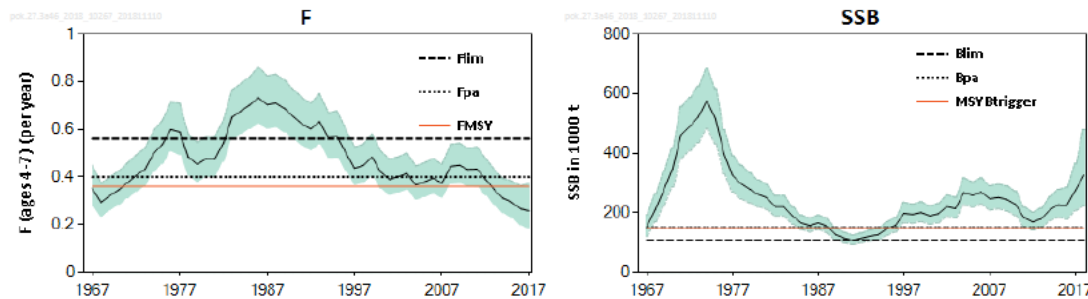

Figure 1. Trends in F and SSB in relation to reference points for North Sea / W. Scotland saithe (ICES, 2018a)

2.4.2 NE Arctic saithe

According to ICES advice (June 2018), SSB has been above Bpa/Bmgt with high probability since the 1990s, while F is below FMP and Fpa, with a probability of >50% but <95% (Figure 2). Management since 2013 has been via a Norwegian management plan which operates on a three-year running average TAC based on a target F of 0.32. ICES note that the slight decline in biomass estimated in the most recent year is partially a consequence of a change in methodology for dealing with the survey indices; this has resulted in a decrease in the TAC (according to the management plan) for 2019 as compared to 2018.
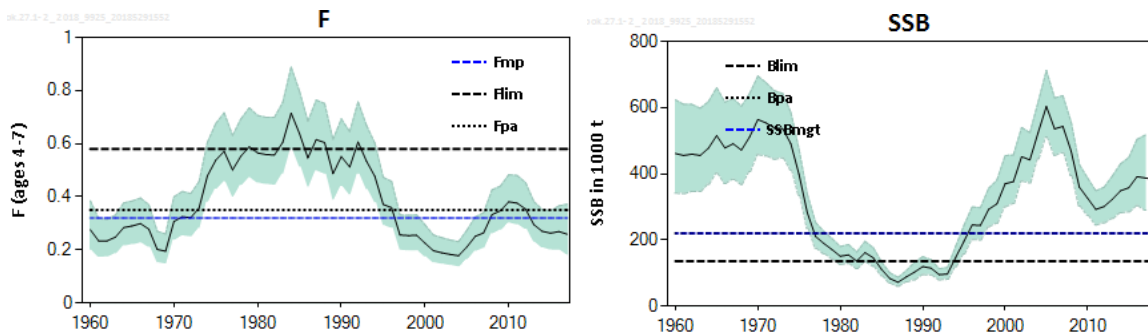
Figure 2. Trends in F and SSB in relation to reference points for North Sea / W. Scotland saithe (ICES, 2018b)

The clients noted at the audit that they have the impression, contrary to the 2018 ICES assessment, that saithe is increasing in abundance in the NEZ. This could be related to warming temperatures (which is surmised to be the reason for its increase in recent years in Icelandic waters); but could also be for other reasons.

2.5   Principle 2

2.5.1   Retained species and discards

<u>North Sea, Skagerrak, West of Scotland and Rockall (UoA1 and UoA5)</u>

The Grande Hermine did not fish in the North Sea (UoA3) in 2017. Updated catch information for UoA1 (Euronor) is summarised in Table 4 below. The client has noted a northward movement of targeted saithe, responded to in kind by fishing effort in this fleet. Despite this slight change in fishing effort distribution the bycatch profiles remain similar to the previous years. The Euronor client representative reinforced last year's sentiment on hake being a "choke" species to avoid.

Table 4. Euronor retained species (tonnes) from UoA1

Species	2016	2017	2016 %	2017 %
Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)	11,450	11,478	80.95	82.55
Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*)	1,372	1,192	9.70	8.5
Cod (*Gadus morhua*)	290	346	2.05	2.49
Ling (*Molva molva*)	206	277	1.45	2.00
Greenland halibut	269	181	1.90	1.30
Haddock (*Melanogrammus*	108	122	0.77	0.88
Other species	449*	305	3.17	2.20

As in the previous surveillance announcement, Scapêche (UoA5) data need to be analysed on a haul-by-haul basis given the multi-metier nature of the fishery – vessels will target different species within the same trip and often the same day. A bycatch profile per day or per trip would therefore provide little valuable information since bycatch profiles associated with (for example) deep-sea fisheries are very different from those associated the hake or saithe fishery.

While Scapêche vessels were present in Subarea 4 in the past, the implementation of the Landing Obligation has caused them to veer away from this area because of their limited bycatch quota. The less the fishermen visit this Subarea, the less they are tempted to return the following year as they lose touch with the richest fishing grounds. Most fishing activity by the Scapêche fleet is therefore in Subarea VI.

In order to assess only hauls targeting saithe, data on main retained species result from the analysis of 11 Obsmer reports for the vessels Jean Pierre le Roch, Mariette le Roch and Jean Claude Coulon. To maintain consistency with the previous year's surveillance audit, retained species will be reported in the same format. The OBSMER reports presented retained species (and their proportion of the catch), discarded species (their proportion of the catch), and the length frequency of both discarded and retained species. Below are presented the species making up more than 5% by weight of sampled trawl sets from 11 OBSMER reports on targeted saithe trawls. The species composition for UoA5 is very similar to the previous audit (the only difference being the absence of Megrim), and to the reassessment.

Table 5. Scapêche list of retained species that can make up >5% by weight of sampled trawl sets targeting saithe, from 11 OBSMER reports in 2017 (UoA5)

Species
Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)
Hake (*Merluccius merluccius)*
Monkfish (*Lophius spp.*)

| Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) |
| Cod (*Gadus morhua*) |
| Ling (*Molva molva*) |

Northeast Arctic (NEA) UoA2 and UoA4

As noted in the previous surveillance report, the UoA vessels fishing in the Northeast Arctic (UoA2 Euronor and UoA4 Compagnie des Pêches de St Malo) do not take observers on board because of the duration of the trips, and because the fishery is considered low risk because of the rigid and rigorously enforced Norwegian regulatory framework that among other things forbids discarding. The Euronor client representative noted that the controls (the have always been regular) have increased in recent years. The profile of retained species for UoA2 (Table 6) and UoA4 (

Table 7), taken from landings data, includes similar species to those identified in previous audits.

Table 6. Euronor retained species (tonnes live weight) from ICES subareas I and II (UoA2)

Species	2016	2017	2016 %	2017 %
Cod (*Gadus morhua*)	3,899	4,878	93.41	96.37
Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)	127	52	3.04	1.08
Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)	74	36	1.77	0.75
Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*)	4	20	0.09	0.43
Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*)	0	12	0	0.26
Redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus* and *S. mentella*)	73	9	1.69	0.18
American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*)	0	8	0	0.16

Table 7. Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo retained species (tonnes live weight) from ICES subareas I and II (UoA4)

Species	2016	2017	2016 %	2017 %
Cod (*Gadus morhua*)	3,897	3,761	93.34	90.96
Saithe (*Pollachius virens*)	153	259	3.66	6.28
Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)	113	89	2.71	2.16
Other species[1]	12	24	0.29	0.60

The status and management of NEA cod - the only main retained species identified in this surveillance audit – will be reviewed in the next section.

The case of the two species of redfish (golden redfish - *Sebastes norvegicus* and beaked redfish - *Sebastes mentella*) caught in these UoAs was discussed in the previous surveillance report, and an update on the situation was brought up during the year 2 surveillance audit. ICES noted in 2017 that "bycatch in fisheries targeting Northeast Arctic (NEA) saithe constitutes a considerable part of the total *Sebastes norvegicus* catch and is far above any sustainable catch level for this species" (ICES,

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[1] Norway has specific quota for 'other species' as one of their strategies to avoid discarding due to lack of quota

2017x). A comprehensive ID guide is being developed for vessel captains and crew to consult, following the format of the AZTI guide. Client representatives highlighted that meetings are regularly held with vessel captains to determine the proportion of *S. norvegicus* being caught. According to the captains, *S. mentella* dominates the catch. There is only one code in electronic logbooks for redfish which is RED, so the recommendation of year 1 surveillance audit (to use a more precise code such as REG and REB) is difficult to achieve given that the captains need to report catch in the format that is imposed upon them. Despite the reporting issues for these two species, *Sebastes* spp. catch are very low in 2017 in both UoAs: 8.1 tonnes for UoA2 and 12.3 tonnes for UoA4 (based on logbook data).

2.5.2   Status and management of main retained stocks

North Sea, Skagerrak, West of Scotland and Rockall (UoA1, UoA3, and UoA5)

For the Greater North Sea UoAs, fewer main species were noted this year than in previous years. This may be due to the non-activity of UoA3. In any case, the main retained species for this component of the fishery is hake.

The Northern hake spawning stock biomass (SSB) has decreased slightly for the first time in its tremendous increase since 2006 and is still well above current precautionary reference points (Figure 3). Fishing mortality has remained below F_{MSY}, the recruitment estimate (R) is lower than in the previous years, and roughly falls in the average recruitment range for this stock in the past 20 years. ICES advises that Northern hake catches should not exceed 142,240 tonnes in 2019.

Figure 3. Catch, recruitment, F and SSB for Northern hake, from the latest ICES advice (ICES, 2018c)

Northeast Arctic UoA2 and UoA4

Only one main retained species was noted for the Northeast Arctic UoAs during this surveillance audit: Northeast Arctic cod (Table 6 and Table 7).

The Northeast Arctic cod SSB has continued to decrease since the last surveillance audit but is still well above the MSYB$_{trigger}$ reference point (Figure 4). There is a high probability that F is currently at F_{MSY}, which is an increase since the last surveillance audit (where F had a high probability of being below F_{MSY}). Recruitment in 2018 was on the lower end of the scale, and catches have remained similar to the previous three years. ICES advice states that when the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission management plan is applied, catches in 2019 should not exceed 674,678 tonnes, and that bycatch of coastal cod and golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) should be kept as low as possible (ICES, 2018d). The client representatives have stated that the NEA UoAs operate in waters where coastal cod does not occur, and the subject of golden redfish was addressed above.
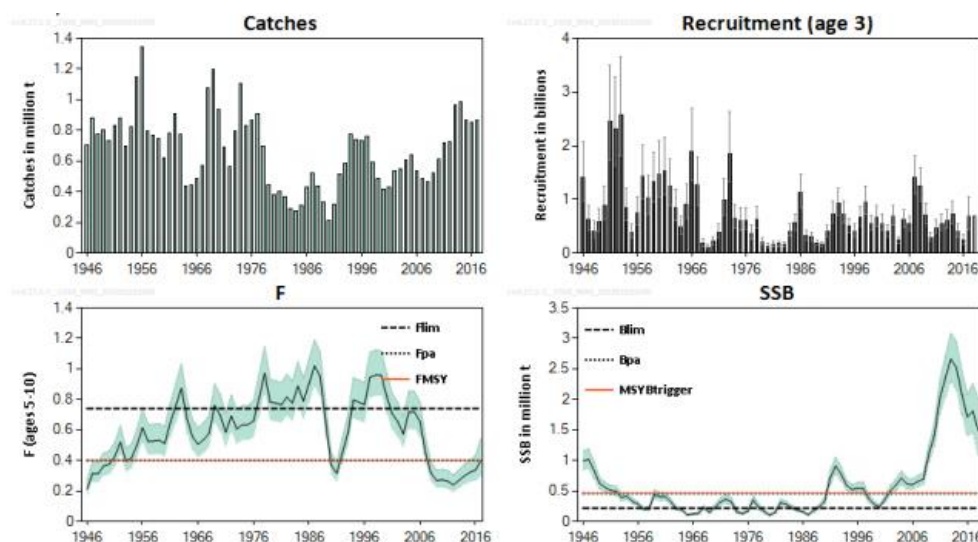
Figure 4. Catch, recruitment, F and SSC for Northeast Arctic cod, from the latest ICES advice (ICES, 2018d)

2.5.3   ETP species

Three conditions have been set regarding the starry ray and the common skate, caught by all three Greater North Sea UoAs (1, 3 and 5) – though UoA3 has not been active over the period covered by this surveillance audit) targeting saithe in the North Sea, Rockall, and West of Scotland. Both the Euronor (UoA1) and the Scapêche (UoA5) fisheries have made real progress on these conditions since the last surveillance audit, this is further discussed below and in Section 4.

A new catch logging software, IKTUS version 3 has been introduced in the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches fisheries and is now in use on all UoA vessels from these companies. This software includes a function to log accidental captures (ETP species and VMEs fall into this category) and allows linking to a GPS position, allowing the tracking of interactions with VMEs and ETP species with a great degree of accuracy and consistency. The valuable data produced with this software will inform measures to be taken to avoid VMEs and ETP species (if necessary).

Several ETP interactions were noted by analysing the Obsmer reports. For Euronor, as distinction has been made between the 2016 and 2017 reports as Euronor representatives note that in 2016, one observer reported vastly higher numbers of starry ray on trips than any other observer. The observer has since left his position at Oceanic Development (company providing observers). This misreporting issue has been followed up, and a meeting will take place on the 12th of March 2019 to elucidate the root cause of the issue. In 2016, 229 *Amblyraja radiata* (Starry ray), 136 *Dipturus spp.* (Common skate and conspecifics), and 22 *Squalus acanthias* (Basking shark) interactions were reported. It is worth noting that specific trips logged exceptionally high interactions with starry rays (up to 58 individuals), while this species was absent from hauls on other trips. Logged ETP species interactions of 2017, are as follows: 559 *A. radiata*, 12 *Dipturus spp.* and 1 *S. acanthias* interactions noted in the observer reports made available to the team. It must be noted that over 50% of the logged *A. radiata* interactions occurred on one observed trip (315 individuals). Given that 12 trips (out of 20) recorded 1 or no interactions with *A. radiata*, the investigation of this anomaly will figure in the meeting on the 12th of March 2019.

For Scapêche, 11 Obsmer reports were reviewed; 1 *S. acanthias* and 4 *Dipturus spp.* interactions were reported. In total across all observer reports, 5 common skate were noted for 2016 and 6 for 2017, for hauls where saithe made up the majority of the catch.

On behalf of Euronor and Cie des Pêches St. Malo, FROM Nord has evaluated the overlap between the saithe fishing effort in 2017 and the distribution of starry ray in the North Sea, using data from the IBTS (1983-2017) to evaluate the overall distribution of starry ray in the North Sea. The conclusions of the analysis were as given in Figure 5 below. It shows that Euronor effort overlaps only in a very limited way with the distribution of starry ray in the North Sea, which is concentrated in SW Norway, while Euronor is fishing mainly north of Scotland and Shetland. (Note that since Cie des Pêches St Malo has had no activity in the North Sea since certification, their analysis is based on the fact that when they operate in the North Sea for saithe, they operate in the same way as Euronor. Furthermore, since they have done no fishing there for several years, it is reasonable to assume that this component has not had an impact on ETP species in this area.)
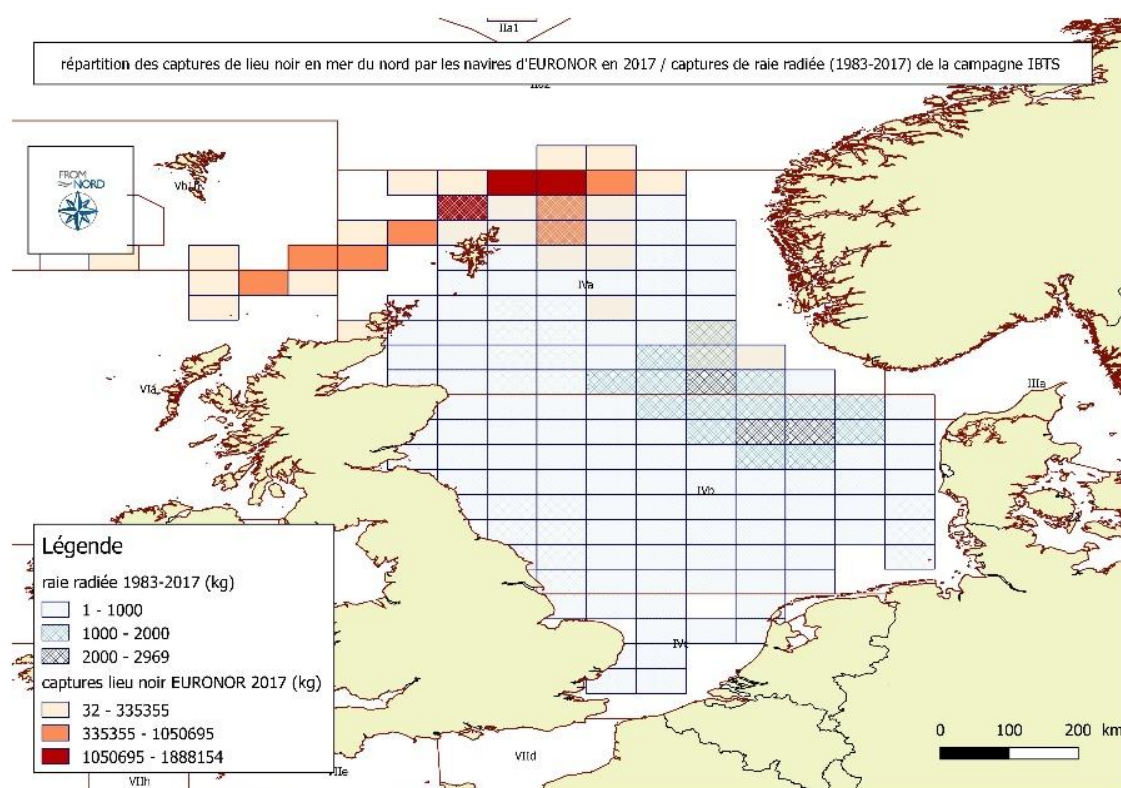
Figure 5. Overlap between distribution of starry ray in the North Sea (grey shading) and fishing effort by Euronor (measured as saithe catch for 2017) by ICES rectangle. Figure provided by FROM Nord.

Scapêche fishes in Subarea 6 and therefore has less good survey data on which to base a spatial analysis such as the one presented above. Instead, they used the ObsMer data to estimate the catch rate of common skate per hour of trawling (taking hauls for which saithe represented the majority of the catch). This results in estimates of one individual of common skate for every 57 hours for 2016 and one every 75 hours for 2017. Three vessels that catch 98% of the saithe target this species between February and July (taking into account steaming time, time in port for offloading, resupplying and crew change, periodic trips to Lorient and the annual haul out), for 20 hours a day, with saithe haul making up 30% of the activity, this would result in an estimate of approximately 30-40 common skates per year impacted as a result of this fishery.

2.5.4 Habitats

Conditions were raised on the habitat PIs for the Northeast Arctic UoAs (2 and 4) to align with the multi-CAB harmonisation process that took place in February 2016 (Appendix 3).

Information on the data sources for habitats, habitat mapping, and the interaction of trawl fisheries with habitats (vulnerable or otherwise) can be found on the Public Certification Report of the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo cod and haddock fishery: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/compagnie-des-peches-saint-malo-and-euronor-cod-and-haddock/@@assessments

The addition of the IKTUS version 3 software mentioned in the ETP paragraph will allow the identification of VME and ETP interaction trends. This is a valuable asset to the resolution of the harmonised condition and will provide quantitative data on the interaction of the fishery with VMEs and sensitive habitats. Despite the conditions being raised on habitats this year, it is considered that the proactive measures taken by the client (the implementation of this software) place this fishery in line with the action plan set out in the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo cod and haddock fishery the year before.

Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo have been in the process of resolving the same conditions for the cod and haddock fisheries, the progress they have made will also apply to this fishery (given that the NEA cod, haddock and saithe fishery is a mixed one). The detail on the conditions, as well as their progress, is discussed in Section 4.

2.6 Principle 3

The Common Fisheries Policy is the current overarching management framework for the fisheries under assessment, this remains unchanged since the last assessment.

The Long-Term Management Plan for saithe in the North Sea between the EU and Norway has been replaced by a multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea as of the 4th of July 2018. The North Sea Multi Annual Plan includes several new provisions: the plan is applicable to two groups of species, target and bycatch, to be managed in accordance with MSY and in some cases the precautionary approach, respectively; FMSY ranges to deal with mixed-fisheries issues; inclusion of recreational catches in some fishing opportunities, amongst other provisions (CEU, 2017b; EP, 2018). The multi-annual plan came into force on the 24th of July 2018, is scheduled for evaluation in 2023 and every five years thereafter. Norway has not validated the NS MAP for the saithe stock, so it is currently not being used to manage the saithe stock in the North Sea. Instead, ICES' estimate of F_{MSY} is being used as the basis for management of this stock (MSY approach is in use).

Since the last audit, the EU landing obligation has come into force (full application of the landing obligation began on 1 January 2019). At the time of writing, the UoA vessels are still in port, the assessment of the effectiveness of, and compliance to this new management regime will take place during the next surveillance audit. This change in management framework will affect UoAs 1, 3, and 5 – UoAs 2 and 4 are already subject to a no-discard policy in Norwegian waters.

Other than these points, the fishery-specific management framework has not changed since the last audit.

2.7 Traceability

Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo: The Grande Hermine has not changed its fishing gear, fishing zones, or landing zones. The traceability system remains as described in MEC (2016).

Euronor: both fresh and frozen saithe are landed. Frozen saithe is landed in Boulogne-sur-Mer and fresh saithe is landed in Peterhead and Hanstholm and to a lesser extent in Boulogne-sur-Mer. Its traceability systems for both remain as described in MEC (2016).

Scapêche: the traceability systems remain as described in MEC (2016). The client representative stated during the site visit that if any saithe was taken from areas both inside and outside the UoC on a single trip, none of the saithe from that trip was sold as MSC-certified.

2.8 Harmonisation

As already noted above, conditions on the NE Arctic UoCs have been harmonised with the cod and haddock fishery for the same clients – see new Conditions 4-6 in Table 2 above.

Scoring for Principle 1 for the North Sea / W. Scotland saithe stock has been harmonised with the joint North Sea demersal assessment (see https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/joint-demersal-fisheries-in-the-north-sea-and-adjacent-waters/). The updated scores can be found in Section 6.2 below. Detailed rationales can be found in the joint North Sea demersal assessment PCDR, online at the link given above.

Table 8. Saithe fisheries in the MSC program

Fisheries	Certification expiry	Difference in outcome at most recent assessment?
Arkhangelsk trawl fleet Barents Sea cod, haddock & saithe	Jan-21	No
Barents Sea cod, haddock & saithe	Sep-21	No
DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe	Mar-19	Part of Joint North Sea demersal fisheries assessment
Faroe Islands and Iceland NEA cod, haddock & saithe	Aug-22	No
Germany North Sea saithe trawl	Oct-23	No (no difference in outcome for the relevant UoAs)
Greenland cod, haddock & saithe	May-20	No
Norway North Sea saithe	Jun-18	No
SFSAG saithe	Oct-18	This fishery is part of an expedited assessment to be added to the SFSAG North Sea haddock certificate and is being harmonised with the Harmonisation with the Joint North Sea demersal fisheries assessment.
UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group NEA cod, haddock and saithe	Nov-2022	Yes on habitats

Fisheries	Certification expiry	Difference in outcome at most recent assessment?
UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group saithe	Apr-2021	Yes on habitats
Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters (including various previously certified demersal fisheries (DFPO, SFPO, EG and CVO)	Ongoing	No

3   Assessment Process

3.1   Scope and history

The Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery was certified on the 10th March 2010 (Euronor) and on the 25th January 2011 (Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo). It was re-certified on 21st September 2016 (MEC, 2016), following a reduced reassessment. The reassessment merged two previously certified fisheries: the Euronor saithe fishery, certified in March 2010, and the Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches de St Malo saithe fishery, certified in January 2011.

The reassessment was carried out procedurally in line with the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0 although Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 was used as assessment tree.

Three conditions were set, all related to the fishery' impacts on skates and rays, scored under PI 2.3. A surveillance level of 6 was awarded in accordance with the MSC FCR v2.0 (7.23.2). Level 6 is the maximum level of surveillance requiring 4 annual on-site audits. As noted above, three new conditions have been added this year based on harmonisation requirements.

The Year 1 surveillance on-site audit took place in Boulogne-sur-Mer in November 2017. No stakeholder comments were received. The Year 1 audit concluded that there were no significant changes to the fishery, and that progress with conditions (1-3) was on track.

3.2   Audit process

The Year 2 surveillance on-site audit took place at the offices of the Union Armateurs Pêche de France (UAPF) in Paris on 8-9 January 2019. The audit was carried out by Dr Jo Gascoigne (Team Leader) with Henry Ernst. The audit was attended by Martine Edouard and Romain Soisson (Compagnie des Pêches Saint Malo), Théo Filippi (Scapêche), Bruno Leduc (Euronor) and Manon Joguet (FROM Nord). No other stakeholders were present and no written stakeholder comments were received although the surveillance was formally announced on the MSC website on December 6th 2018, and emails were sent encouraging their participation.

The audit team reviewed the fishery to see if there had been any significant changes since certification that may lead to changes in the scoring against Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3. This involved a review of fisheries data for 2016-18 (landings of all species, observer reports where available), a review of ICES advice for relevant species (target and main retained) and interviews with the attendees. Each Principle was discussed in detail, the results of which are presented in the sections above. The audit also reviewed progress in meeting the three conditions as set out in the three Clients' Action Plans (Section **Error! Reference source not found.**).

The traceability in the fishery was also reviewed. The surveillance audit process was carried out in line with the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0.

This fishery remains in conformity with the MSC scope requirements (FCR 7.4).

4   Results

Table 9. Condition 1: ETP Species outcome

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.1	The fishery meets national and international requirements for protection of ETP species. The fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to ETP species and does not hinder recovery of ETP species.	75 (UoA1, UoA5), 65 (UoA3)
Condition	**UoA 1 (Euronor, North Sea)**: For starry ray, the team noted that interactions are patchy (out of 13 observer reports, 6 recorded zero catch and the other seven 2, 9, 12, 22, 22, 103, and 504 individuals). The team concluded that since regulatory requirements are being met following ICES advice, direct impacts could be evaluated (qualitatively) as "unlikely" to create unacceptable impacts (SG60 met). It is at least possible, however, that the fishery could do more, perhaps by evaluating the areas or conditions under which large quantities of the species are caught together, and/or the circumstances in which the individuals are brought on board in good or bad condition – i.e. it was possible to do more to avoid fishing or killing these individuals. On this basis, the team considered that SG80 was not fully met. **UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea)**: note in the absence of observer reports for this UoA, the following is based on the Euronor data: for starry ray, the team noted that interactions are patchy (out of 13 observer reports, 6 recorded zero catch and the other seven 2, 9, 12, 22, 22, 103, and 504 individuals). The team concluded that since regulatory requirements are being met following ICES advice, direct impacts could be evaluated (qualitatively) as "unlikely" to create unacceptable impacts (SG60 met). It is at least possible however, that the fishery could do more, perhaps by evaluating the areas or conditions under which large quantities of the species are caught together, and/or the circumstances in which the individuals are brought on board in good or bad condition – i.e. it was possible to do more to avoid fishing or killing these individuals. On this basis, the team considered that SG80 was not fully met. In the absence of data on discards, the Grande Hermine has been assumed to have the same overlap with ETP species as the Euronor vessels in the North Sea (although at a lower level because of lower effort and catches; if catch of starry ray can scale with saithe catch in the North Sea, the estimated total catch by the Grande Hermine in 2015 would be 0.23 t). Nevertheless, SG80 requires that "the effects of the fishery are known" which is not the case for this fishery since there is no direct data; although "known effects" can be extrapolated as above. SG60 is met, but SG80 is not me for Cie des Pêches St. Malo (UoA 3). **UoA 5 (Scapêche)**: For common skate, the regulatory requirements are being met (SG60 met). Although the total catch of common skate by Scapêche appears to be potentially significant, the team noted that it overlaps with the saithe fishery specifically to a much more limited extent than with Scapêche's other fisheries, although the fact that these fisheries are all undertaken close together in time and space makes it hard to untangle the patterns of bycatch. In the previous certification cycle, Scapêche had a condition on this issue which was closed after close inspection of observer reports. Nevertheless, the team felt the it is not possible on the basis of the

	data provided for this re-assessment to say that direct impacts of Scapêche's saithe fishery are "highly unlikely" to create unacceptable impacts on common skate as is required for SG80. The team noted that this scoring is harmonised with a similar approach for other MSC fisheries: SFSAG haddock and saithe fishery, Germany North Sea saithe trawl and SFPO North Sea saithe.
Milestones	Note: Euronor and Cie des Pêches St. Malo may collaborate on addressing this condition or may address it independently, as they choose. **UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea)**: Year 1: Euronor should collate available data on bycatch and populations of starry ray in the North Sea, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. Score 75. Year 2: Euronor should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are 'highly unlikely' (probability < 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). Score 75. Year 3: If the analysis cannot demonstrate this, Euronor should evaluate ways in which starry ray bycatch could be reduced. Score 75. Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on starry ray in the North Sea to an acceptable level. Score 75. Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. Score 80. **UoA 3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea)**: Year 1: Cie des Pêches St Malo should collate available data on bycatch and populations of starry ray in the North Sea, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. Score 65. Year 2: Cie des Pêches St Malo should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are 'highly unlikely' (probability < 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). Score 65. Year 3: If the analysis cannot demonstrate this, Cie des Pêches St Malo should evaluate ways in which starry ray bycatch could be reduced. Score 65. Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on starry ray in the North Sea to an acceptable level. Score 65. Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. Score 80. **UoA 5 (Scapêche)**: Year 1: Scapêche should collate available data on bycatch and populations of common skate in the area of the fishery, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. Score 75. Year 2: Scapêche should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it demonstrates that the direct impacts of the fishery are 'highly unlikely' (probability < 30%) of creating unacceptable impacts (a declining population or a failure of the population to recover). Score 75. Year 3: If required, Scapêche should evaluate ways in which common skate bycatch could be reduced. Score 75. Year 4: Develop a plan to reduce impacts on common skate to an acceptable level. Score 75. Year 5: Implement the plan and demonstrate a reduction in mortality to an appropriate level, or a reasonable expectation of such a reduction. Score 80.
Client action plan	The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 4) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above.

