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MRAG Americas, Inc.

US Atlantic Spiny Dogfish, Winter Skate and Little Skate

MSC Surveillance Announcement

March 19, 2021

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	US Atlantic spiny dogfish, winter skate and little skate	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Species: Spiny dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>), winter skate (<i>Raja ocellata</i>), little skate (<i>Raja erinacea</i>) Fishing gear: Gillnets, longlines and bottom trawls Client group: Sustainable Fisheries Association Geographical area: State and federal waters off the Atlantic coast of the U.S.A., FAO Region 21 Stock: US Atlantic spiny dogfish, winter skate and little skate, Atlantic stock	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	22/05/2018	21/11/2023
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 2, Off-site Surveillance activity has changed. See Appendix 2 for details.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	XX

	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	<p>Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot will serve as team leader for the assessment. 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.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>	
7	Proposed team members	
	<p>Dr. Joseph E. Powers has been involved in fisheries issues for more than 40 years, conducting stock assessments, coordinating international stock assessment research, communicating scientific advice to fishery management councils and commissions and also serving as the senior marine fisheries manager in the southeast US. His background includes: professor of marine resource assessment at Louisiana State University; Senior Stock Assessment Scientist of the US's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) southeast region, Laboratory Director of a NMFS facility; lead US scientist for Atlantic tuna, swordfish and billfish species for the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Chair of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT; Chair of the Stock Assessment Committee for Southern Bluefin Tuna; Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and he has worked on numerous Marine Stewardship Council assessments of tunas, swordfish, hake and other fisheries resources in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Powers meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than three years' experience in management or 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; • He has passed the MSC's fishery team member training course. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 and Principle 3 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.</p> <p>Ms. Erin Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. as a Fisheries Consultant in February 2015. She is currently serving as a team member for several MSC assessments and has conducted routine management system and vessel compliance audits for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation since 2015. 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 (with a marine emphasis) from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Wilson meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than three years' experience in management or 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's fishery Team Leader training course; • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module. <p>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.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time and dates of surveillance activities. Location activities will be carried out (if off site or review of new information, this could be from CAB/auditor office).
	<p>A remote surveillance audit will occur April 20-23, 2021.</p> <p>The MSC's Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing enables CABs to conduct surveillance audits remotely when Covid-19 risk factors prevent on-site assessments. See Appendix 2.</p>
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 April 13, 2021.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/us-atlantic-spiny-dogfish-winter-skate-and-little-skate/@@view>.

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

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: March 18, 2021

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

Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot will serve as team leader for the assessment. 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.

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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
2	Off-site audit	3 auditors working remotely	The MSC's Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing enables CABs to conduct surveillance audits remotely when Covid-19 risk factors prevent on-site assessments. In the U.S. the CDC recommends not travelling at this time. 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
2	December 2020	April 2021	The Covid-19 pandemic caused a delay in conducting the surveillance announcement.

Table 4 – Fishery surveillance program

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