

## Marine Stewardship Council Surveillance Announcement

<b>Name of Fishery</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) Fishery</b>	
<b>Surveillance level and type</b>	<b>Third Annual Surveillance</b>  On-site visit, normal surveillance. Level of surveillance: 6	
<b>Surveillance number (tick one)</b>	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	✓
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	
<b>Proposed Team Leader</b>	The proposed team leader is Virginia Polonio, SAI Global staff. She will be lead assessor. She will be in charge of coordinating the other members participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with certification procedures following the MSC CR V1.3. CVs to be provided in Appendix 1.	
<b>Proposed team members [remove if not applicable]</b>	Virginia Polonio: Team member - expert on P2 Sam Dignan: Team member - expert on P1 and P3 Fergal Guilfoyle: Team Leader - expert on P3 and support to P2 See appendix 1 for more details	
<b>Audit/review time and location</b>	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) Offices, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016.	
<b>Assessment/ review activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review any changes in the management of the fishery, including regulations, key management or scientific staff or stock evaluation</li> <li>To evaluate the progress of the fishery against Conditions of Certification raised during the Main Assessment</li> <li>To evaluate the milestone for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year established in the Client Action Plan</li> </ol>	

## Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Assessment

MSC certification requires annual surveillance assessments of all certified fisheries. This fishery is now entering the 'annual surveillance' stage of the assessment against the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. A key purpose of this stage is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies.

SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery to make written comment or provide information relevant to the surveillance assessment process. To assist in contributing relevant information and to ensure that any contributions have maximum impact stakeholders should use the [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments](#) template alongside the [Stakeholder's Guide to the Marine Stewardship Council](#) when providing input.

We expect to carry out most meetings over the period specified in the "Audit/review time and location" Section of the above Table during which the Assessment Team will be available for direct stakeholder meetings.

**If you would like to talk to the assessors, please advise us of your interest by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 giving the following details:**

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)

If you not wish to be interviewed you may still submit written information to the Assessment Team by completing the aforementioned [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments template](#).

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>.

**Comments/responses should be sent to:**

**Jean Ragg**

Programme Administrator

Email: [jean.ragg@saiglobal.com](mailto:jean.ragg@saiglobal.com)

Tel: +353(0)42 9320912

Fax: +353 (0)42 9386864

**Submitted by: Jean Ragg**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

## Appendix 1: Surveillance Assessment Team

### **Virginia Polonio, Team Leader**

Virginia has a degree in Environmental Sciences (B.Sc. University of Cádiz). She has a Master degree (M.Sc. University of Cádiz) in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture. She obtained her PhD in Biodiversity and Natural resources at the University of Oviedo and during her PhD she gained experience in the field of research of fisheries and how protect the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) as coral reefs versus fishing activities. She wrote several articles describing new species of corals under her thesis and she developed skills in the fields of benthic ecology and management of ecosystems.

Before her PhD, she was contracted as technician in the Spanish Oceanographic Institute where she realized work at sea and gained field experience to assessment fisheries stocks. She participated in the Spanish National Basic Plan of Data to collect and evaluate the fishing in the ICES and CECAF areas where Spanish fleets realize their activities. During this period, she carried out feeding habit and age/size studies of *Pagellus bogaraveo* and others commercial species (hake, anchovy, sharks, mackerel, squid, etc.) to know how the trophic level and predation could affect the ecosystems and the distribution of the species in the Gulf of Cadiz and the Strait of Gibraltar.

She has worked on several full assessments such as Cantabrian Sardine, North Atlantic Albacore, Squat lobster, Blue sharks and Swordfish among others as team member and lead assessor. She has participated in Surveillances such as “The Chilean mussel fishery and suspended culture Toralla” acquiring experience in the MSC certification. She has participated in several pre-assessments. Now, she is a full time employee at SAI Global and she will be the lead assessor and P2 expert in this surveillance.

### **Sam Dignan, Team Member, P1 and P3**

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a B.Sc. in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and a M.Sc. in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2016 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions.

**Fergal Guilfoyle, Team Member, P3 and support to P2**

Fergal has a degree in Marine Biology from Trinity College Dublin, a Masters in Fisheries and Marine Science from Aberdeen University and a postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management from the University of Ulster. Fergal is currently managing director of Treanbeg Shellfish Ltd, a small oyster farming business based in Mayo. Treanbeg Shellfish also trades as Treanbeg Marine Consulting which is a business focusing on Environmental Impact Assessment for finfish farms. Fergal is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, and he is an invited member of the National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF) which advises IFI and the minister in matters relating to inland fisheries resources in Ireland. Fergal has worked as a research scientist in Ireland for BIM and the Marine Institute. As an Aquaculture Development / Quality Officer in Co Mayo Fergal has gained a thorough understanding of all aspects of the aquaculture industry in Ireland. Since 2009 Fergal has been working extensively with the Aquaculture Industry as a shellfish producer and as a consultant working on EIA projects in the finfish sector.

## Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

**Table 4.1: Surveillance level rationale**

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
3	On-site audit	3 auditors on-site	<p>8 conditions, Pls 1.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.5.2, 2.5.3, 3.2.2, 3.2.4, were raised during the initial full assessment. Progress towards the conditions during the 2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance showed that 5 conditions were behind the target and 3 were on target during the audit.</p> <p>Considering that milestones indicate that some conditions will be closed out in this year and some by the year 4, the CAB proposes to have an on-site audit with 3 auditors on-site to ensure that all information will be collected.</p>

**Table 4.2: Timing of surveillance audit**

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
3	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Key stakeholders are available during these date

**Table 4.3: Fishery Surveillance Program**

Surveillance Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 6	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & re-certification site visit