

Ref. 2830N07A

8th September 2016

Proposed Peer Reviewer Announcement for the Cornwall sardine fishery by Cornish Sardine Management Association

ME Certification Ltd (MEC) are undertaking the full MSC certification assessment process for the Cornwall sardine fishery conducted by Cornish Sardine Management Association and are proposing the following peer reviewer:

Mr John Nichols

Mr John Nichols is a retired UK government fisheries biologist with 42 years research experience in plankton ecosystems in the North Atlantic specializing in the taxonomy of North Atlantic & NW European plankton including phytoplankton, micro and meso-plankton, ichthyoplankton and young fish.. He has been a member of ICES working groups on herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardine and anchovy assessments; and mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys. He was also a member of ICES study groups on herring larval surveys and plankton sampling. In 1992 he set up the UK programme for monitoring phytoplankton in shellfish harvesting areas in compliance with a new EU Directive to protect the public from the potential ill effects of toxic algae entering the food chain through shellfish.

He was scientist in charge of numerous research vessel surveys for fish stock assessment purposes and directly involved in the assessment of pelagic and western demersal fish stocks from 1994 to 2000.

He has been involved in the publication of over fifty scientific papers and reports more than half of which have been in peer reviewed journals, and the publication of two fish egg and larvae identification keys.

Since retirement from his government post he has participated in a total of 40 different fisheries MSC assessments as the Principle 1 expert plus the re-assessments of many of those fisheries Those assessments include the Thames estuary herring, PFA North Sea Herring, NEA mackerel and Atlanto-Scandian herring, Hastings Fleet Dover sole, the north –east coast of England bass fishery, the SW mackerel hand line fishery, Portuguese sardine, a Newfoundland herring fishery, Newfoundland cod, Canadian Pacific sablefish, various Norwegian and Swedish pelagic fisheries, Faroese and Norwegian saithe fisheries, Faroese, Russian and Norwegian Arctic cod and haddock fisheries, Faroese mackerel and Blue whiting fisheries, Scottish pelagic fisheries and a North Sea plaice and sole fishery. He has also been a peer reviewer for numerous MSC certification reports by various Certification bodies and has also carried out two MSC pre-assessments and numerous annual surveillance audits.

In 2010 he delivered a lecture on 'The Importance of a Fisheries Interaction with the Ecosystem in the MSC Certification Process' at an international Safe Seas conference in Portugal.

In 2014 he successfully completed the four module MSC on line training course, passed the exam and was certified in the role of an MSC Fishery Assessment Team Leader. Recently completed and passed the MSC Version 2.0 Fisheries Certification Module.

Elected as a Fellow of the Society of Biology in July 2014 (now the Royal Society of Biology, July 2015)

A full CV is available on request to MEC at the address below.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald at gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com or Chrissie Sieben at chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com by email, telephone or post at the below number and address.

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The deadline for consultation is **17:00 GMT** on the **18th September 2016**