	UoA1 and UoA3: 1. Create logbook for ray catches (years 1, 2 and 3); 2. Spatial and temporal mapping of starry ray catches (year 3); UoA 5: 1) Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis; 2) Identification and collection of missing data to back up management.
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	**UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea):** Actions have taken place since the first certification period to improve on-board identification of skates and rays, especially the common skate. The starry ray is a much rarer encounter, but some have been identified in catches and are also described in detail by on-board observers. The vessels take scientific observers on board regularly, and often enough to ensure that specific trawls targeting saithe are sampled within trips for each vessel. The number of OBSMER trips per vessel per year are given below.

Euronor (UoA1)	2015	2016
Andre Leduc	3	2
Bressay Bank	2	5
Cap Saint Georges	1	7
Halten Bank	2	6
Grand Total	**8**	**20**

UoA3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea): The company did not fish in the North Sea in 2015 or 2016. However, the Grande Hermine has introduced a new system to record elasmobranchs (skates, rays, sharks) and any other bycatch species caught from each trawl. The captain and crew have been briefed, copies of the Species identification Guide have been distributed, as well as digital cameras in order for all bycatch species to be photographed and identified. An example of the new data sheets and pictures (albeit from the NEA waters) are shown in Appendix 1.

UoA5 (Scapêche): The Scapêche vessels in UoA5 take scientific observers on board regularly, and often enough to ensure that specific trawls targeting saithe are sampled within trips for each vessel. The number of OBSMER trips per vessel per year are given below.

Scapêche (UoA5)	2015	2016
CORAIL	2	
FASTNET	3	3
JEAN CLAUDE COULON II	4	5
JEAN-PIERRE LE ROCH	1	1
JULIEN COLEOU	3	1
MARIETTE LE ROCH II	6	5
ROSELEND	4	3
ROSSOREN	1	1
Grand Total	**24**	**19**

Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Euronor, Cie des Pêches: (starry ray, North Sea) – UoA1 and UoA3 **UoA1 (Euronor, North Sea):** An updated number of OBSMER trips per vessel per year is given below. Ray identification efforts have continued as in the previous years. The data from this will be used to supplement the interaction maps being developed by the producer organisation (FROM Nord).

Euronor (UoA1)	2015	2016	2017
Andre Leduc	3	2	10
Bressay Bank	2	5	3
Cap Saint Georges	1	7	2
Halten Bank	2	6	2
Grand Total	**8**	**20**	**17**

UoA3 (Cie des Pêches St Malo, North Sea): The company did not fish in North Sea waters in 2017. The elasmobranch recording system put in place in the previous year remains implemented.

UoA1 and UoA3: The Year 2 milestone stipulates that data should be analysed to evaluate whether the fishery is highly unlikely to be causing an impact on starry ray. The data analysis presented in Section 2.5.3 above suggests that impacts are highly unlikely from this fishery. However, the data compares a relatively long time series of information for starry ray (from 1983-2017) with only one year of effort from Euronor (2017), leaving open various possibilities; e.g. i) that the geographical distribution of starry ray has diminished or changed in the more recent part of the time period, or ii) that in some years Euronor may fish in other areas which overlap more with starry ray distribution. Furthermore, the ObsMer data suggest the possibility of starry ray 'hotspots' which may or may not be consistent in time (it could just be that they are somewhat gregarious and hence catch is liable to be patchy). There is therefore some further analysis that remains to be done before a minimal impact can be convincingly demonstrated. Nevertheless, the fishery has progressed in line with milestones.

UoA5 (Scapêche): The Scapeche UoA vessels have continued to regularly take observers on board, ensuring enough coverage on hauls targeting saithe. The updated number of Obsmer reports are given below

Scapêche (UoA5)	2015	2016	2017
CORAIL	2		2
FASTNET	3	3	2
JEAN CLAUDE COULON II	4	5	6
JEAN-PIERRE LE ROCH	1	1	6
JULIEN COLEOU	3	1	
MARIETTE LE ROCH II	6	5	9
ROSELEND	4	3	1
ROSSOREN	1	1	1
Grand Total	**24**	**19**	**27**

Survey data do not exist for Scapêche to attempt a spatial analysis such as that set out for the North Sea. However, their observer coverage is significantly higher, allowing an estimation of catch per hour of trawling, as set out in Section 2.5.3 above. The analysis suggests an impact in the range of ~30-40 individuals of common skate per year for the fishery.

Status of condition [Year 1]	On target
Status of condition [Year 2]	Ahead of target

Table 10. Condition 2 - ETP species management

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.2	**The fishery has in place precautionary management strategies designed to:** **- meet national and international requirements;** **- ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to ETP species;** **- ensure the fishery does not hinder recovery of ETP species; and** **- minimise mortality of ETP species.**	**75 (UoA 1, 3 and 5)**
Condition	**UoA 1 and 3**: In relation to Euronor and Cie des Pêches St Malo, the fishery needs to show by the end of Year 5 that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect starry ray in the North Sea will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or the species involved. **UoA 5**: For Scapêche, the fishery needs to show by the end of Year 5 that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect common skate in Subarea VI will work, based on information directly about the fishery and/or the species involved.		
Milestones	Year 1: No milestone. Score 75. Year 2: From the information gathered and analysed under Condition 1, determine how likely the existing strategy to protect starry ray (UoA 1 and 3) / common skate (UoA 5) is likely to work. Score 75. Year 3: Evaluate ways in which the strategy could be improved, as per Condition 1 Year 3 milestone. Score 75. Year 4: Develop a plan to improve the existing strategy. Score 75. Year 5: Implement the revised strategy and demonstrate that there is an objective basis for confidence that it will work to reduce impacts on starry ray (UoA 1 and 3) or common skate (UoA 5) to acceptable levels. Score 80.		
Client action plan	The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 4) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above. UoA1 and UoA3: 3 Put in place an avoidance plan for starry rays (Years 4 and 5) UoA 5: 3) Design and implement management measures based on data analysis and assessments.		
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	The three companies with vessels in three UoAs are on target with their actions aiming to identify precisely the species of skates and rays encountered, and the circumstances of encounters (time, depth, full species composition) as per conditions 1 and 3. No milestone was set for Year 1, but progress with the other two conditions is key to reaching the Year 2 milestone.		
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Same as condition 1		
Status of condition [Year 1]	On target		

Status of condition [Year 2]	Ahead of target

Table 11. Condition 3 – ETP species information

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.3.3.	**Relevant information is collected to support the management of fishery impacts on ETP species, including:** **- information for the development of the management strategy;** **- information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and** **- information to determine the outcome status of ETP species**	**75 (UoA 5)**
Condition	By the end of Year 5, Scapêche should show that information on common skate in Subarea VI is sufficient to determine whether the Scapêche saithe fishery may be a threat to protection and recovery of the species.		
Milestones	Year 1: Scapêche should collate available data on bycatch and populations of common skate in the area of the fishery, from its own catch records or observer reports or other sources of information. Score 75. Year 2: Scapêche should analyse the available data in order to assess whether it is able to provide sufficient information to demonstrate whether Scapêche is a threat to the recovery of common skate populations. Score 75. Year 3: Work with a suitable scientific body (e.g. Ifremer, Marine Scotland Science, ICES Elasmobranch Working Group or another suitable individual or organisation) to support further data collection and analysis of common skate in the area of the fishery if required. Score 75. Year 4: Analyse data, show that information is now sufficient to evaluate the threat to common skate, or that there is a reasonable expectation of such an evaluation being possible. Score 80.		
Client action plan	The three UoAs covered by this condition share a common Action Plan (Appendix 4) summarised below to reach the milestones indicated above. UoA 5: 1) Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis; 2) Identification and collection of missing data to back up management.		
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	All skates and rays are identified to the species level, and their weight (discarded or landed) are recorded in logbook data per ICES subdivision. Through the OBSMER protocol, on board scientific observers measure, weigh and record individual numbers of starry rays, by trawl separately, which can be linked back to exact trawl, location, depth and amount of saithe as the target species.		
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Same as condition 1 (as it relates to Scapêche)		
Status of condition [Year 1]	On target		
Status of condition [Year 2]	Ahead of target		

Table 16. Condition 4 – Habitats outcome

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.1	**The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis, and function**	**70* (UoA 2 and UoA 4)**
Condition	There is insufficient evidence to be able to state that the fishery is 'highly unlikely' to have impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens. All vessels in the UoC need to provide data on i) any known interactions with VMEs (e.g. any relevant benthic species attached to the trawl) and ii) the location of fishing activities, so that interactions can be evaluated with more precision and certainty. ***This condition has been harmonised with the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches de St Malo cod and haddock fishery, which was itself harmonised with other Barents Sea/Northeast Arctic fisheries (e.g. Arkhangelsk, UK Fisheries/ DFFU/ Doggerbank). Since the condition is already being addressed for the cod and haddock fishery, and the work is being carried out on time (even ahead of schedule), the condition milestones will also be harmonised with the certified cod and haddock despite the condition being raised two years later.**		
Milestones	Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering system; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary / desired. Score: 70 Year 2: Implementation of systematic data-gathering on all vessels. Score: 70 Year 3: Review of first year's data; evaluation of likely impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens (as well as other VMEs); design of new management measures to reduce impacts if necessary. Score: 80 if no management measures are required; 70 otherwise. Year 4: Continuation of data collection. Implementation of new management measures if necessary. Score: 80		
Client action plan	Year 1: Renewed instruction to captains: - Consult before each departure the Mareano.no site (which lists and maps sensitive habitats in Norwegian waters). - Consult it during navigation if technical means permit. Instructions given to masters to collect data on quantities and location of sponges, corals and other similar species that would have been accidentally brought up with the trawl on a Habitats document. The document will follow the example (Appendix 7) of the one developed by the Spanish fleet in collaboration with the institute AZTI. Renewed instruction to captains to collect on a document "accidental" catches of sharks, rays and chimeras. Year 2: Continue collecting data on all vessels, using, if possible, the computing capabilities of the new ship built jointly by the two French vessels concerned by the Certification Unit. Year 3: Continue collecting data on all vessels. Review of data by comparing trawl location and location of sponges, coral gardens and other similar species. Estimation of potential impacts. Definition of new measures if necessary. Year 4: Continue collecting data on all vessels. Application of the measures decided upon in year 3.		
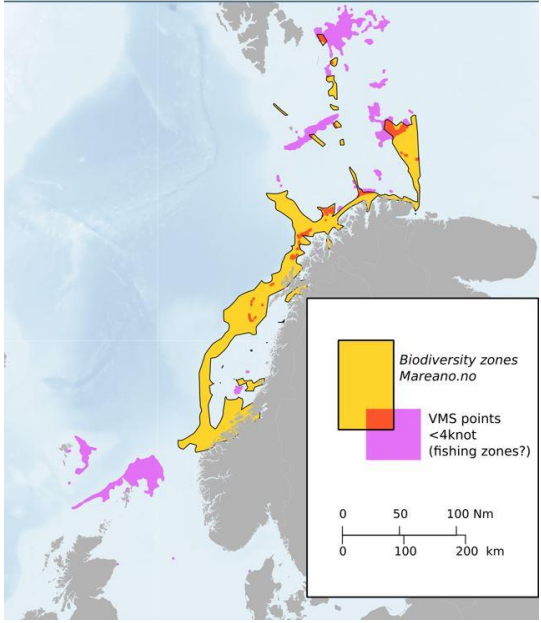
	Review of data
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	N/a
Progress on condition [Year 2]	Data collection is being carried out as stated in the client action plan. The following map has been produced for the 2017 fishing year. Given that trips to the NE Arctic are mixed (targeting cod, haddock, and saithe), this map applies to the NE Arctic UoAs in this fishery and both Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches UoAs in the cod and haddock fishery (under a different certificate). Zones de pêche 2017 – UoA et Habitats sensibles Data collection and analysis will continue over the following years to continue to track overlap between UoA fishing effort and sensitive habitats. The voluntary implementation of the IKTUS version 3 software means that fishery- and trip-specific data collection is underway allowing the establishment of a robust database to accurately assess the impacts of this fishery on VMEs.
Status of condition [Year 2]	Ahead of target

Table 17. Condition 5 – Habitats management

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.2	**There is a strategy in place that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to habitat types**	**60 (UoA 2 and UoA 4)**
Condition	The fishery requires a 'partial strategy' to achieve the 80 outcome for PI 2.4.1. Specifically, it is required that impacts on VMEs, particularly sponges and coral gardens, are monitored in more detail, and that management actions are put in place if necessary. See Condition 4 above for the rationale behind raising this condition, and the details on the harmonization.		

Milestones	Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering element of partial strategy; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary. Score: 60 Year 2: Implementation of data-gathering partial strategy on all vessels. Score: 60 Year 3: Review of first year's data; evaluation of likely impacts on sponge communities and coral gardens (as well as other VMEs); design of partial strategy to reduce impacts as required. Score: 80 if no management measures required; 60 otherwise. Year 4: Implementation of partial strategy as required. Score: 80
Client action plan	See condition 4
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	N/a
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Data gathering strategy has been successfully implemented and has produced the map shown in condition 4.
Status of condition	Ahead of target

Table 18. Condition 6 – Habitats information

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.3	Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types	75 (UoA 2 and UoA 4)
Condition	**Sufficient data need to be collected on an ongoing basis to evaluate the risk to habitats with sufficient precision for PI 2.4.1 to meet SG80.**		
Milestones	Year 1: Planning and design of data-gathering system; piloting on one/some vessels if necessary / desired. Score: 75 Year 2: Implementation of systematic data-gathering on all vessels. Score: 80 Year 3+: Continuation of data gathering. Score: 80		
Client action plan	See condition 4		
Progress on Condition [Year 1]	N/a		
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	See condition 4		
Status of condition	Ahead of target		

5   Conclusion

The audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing. Progress against the three ETP conditions is on track for all UoAs concerned. The Scapeche fishery has resolved its condition ahead of schedule, for the detailed rationales and scoring tables please see Appendix 1. Given the close link to the already-certified Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches de St. Malo Northeast Arctic cod and haddock fishery, it can be said that the resolution of the harmonised habitat conditions is already well underway in the relevant UoAs. The fishery has made efforts to address the recommendation raised in the previous audit, however due to the nature of the recommendation and the constraints upon the fishery, progress against these is not deemed possible at this stage. The surveillance plan has not been revised and remains at Level 6.

The audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified.

6 Evaluation Results

6.1 Principle Level Scores

The final Principle scores are provided in Table 12.

Table 12. Final Principle Scores

Principle	Score				
	UoC1	UoC2	UoC3	UoC4	UoC5
Principle 1 – Target Species	91.9	91.9	91.9	91.9	91.9
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	82.0	83.0	81.3	83.0	81.7
Principle 3 – Management System	90	93	90	93	90

6.2 Summary of PI Level Scores

Princ-iple	Component	Wt	Performance Indicator (PI)		Wt	Score				
						UoC1	UoC2	UoC3	UoC4	UoC5
One	Outcome	0.5	1.1.1	Stock status	0.33	90	100	90	100	90
			1.1.2	Reference points	0.33	90	80	90	80	90
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	0.33	-	-	-	-	-
	Management	0.5	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	0.25	100	100	100	100	100
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	0.25	90	90	90	90	90
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	0.25	90	90	90	90	90
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	0.25	95	95	95	95	95
Two	Retained species	0.2	2.1.1	Outcome	0.33	85	85	85	85	85
			2.1.2	Management strategy	0.33	85	85	85	85	85
			2.1.3	Information/Monitoring	0.33	85	85	85	85	85
	Bycatch species	0.2	2.2.1	Outcome	0.33	80	80	80	80	80
			2.2.2	Management strategy	0.33	80	85	80	85	80
			2.2.3	Information/Monitoring	0.33	80	80	80	80	80
	ETP species	0.2	2.3.1	Outcome	0.33	75	85	65	85	75
			2.3.2	Management strategy	0.33	75	85	75	85	75
			2.3.3	Information strategy	0.33	80	80	80	80	75
	Habitats	0.2	2.4.1	Outcome	0.33	80	70	80	70	80
			2.4.2	Management strategy	0.33	80	60	80	60	80
			2.4.3	Information	0.33	80	75	80	75	80
	Ecosystem	0.2	2.5.1	Outcome	0.33	90	90	90	90	90

			2.5.2	Management	0.33	85	100	85	100	85
			2.5.3	Information	0.33	90	95	90	95	90
Three	Governance and policy	0.5	3.1.1	Legal &/or customary framework	0.25	95	95	95	95	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	0.25	95	95	95	95	95
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	0.25	100	100	100	100	100
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainability	0.25	90	90	90	90	90
	Fishery specific management system	0.5	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	0.2	90	90	90	90	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	0.2	85	85	85	85	85
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	0.2	80	100	80	100	80
			3.2.4	Research plan	0.2	80	80	80	80	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	0.2	90	100	90	100	90

7   References

Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008

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Appendix 1. Rescoring evaluation tables

PI 1.1.1 – Euronor and Cie des Pêches St. Malo – scores and rationales harmonised with the Joint Demersal North Sea fisheries that is currently in assessment

PI 1.1.1		The stock is at a level which maintains high productivity and has a low probability of recruitment overfishing		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Guidepost**	It is likely that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired.	It is highly likely that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired.	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired.
	Met?	Y	Y	Y
	Justification	The current SSB (2017) is 257,329 tonnes which is well above the Bpa value of 150,000 tonnes. It has been above this value since 1996. The lower bound of the 2017 SSB estimate is above Blim. The stock recruitment plot shows no clear relationship, but the largest year classes have occurred at SSB values in the region of 250,000 tonnes which is smaller than the current SSB. The stock is 2.6 times the Blim value that is considered a proxy for the PRI, hence SG100 is met (Sieben et al., 2019).		
b	**Guidepost**		The stock is at or fluctuating around its target reference point.	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock has been fluctuating around its target reference point, or has been above its target reference point, over recent years.
	Met?		Y	N
	Justification	There is no specific target SSB but the EU-Norway management plan sets a floor of 200,000 tonnes based on the old Bpa. Since 1996 the stock has been above this value for 14 out of 22 years. It has been above the new MSY Btrigger of 150,000 tonnes continuously since 1996 and is currently increasing. F has been below the estimated FMSY since 2013, hence SG80 is met. Since F has on been below FMSY for 4 years and the generation time is 10 years there is not a high degree of certainty and SG100 is not met (Sieben et al., 2019)		
References		(Sieben et al., 2019), (ICES 2017a)		
Stock Status relative to Reference Points				

	Type of reference point	Value of reference point	Current stock status relative to reference point
Target reference point	B_{lim}	107,000 tonnes	257,329/ B_{lim} = 2.40
	B_{pa}	150,000 tonnes	257,329/B_{pa} = 1.71
	MSY $B_{trigger}$	150,000 tonnes	
	EU-Norway plan ($B_{trigger}$)	200,000 tonnes	257,329/$B_{trigger}$ = 1.28
Limit reference point	EU-Norway plan (F_{MGT})	0.3	0.28/F_{MGT} = 0.93
	F_{MSY}	0.36	0.28/F_{MSY} = 0.78
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:			**90**
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):			**N/a**

Appendix 3. Harmonisation of the scoring of Barents Sea habitats – conclusions (drafted by MSC)

Barents Sea Harmonisation Call   10/3/2017

Meeting Note

Participants:

David Agnew (MSC)	Billy Hynes (Acoura)
Megan Atcheson (MSC)	Lucia Revenga (P2 Assessor - Acoura)
Shaun McLennan (MSC)	Chrissie Sieben (MEC)
Dan Hoggarth (MSC)	Jo Gascoigne (P2 Assessor – MEC)
Stephanie Good (MSC)	Bert Keus Agonus (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)
Sigrun Bekkevold (DNVGL)	Guro Meldre Pedersen (DNVGL)
Andy Hough (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)	Anna Kiseleva (DNVGL)
Virginia Polonio (BV)	Jason Coombes (Acoura)
Macarena Garcia (BV)	Terry Holt (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)

General Conclusions

- MSC introduced the call with some background on harmonisation in the context of V1.3 of the standard. Particular emphasis was placed on the key difference between approaches required for harmonisation against difference Principles. There was also some background provided by MSC on the 14 certified fisheries operating within the Barents Sea, including some of the scoring trends reflected by respective assessments.
- The participants then discussed scoring in their respective fisheries and some of the factors underpinning passes and conditional passes. Some inconsistences were highlighted, in particular with respect to: i) the interpretation of Scoring Guideposts; ii) the evidence used to supporting scoring; iii) the outcomes of scoring and iv) client action plans (content and challenge).
- In general there seemed to be a range of factors impacting each score scenario which are covered in notes below. **Whilst changes to scores as a result of the meeting are not certain, the value of the discussion was arguably more about providing consistent rationales to explain differences in scores after harmonisation**. **Indeed this set of notes in itself may act to provide a source of information for CABs and Assessors to help explain differences in assessments undertaken for Version 1.3 of the standard.**
- The MSC team reiterated the implications for fisheries entering new "areas" or in scenarios where there were "material changes" to scores evidenced by new information, including the need to consider at surveillance audits and via expedited audits where necessary.

- The team also touched on changes in Version 2 of the standard and likely harmonisation implications but it was felt that more time was needed/perhaps another session to help prepare CABs and Assessors for transition.

Discussion

2.4.1 Outcome

- Assessors reported they find ambiguity inherent in the language and definitions (e.g. risk probabilities) for the habitat requirements. They rely on expert judgement to assess this PI.
- Scoring tended to focus on VMEs specifically where known. Best practice seems to be to consider each VME individually (as identified in MAREANO or other information source).
- With respect to the information on sensitivity of individual VMEs to trawling - consensus was that this information is available but has not tended to be specifically used (it may be that the assumption is that all VMEs are 'vulnerable' by definition).
- A number of VME and Habitat definitions used including OSPAR papers (e.g. OSPAR, 2010. Background Document for Deep-sea sponge Aggregations. Biodiversity Series, OSPAR, London). For Barents Sea main VMEs identified have been corals, sponges and (more recently) Sea pens / 'coral gardens'.

- Factors that may result in different outcome scores for PI 2.4.1:

  - Differences in target species (Saithe fished further south, cod and haddock intermediate latitudes and prawn furthest north)
  - Differences in intelligence available about fishing zone (best information in NEZ, less information in SFPZ although improving, Russian zone a bit unclear (information may exist but be hard to access).
  - Differences in the number of vessels in fleet and type of vessels (size but also what technology they have on board for identifying bottom types and how they use it)
  - Vessel/Operation nationalities. E.g EU vs non-EU fishing activity - this is relevant in the Barents Sea because due to the rules on haddock bycatch for the EU fleet their footprint is more constrained than that of the Norwegian and Russian fleets.
  - Spatial extent of the vessel footprint – do they continuously fish over the same areas or is it widely dispersed.
  - Type of benthos
  - Some CABs use a scoring element approach for different types of habitats (sand, rocky, coral etc), while others do not, even though required by CR v1.3 27.10.7.
    --> **it may be useful for CABs to point to these [and other] factors that may lead to differences in scores, in their rationales**.

2.4.2 Management

- Factors that may result in different scores for PI 2.4.2:
  - Scale is an important consideration – there is generally more certainty that strategies are workable with less vessels (less variables); on the flip side large fleets are also more likely to be impacted by a national management framework (e.g entire Norwegian fleet having to comply with "Move On" rules).

     o   Differences in habitat impact management framework (Norway vs Russia vs both). Norway tended to manage fishery impacts in Marine Protected Areas (MPA); Russia does not have clear habitat protections.

     o   Differences in approach of the individual client companies (e.g. awareness of VMEs, approach to recording and avoiding, monitoring and updating of their information e.g. via MAREANO).

     o   The availability of individual skippers was important – it was key to gauge their attitude as well as their experience of seeing VMEs come up in the trawl - but note that this is variable from fishery to fishery (usually only where a small number of vessels but not always even then).

2.4.3 Information

- Factors that may result in different scores for PI 2.4.3:
  - Differences in the sources of information - coastal state information which is readily available - MAREANO notably; coastal state information which is not readily available e.g. scientific reports in Russian
    - individual vessel / fleet data e.g. on-board recording of VMEs
    - VMS data - easier to get in some cases than others, more often seen on the site visit than provided in reports; difficulties in obtaining highlighted
- Other important considerations (whilst not necessarily impacts on scoring, useful context for developing the standard).

Fisheries found it hard to "prove a negative" – there seemed to be scenarios where if interactions with sensitive habitats were not recorded, NGO's tended to speculate that those fisheries were not complying with monitoring requirements.

Appendix 4. Client Action Plan

Appendix 4.1   Client Action Plan – Euronor

E U R O N O R

A R M E M E N T   A   L A   P E C H E

Plan d'actions pour lever la condition concernant la raie radiée

(starry ray, Amblyraja radiata).

Client action plan to close the condition related to starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*)

Voici pour mémoire les principales raies identifiées par Ifremer dans nos zones de pêches avec la liste UICN :

For reference, please see below the main ray species indentified by IFREMER in our fishing areas with IUCN listing :

DE QUELLE RAIE PARLONS-NOUS ?

NOM COMMUN	NOM LATIN	INFORMATIONS SUR L'ESPÈCE	LISTE UICN (échelle mondiale)
Raie fleurie	*Leucoraja naevus*	Reconnaissable grâce à la présence sur chaque aile d'une ocelle, large marque sombre et arrondie au centre, ornée de taches claires.	Préoccupation mineure
Raie douce	*Raja montagui*	Tachetée de mille points qui n'atteignent pas le bord des ailes.	
Raie bouclée	*Raja clavata*	Appelée ainsi en raison de la présence de grosses épines recourbées sur le dos et sur le ventre.	
Raie lisse ou raie blonde	*Raja brachyura*	Recouverte d'une multitude de petits points sur l'ensemble de sa face supérieure.	Quasi menacée
Raie mêlée ou raie batarde	*Raja microocellata*	Dos sombre, la seule à être ornée de lignes blanchâtres.	
Pocheteau noir	*Dipturus oxyrinchus*	Stock épuisé en Atlantique Nord-Est.	
Raie chardon	*Leucoraja fullonica*	Elle se reconnait à son museau pointu.	
Raie circulaire	*Leucoraja circularis*	Une dizaine de tâches claires recouvrent son dos.	Vulnérable
Raie brunette ou raie ondulée	*Raja undulata*	Dos teinté comme un bel imprimé cachemire. TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	En danger
Raie blanche	*Rostroraja alba*	Stock épuisé en Atlantique-Nord-Est.	
Pocheteau gris	*Dipturus batis*	Museau long et pointu, autrefois abondant sous les criées françaises (plusieurs milliers de tonnes dans les années 70). TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	En danger critique d'extinction

En analysant les données de rejets contenues dans les rapports d'observateurs OBSMER. Il est également apparu des rejets de **raie radiée**. En extrapolant ces données à l'ensemble de notre activité, il apparait que ces rejets occasionnés par notre pêcherie de lieu noir pourraient avoir un impact sur le stock de raie radiée.

Analysis of the discard data available in the OBSMER reports has indicated that discarding of starry ray takes place. Extrapolation of these data to the scale of our fishery indicates our saithe fishery may have an impact on the population of starry ray.

Il est donc nécessaire et urgent d'établir un plan d'actions ayant pour objectifs :

It is therefore necessary and urgent to set up an action plan with the following objectives :

1 - De s'assurer que les spécimens de raies rejetées, aujourd'hui identifiées comme raies radiées, soient effectivement toutes des raies radiées.

2 – Pour la partie rejetée qui concerne effectivement des raies radiées. Mieux comptabiliser les quantités rejetées et mieux identifier le zonage géographique et temporel.

3 – Réduire l'impact de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée.

1 – To ensure that the discarded rays – currently identified as being starry rays – are indeed the correct species

2 - For those correctly identified starry rays that are being discarded, improve the estimates of discarding and identify the spatio-temporal patterns involved.

3 – Reduce the impact of our saithe fishery on the starry ray population

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, voici les mesures que nous allons mettre en œuvre :

To achieve these objectives, the following actions will be implemented :

Objectif 1 : identification des raies rejetées.

Objective 1 : identification of discarded rays

Travail en coopération entre les équipages et les observateurs OBSMER.

Chaque spécimen de raie capturé doit être confronté au guide des raie disponible à bord afin de s'assurer de ne pas rejeter une autre espèce de raie sous la dénomination raie radiée.

« Création d'un registre des captures de raie » pour chaque navire, tenu par le capitaine et rempli conjointement avec l'observateur quand un observateur est embarqué.

Les informations à reporter dans le registre sont reprises d'ans l'annexe du présent plan d'actions.

Colaboration between crew and OBMSER observers

Each starry ray will be checked against the identification guides aboard to prevent misidentification in the discard data.

Creation of a ray catch logbook for each vessel, held by the captain and completed together with the observer (when aboard)

The information contained within the logbook is shown in the annex at the end of this document.

Objectif 2 : Connaissance des conditions de capture.

Objective 2 : Understanding of catch conditions

Chaque spécimen de raie radiée accidentellement capturé sera identifié et concernant les raies radiées, sera pesé et reporté dans le registre avec le poids du spécimen, la position de virage du chalut ainsi que la date.

Ces informations seront recueillies sur les 3 prochaines années. Elles permettront de juger si les quantités de raie radiées accidentellement capturées sont jugées suffisantes pour justifier la mise en œuvre d'actions supplémentaires.

Le cas échéant un « **travail de cartographie des raies radiées** » sera entrepris à l'aide des informations contenues dans les 3 années du registre à propos des raies radiées. Cette cartographie mettra en évidence le zonage de la présence de raie radiées dans nos zones de pêche et également la saisonnalité de cette présence.

Each starry ray caught will be identified, weighed and recorded in the logbook with information on the weight of the individual, the haul position and the date.

These data will be gathered over the coming three years and will enable to determine whether the accidental catches of starry ray are such that they necessitate further management action.

If this is the case, a project 'spatial mapping of starry ray' will be undertaken on the basis of the years' collected data on starry ray. This mapping will highlight zones of increased starry ray presence in our fishing areas, as well as any seasonal patterns.

Objectif 3 : Minimisation des captures.

Objective 3 : Minimise catches

Si le plan les 2 premiers objectifs du plan d'action indique au terme des 3 prochaines années que l'impact de notre pêcherie sur le stock de raie radiée peut être considéré comme significatif par les experts, nous nous servirons alors de l'outil cartographique pour effectuer nos opérations de pêche en minimisant au mieux cet impact. En d'autres termes, les zones géographiques où la présence de raie radiée a été observé à certaines périodes de l'année pourront être éviter et, a contrario, le lieu noir sera en priorité ciblé là où la présence de raie radiée a été observée comme la plus faible au cours des trois premières années de ce plan d'action. Si cette mesure doit être mise en œuvre pendant les années 4 et 5 du plan d'action, nous la dénommerons **« plan d'évitement des raies radiées ».**

If the two initial phases of the action plan indicate over the 3 coming years that the fishery's impact on the starry ray population is significant, we will make use of the spatio-temporal mapping to inform on our fishing operations and minimise our impact. In other words, areas or seasons with high starry ray presence would be avoided and saithe would preferentially be targeted in areas or seasons with low starry ray abundance. If this measure needs to be implemented during year 4 and 5 of the action plan, we will call it the 'ray avoidance plan'.

Pour récapituler, les 3 actions à mettre en œuvre – en fonction des résultats qui seront obtenus – pour atteindre les objectifs du plan d'action sont :

1 – la création d'un registre des captures de raies. Années 1,2 &3

2 – un travail de cartographie (zonal et temporel) des raies radiées. Au terme de l'année 3.

3 – un plan d'évitement des raies radiées. Années 4 & 5.

To summarise, the three actions to put in place – depending on the results obtained – to achieve the action plan's objectives are :

1. Create logbook for ray catches (years 1, 2 and 3)

2. Spatial and temporal mapping of starry ray catches (year 3)

3. Put in place avoidance plan for starry rays (Years 4 and 5)

Nous sommes confiants que ce plan d'action, simple et efficace, nous permettra de mieux connaître l'impact éventuel de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée et au besoin de le minimiser pour poursuivre notre activité.

We are confident that this action plan, which is simple and efficient, will enable us to better understand the impact our saithe fsihery is having on the starry ray population and where required to minimise it so that we can continue our activities.

REGISTRE DE CAPTURES DE RAIES

Espèce	Poids	Nombre de spécimens	Date de capture	Position de virage	Signature Capitaine	Signature Observateur

Le registre est tenu pour tous les voyages de pêche, même s'il n'y a pas d'observateur embarqué. Dans ce cas seul le Capitaine signe le registre.

Appendix 4.2   Client Action Plan – Compagnie des Peches St Malo

(note: see Euronor action plan for translation into English)

COMPAGNIE DES PÊCHES SAINT-MALO

Plan d'actions pour lever la condition concernant la raie radiée

(starry ray, Amblyraja radiata).

Voici pour mémoire les principales raies identifiées par Ifremer dans nos zones de pêches avec la liste UICN :

DE QUELLE RAIE PARLONS-NOUS ?

NOM COMMUN	NOM LATIN	INFORMATIONS SUR L'ESPÈCE	LISTE UICN (échelle mondiale)
Raie fleurie	Leucoraja naevus	Reconnaissable grâce à la présence sur chaque aile d'une ocelle, large marque sombre et arrondie au centre, ornée de taches claires.	Préoccupation mineure
Raie douce	Raja montagui	Tachetée de mille points qui n'atteignent pas le bord des ailes.	
Raie bouclée	Raja clavata	Appelée ainsi en raison de la présence de grosses épines recourbées sur le dos et sur le ventre.	
Raie lisse ou raie blonde	Raja brachyura	Recouverte d'une multitude de petits points sur l'ensemble de sa face supérieure.	Quasi menacée
Raie mêlée ou raie batarde	Raja microocellata	Dos sombre, la seule à être ornée de lignes blanchâtres.	
Pocheteau noir	Dipturus oxyrinchus	Stock épuisé en Atlantique Nord-Est.	
Raie chardon	Leucoraja fullonica	Elle se reconnaît à son museau pointu.	
Raie circulaire	Leucoraja circularis	Une dizaine de tâches claires recouvrent son dos.	Vulnérable
Raie brunette ou raie ondulée	Raja undulata	Dos teinté comme un bel imprimé cachemire. TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	En danger
Raie blanche	Rostroraja alba	Stock épuisé en Atlantique-Nord-Est.	
Pocheteau gris	Dipturus batis	Museau long et pointu, autrefois abondant sous les criées françaises (plusieurs milliers de tonnes dans les années 70). TAC nul depuis 2009 en Europe.	En danger critique d'extinction

En analysant les données de rejets contenues dans les rapports d'observateurs OBSMER. Il est également apparu des rejets de **raie radiée**. En extrapolant ces données à l'ensemble de notre activité, il apparait que ces rejets occasionnés par notre pêcherie de lieu noir pourraient avoir un impact sur le stock de raie radiée.

Il est donc nécessaire et urgent d'établir un plan d'actions ayant pour objectifs :

1 - De s'assurer que les spécimens de raies rejetées, aujourd'hui identifiées comme raies radiées, soient effectivement toutes des raies radiées.

2 – Pour la partie rejetée qui concerne effectivement des raies radiées. Mieux comptabiliser les quantités rejetées et mieux identifier le zonage géographique et temporel.

3 – Réduire l'impact de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, voici les mesures que nous allons mettre en œuvre :

Objectif 1 : identification des raies rejetées.

Travail en coopération entre les équipages et les observateurs OBSMER.

Chaque spécimen de raie capturé doit être confronté au guide des raie disponible à bord afin de s'assurer de ne pas rejeter une autre espèce de raie sous la dénomination raie radiée.

« Création d'un registre des captures de raie » pour chaque navire, tenu par le capitaine et rempli conjointement avec l'observateur quand un observateur est embarqué.

Les informations à reporter dans le registre sont reprises d'ans l'annexe du présent plan d'actions.

Objectif 2 : Connaissance des conditions de capture.

Chaque spécimen de raie radiée accidentellement capturé sera identifié et concernant les raies radiées, sera pesé et reporté dans le registre avec le poids du spécimen, la position de virage du chalut ainsi que la date.

Ces informations seront recueillies sur les 3 prochaines années. Elles permettront de juger si les quantités de raie radiées accidentellement capturées sont jugées suffisantes pour justifier la mise en œuvre d'actions supplémentaires.

Le cas échéant un **« travail de cartographie des raies radiées »** sera entrepris à l'aide des informations contenues dans les 3 années du registre à propos des raies radiées. Cette cartographie mettra en évidence le zonage de la présence de raie radiées dans nos zones de pêche et également la saisonnalité de cette présence.

Objectif 3 : Minimisation des captures.

Si le plan les 2 premiers objectifs du plan d'action indique au terme des 3 prochaines années que l'impact de notre pêcherie sur le stock de raie radiée peut être considéré comme significatif par les experts, nous nous servirons alors de l'outil cartographique pour effectuer nos opérations de pêche en minimisant au mieux cet impact. En d'autres termes, les zones géographiques où la présence de raie radiée a été observé à certaines périodes de l'année pourront être éviter et, a contrario, le lieu noir sera en priorité ciblé là où la présence de raie radiée a été observée comme la plus faible au cours des trois premières années de ce plan d'action. Si cette mesure doit être mise en œuvre

pendant les années 4 et 5 du plan d'action, nous la dénommerons **« plan d'évitement des raies radiées »**.

Pour récapituler, les 3 actions à mettre en œuvre – en fonction des résultats qui seront obtenus – pour atteindre les objectifs du plan d'action sont :

1 – la création d'un registre des captures de raies. Années 1,2 &3

2 – un travail de cartographie (zonal et temporel) des raies radiées. Au terme de l'année 3.

