8950 Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. #202
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2211
Tel: (727) 563-9070
Fax: (727) 563-0207
Email: MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

MRAG Americas, Inc.

US Acadian Redfish, Pollock and Haddock Otter Trawl Fishery MSC Surveillance Announcement

March 31, 2021

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	US Acadian redfish, pollock and haddock otter trawl fishery	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Acadian redfish *(Sebastes fasciatus)* Pollock *(Pollachius virens)* Haddock *(Melanogrammus aeglefinus)* Otter trawl NW Atlantic, US EEZ (Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank) Sustainable Groundfish Association, Inc. All the vessels holding the license to fish in the NE Atlantic groundfish fishery	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	05 July 2016	04 January 2022
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 5, Off-site visit The surveillance schedule has changed. See Appendix 2 for details.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	

	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	***XX***
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot (Team leader and Principle 2). Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis. MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows: • She has an appropriate university degree and more than three years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has passed the MSC team leader training; • She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module; • She meets ISO 19011 training requirements; • She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders. In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3. MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.	
7	Proposed team members	
	Ms. Erin Wilson (Principle 3). Ms. Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently works as a Senior Fisheries Consultant and Program Manager. She has collaborated as a team member on several MSC assessments and is team leader for all the Alaska Groundfish fisheries and the West Coast Groundfish limited entry trawl fishery. She provides routine audit services for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and is the MRAG Project Manager for the ISSF ProActive Vessel Registry (PVR). Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor. Ms. Wilson has passed MSC v1.3, v2.0, v2.1 and ISO 19011 training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery.	

MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Wilson meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:

- She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;
- She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years;
- She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored;
- She has passed the MSC Traceability training module.

In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella (Principle 1). Giuseppe Scarcella is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Unversità Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otholith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF).

He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsib*le Fisheries* Management (RFM).

MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Scarcella meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:

- He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;
- He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years;
- He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored.

In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

Ms. Blanka Lederer (assisting with Principle 2). Ms. Lederer's graduate degree and some professional experiences are in aquaculture, but most background focuses on fisheries. Before becoming an MSC assessor, she was a fisheries biologist for North Pacific Groundfish and At-Sea Hake Observer Programs. During six years, she worked on the catcher trawlers, catcher-processors, and longline vessels collecting data that provided the best scientific information to manage the fisheries and develop measures to minimize bycatch in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and West Coast. She was also working as a Setline Survey Specialist collecting, independent from commercial fishing, halibut data for the International Pacific Halibut Commission in Southeast Alaska and Canada. She designed a commercial fishing apprenticeship program for California Sea Grant. She collected data on fisheries and bycatch reduction strategies in Mexico, Australia, and Costa Rica. She participated in multiple Scripps Institution of

	Oceanography research projects, including water studies, exploring deep-sea chemosynthetic environments, and the San Diego Coastal Expedition research cruise. MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Lederer meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows: • She has an appropriate university degree in professional science; • She has passed MSC Team Member training, including relevant updates; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. MRAG Americas confirms Ms. Lederer has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3. A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.
8	Audit/review time and location
	We invite interested stakeholders to participate in the remote site visit the week of May 17-21, 2021. The surveillance audit will be held in conjunction with the reassessment of the fishery. The MSC's Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing enables CABs to conduct reassessments and surveillance audits remotely when "International, national, or local travel restrictions that impact the assessment team or auditor or certificate holder." https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html
9	Assessment and review activities
	The surveillance will review any changes in science and management and will monitor progress in closing out conditions.
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet remotely (FCP v2.2 7.28.15.b). Provide input or comments to the team regarding the Surveillance Audit. Stakeholders must use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Surveillance Audits v1.0 (Ctrl+click to follow link).

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

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

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

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm UTC on May 10, 2021.

More information on the fishery is available at https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/us-acadian-redfish-haddock-and-pollock-otter-trawl-fishery/@@view.

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

Amanda Stern-Pirlot
MRAG Americas, Inc.
8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., Suite 202
St. Petersburg FL 33702

Ph: 1-206-669-0439
Fax: 1-727-563-0207
certification@mragamericas.com

Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: March 29, 2021

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

Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot (Team leader and Principle 2). Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.

Ms. Erin Wilson (Principle 3). Ms. Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently works as a Senior Fisheries Consultant and Program Manager. She has collaborated as a team member on several MSC assessments and is team leader for all the Alaska Groundfish fisheries and the West Coast Groundfish limited entry trawl fishery. She provides routine audit services for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and is the MRAG Project Manager for the ISSF ProActive Vessel Registry (PVR). Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor. Ms. Wilson has passed MSC v1.3, v2.0, v2.1 and ISO 19011 training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery.

Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella (Principle 1). Giuseppe Scarcella is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Unversità Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otholith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF).

He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsib*le Fisheries* Management (RFM).

Ms. Blanka Lederer (assist with Principle 2). Ms. Lederer's graduate degree and some professional experiences are in aquaculture, but most background focuses on fisheries. Before becoming an MSC assessor, she was a fisheries biologist for North Pacific Groundfish and At-Sea Hake Observer Programs. During six years, she worked on the catcher trawlers, catcher-processors, and longline vessels collecting data that provided the best scientific information to manage the fisheries and develop measures to minimize bycatch in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and West Coast. She was also working as a Setline Survey Specialist collecting, independent from commercial fishing, halibut data for the International Pacific Halibut Commission in Southeast Alaska and Canada. She designed a commercial fishing apprenticeship program for California Sea Grant. She collected data on fisheries and bycatch reduction strategies in Mexico, Australia, and Costa Rica. She participated in multiple Scripps Institution

of Oceanography research projects, including water studies, exploring deep-sea chemosynthetic environments, and the San Diego Coastal Expedition research cruise.

- She holds a Master's Degree in Professional Science
- She has passed MSC Team Member training, including relevant updates
- She has more than three years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

The CAB shall include in the announcement:
1. A justification for any reduction from the default surveillance level following FCP v2.2 7.28.4-7.28.7,
2. A justification for any deviations from carrying out the surveillance audit before or after the anniversary date of certification, and
3. A completed fishery surveillance program.

Table 2 – Surveillance level justification

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
4	Off-site audit	4 auditors working remotely	The MSC's Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing enables CABs to conduct reassessments and surveillance audits remotely when "International, national, or local travel restrictions that impact the assessment team or auditor or certificate holder." https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html

Table 3 – Timing of surveillance audit

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
4	January 2021	May 2021	The site visit was changed to coincide with other fisheries managed by the client representative.

Table 4 – Fishery surveillance program

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 5	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit.