

**3135N32A**

21/01/2022

**Corrective Action Plan****Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters**

Control Union (UK) Ltd. (CU UK) would like to inform stakeholders that CU UK has received a corrective action plan from the client group in relation to the suspension of the following UoAs and the announcement of intent to suspend given on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

<b>Client group</b>	<b>Gear</b>
DFPO	4-SDN, 4-LL, 3aN-BT1, 3aS-SDN, 3aS-SN
SFPO	4-SDN, 3aN-SDN, 3aN-SN, 3aS-SN
CVO	TR2
EZG	3aN-SN

In accordance with GCR2.4.1 7.4.3 g this notification confirms that CU UK has found the corrective action plan acceptable and as it was submitted within 90 days of the notice to suspend we formally instruct the client to implement the corrective action plan.

The corrective action plan is published as an appendix to this notice.

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Originator:	HJ	21/01/2022
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21/01/2022

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN****Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters****MSC-F-31443, MSC-F-31444, MSC-F-31445, MSC-F-31446**

During the Year 1 surveillance audit of the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters, significant changes were evident in scores of primary and secondary species notably North Sea cod and 3aS (Subarea 3a South) cod stocks accompanied by changes in management related to Brexit. This led to significant changes to scores and rationales. The reduction in scores for the primary species component (driven by North Sea cod and 3aS cod reducing scores in PIs 2.1.1 and PI2.1.2) has resulted in the suspension of a number of UoAs as they no longer reach the overall 80 score for Principle 2. The UoAs suspended are listed in the table below.

**Table 1. Client group and gear types suspended as a result of this audit.**

Client group	Gear
DFPO	4-SDN, 4-LL, 3aN-BT1, 3aS-SDN, 3aS-SN
SFPO	4-SDN, 3aN-SDN, 3aN-SN, 3aS-SN
CVO	TR2
EZG	3aN-SN

To lift the suspensions, the client group provided the client action plans to close the new P2 conditions for NS and 3aS cod. These actions are listed below and should lift the suspension of the suspended UoAs. If the status of these stocks does not appear to become better within the certification period, the client group will see if other efforts can be made to raise some of the other P2 scores, as all suspensions are marginal with P2 scores ranges from 73,3-79,9. Most obvious, the actions are closing the other P2 conditions for the suspended UoAs. For these conditions and client action plans to address these, we refer to the Year 1 surveillance report for the fishery. Further to this, other actions to raise the overall score of the suspended UoAs could include review of bycatch percentages in the suspended UoAs to see if these appear to change or any change due to modifications of gears can be done to increase selectivity. Furthermore, the client group will explore whether more independent data from the suspended UoAs could be gathered, that be possible observer data or whether specific projects can be set up with national research institutes.



***Actions to address new P2 condition on PI 2.1.1 for NS cod:***

**Year 2:** Demonstrate that work has begun to ensure that the NS cod can recover to a level above the PRI and/or demonstrated that work has begun to develop an effective strategy in between all relevant MSC UoAs to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of the stock. Score: 60

**Year 3 and 4:** Demonstrate that the work continues to ensure that the NS cod can recover to a level above the PRI and/or demonstrate that the work continues to develop and implement an effective strategy in between all relevant MSC UoAs to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of the stock. Score: 60

**Year 1 reassessment:** Demonstrate that the NS cod is either highly likely above the PRI or is recovering to a level above the PRI, or demonstrate that there is an effective strategy in place between all relevant MSC UoAs to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of the stock. Score: 80

***Actions to address new P2 condition on PI 2.1.2 for NS cod:***

After Brexit, the TAC setting for this stock is subject to tri-lateral agreement between the EU, Norway and the UK. The TAC setting is, however, still advised by ICES following the MSY approach, and work is underway to agree management strategies for the shared stocks, including cod.

**Year 2:** The clients will provide evidence of continued engagement with management and other relevant parties to promote the adoption of the CFP objectives. This should ensure appropriate TAC setting that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Additionally, the clients will continue to act through relevant forums such as the NSAC to ensure that management of the stock is appropriate throughout, this include developing a tri-lateral management strategy and where appropriate possible further national management measures.

**Year 3 and 4:** The clients will provide evidence of continued engagement with management and other relevant parties to promote the adoption of the CFP objectives. This should ensure appropriate TAC setting that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Additionally, the clients will continue to act through relevant forums such as the NSAC to ensure that management of the stock is appropriate throughout, this includes implementation of a tri-lateral management strategy and where appropriate possible further national management measures.

**Year 1 reassessment:** The clients will provide evidence that a tri-lateral management strategy has been implemented and that appropriate TACs have been set that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.



***Actions to address new P2 condition on PI 2.1.1 for 3aS cod:***

**Year 2:** The Client will work with other MSC UoAs and within relevant international fora (NSAC, EU-Norway negotiations) to influence the TAC setting toward a level that allows the 3AS cod to recover to a level above PRI and/or begin work with other MSC UoAs to develop a joint strategy not to hinder recovery of the stock.

**Year 3:** The Client will continue to work with other MSC UoAs and within relevant international fora (NSAC, EU-Norway negotiations) to influence the TAC setting toward a level that allows the 3AS cod to recover to a level above PRI and/or continue the work with other MSC UoAs to develop and implement a communal strategy not to hinder recovery of the stock.

**Year 4:** The TAC is set at a level that is highly likely above the PRI or is recovering to a level above PRI and/or the Client and other MSC UoAs will demonstrate that they do not hinder recovery of the stock.

***Actions to address new P2 condition on PI 2.1.2 for 3aS cod:***

**Year 2:** The clients will provide evidence of continued engagement with management and other relevant parties to promote the adoption of the CFP objectives. This should ensure appropriate TAC setting that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Additionally, the clients will continue to act through relevant forums such as the NSAC to ensure that management of the stock is appropriate throughout, this include developing a strategy and/or where appropriate possible further national management measures.

**Year 3:** The clients will provide evidence of continued engagement with management and other relevant parties to promote the adoption of the CFP objectives. This should ensure appropriate TAC setting that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Additionally, the clients will continue to act through relevant forums such as the NSAC to ensure that management of the stock is appropriate throughout, this includes implementation of a management strategy and/or where appropriate possible further national management measures.

**Year 4:** The clients will provide evidence that a management strategy has been implemented and that appropriate TACs have been set that will keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.