3 – un plan d'évitement des raies radiées. Années 4 & 5.

Nous sommes confiants que ce plan d'action, simple et efficace, nous permettra de mieux connaître l'impact éventuel de notre pêcherie de lieu noir sur le stock de raie radiée et au besoin de le minimiser pour poursuivre notre activité.

COMPAGNIE DES PÊCHES SAINT-MALO

REGISTRE DE CAPTURES DE RAIES

Espèce	Poids	Nombre de spécimens	Date de capture	Position de virage	Signature Capitaine	Signature Observateur

Le registre est tenu pour tous les voyages de pêche, même s'il n'y a pas d'observateur embarqué. Dans ce cas seul le Capitaine signe le registre.

Appendix 4.3   Client Action Plan – Scapeche

Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery
MSC Re-assessment

UoA5 : Scapêche North Sea / West of Scotland

Lors de la réévaluation de la pêcherie de lieu noir Euronor, Scapêche et Compagnie des Pêches est apparue une inquiétude sur l'impact des captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris (*Dipturus batis*) sur la population de cette espèce. Cette inquiétude est basée sur l'extrapolation des captures observées lors du programme Obsmer à l'ensemble de l'activité.

Afin de préciser cet impact potentiel, et le réduire si cela s'avère nécessaire, Scapêche propose un plan d'action pour les 5 années à venir dont les objectifs sont fondés sur les conditions soulevées lors de l'évaluation :

- Condition 1 (C1) : montrer qu'il est« très improbable » que la pêcherie de lieu noir Scapêche ait des impacts inacceptables sur le pocheteau gris ;
- Condition 2 (C2) : montrer que la stratégie de protection du pocheteau gris en zone VI est effective avec un degré de confiance suffisant ;
- Condition 3 (C3) : montrer que le degré d'information sur le pocheteau gris est suffisant pour déterminer l'impact de la pêcherie au regard des enjeux de protection et de rétablissement de l'espèce.

During the Euronor, Scapêche and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo saithe trawl fishery MSC re-assessment, the analysis of Obsmer observer data revealed some concerns on bycatch of common skate (*Dipturus batis*) by UoA5 vessels (Scapêche in ICES area IV and VI) and its potential impact of on the population.

In order to evaluate this potential impact more accurately _ and lower it to an acceptable level if necessary, Scapêche designed an action plan that will be carried out during the 5 years to come. This plan is directly derived from the conditions raised by the MEC evaluation:

- Condition 1 (C1): show that the fishery is "highly unlikely" to create unacceptable impacts to common skate in Subarea VI.
- Condition 2 (C2): show that there is an objective basis for confidence that the strategy to protect common skate in Subarea VI will work.

- Condition 3 (C3): show that information on common skate is sufficient to determine whether the fishery may be a threat to the recovery of the species.

Le plan d'action sera mis en œuvre selon 3 axes:

- L'évaluation des données existantes et leur exploitation optimisée pour préciser le diagnostic actuel
- L'identification des données manquante et leur collecte pour alimenter les décisions
- La mise en œuvre de mesures de gestions optimales basées sur les deux premiers points

The action plan will be implemented with 3 leads:

- Aggregation, evaluation and exploitation of available data to enhance current diagnosis
- Identification and collection of missing data to back up management
- Design and implement management measures based on latter assessments

Plan d'action « captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris »

Action plan "accidental catches of common skate"

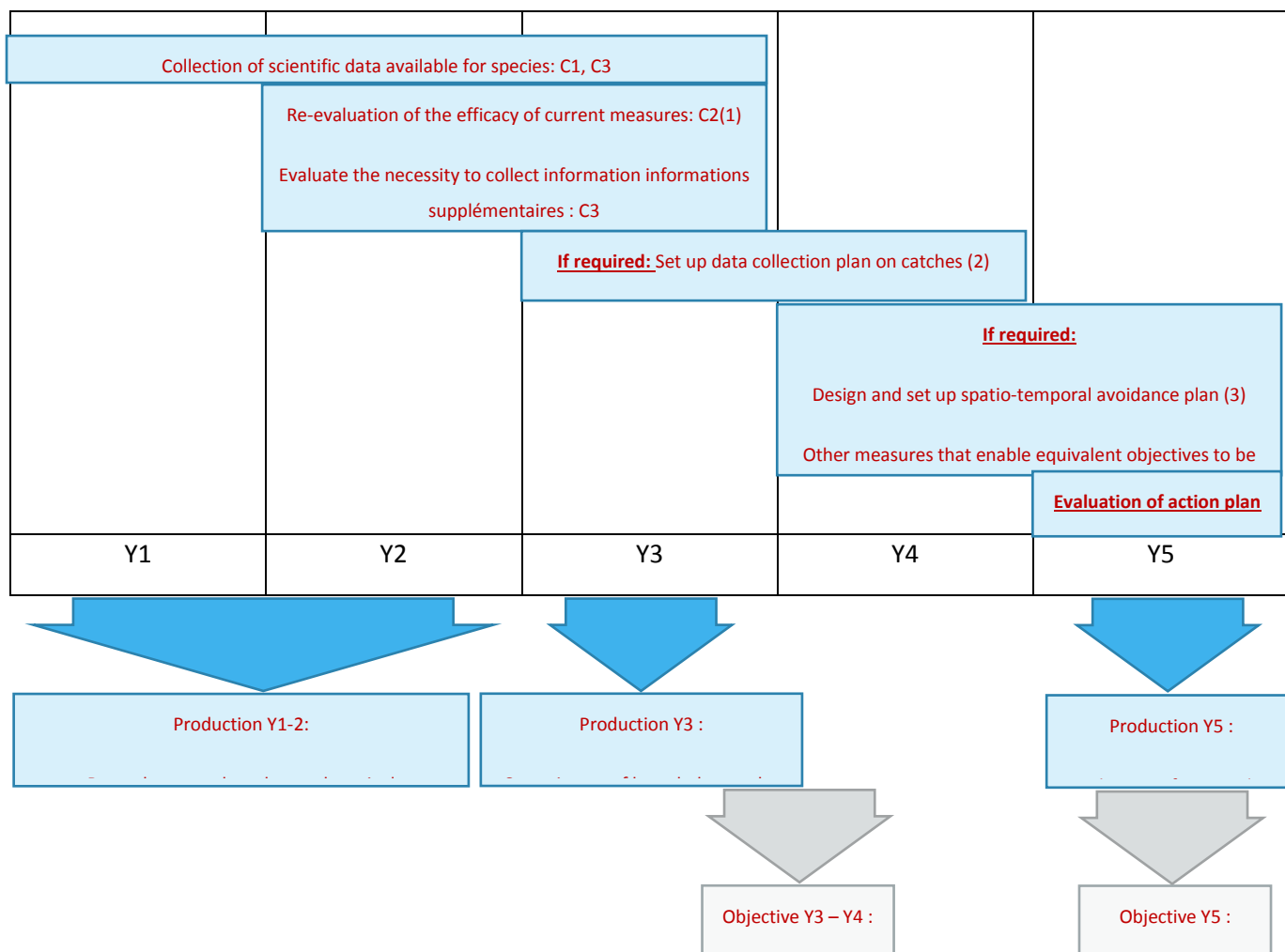|				
Travail sur les informations du programme Obsmer : localisation des captures, saisonnalité, survie, … : C1,				
Collecte des informations scientifiques disponibles sur l'espèce : C1, C3				
	Ré-Evaluation de l'efficacité des mesures actuelles : C2 (1) Evaluation de la nécessité de collecter des informations supplémentaires : C3			
		Si nécessaire : Mise en place d'un plan de collecte d'informations sur les captures (2)		
			Si nécessaire : Design et mise en place d'un plan d'évitement spatio-temporel (3)	
				Evaluation du plan d'action
Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5

Production Y1-2:

Production Y3 :

Production Y5 :

Objectif Y3 – Y4 :

Objectif Y5 :

(1) Le processus d'évaluation des connaissances actuelles et la nécessité de collecte de plus amples informations pourront se faire, le cas échéant, en relation avec un ou des organismes scientifiques (Ifremer, MNHN, etc…).

(2) Le plan de collecte supplémentaire visera à obtenir des renseignements sur la saisonnalité, la localisation, l'abondance des captures accidentelles de pocheteau gris à bord des navires de l'UoA, en complément de l'échantillonnage Obsmer. Ces observations seront réalisées sur la totalité des marées par l'équipage.

(3) Dans le cas où les données collectées mettraient en évidence que l'évitement d'une ou plusieurs zones par un ou plusieurs navires pendant une période de l'année permettrait de diminuer l'impact de la pêcherie sur le pocheteau gris, des mesures internes d'interdiction de zones pourraient être prises.

Obsmer data analaysis: location of catches, seasonal patterns, survival rates,…: C1

Collection of scientific data available for species: C1, C3				
	Re-evaluation of the efficacy of current measures: C2(1) Evaluate the necessity to collect information informations supplémentaires : C3			
		If required: Set up data collection plan on catches (2)		
			If required: Design and set up spatio-temporal avoidance plan (3) Other measures that enable equivalent objectives to be	
				Evaluation of action plan
Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5

Production Y1-2:

Production Y3 :

Production Y5 :

Objective Y3 – Y4 :

Objective Y5 :

(1) The evaluation of current knowledge and requirement for further data collection could be done, if applicable, in consultation with a scientific organisation (IFREMER, MNHN, etc.)

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(2) The plan for the collection of additional data will aim to obtain further information on the seasonality, the distribution and abundance of accidental catches of common skate on UoA vessels, in addition to the OBSMER programme. These observations will be carried out by the crew on all trips.

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(3) In the case where the data collected indicate that the avoidance of one or more zones by one or more vessels during a certain time of year may reduce the impact of the fishery on the common skate, internal avoidance measures will be taken.