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Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	South Australia sardine fishery													
Assessment number	1 st Assessment													
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	No													
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MRAG Americas, Inc. confirms this fishery meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments.													
Certificate sharing statement	N/A													
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	The full assessment will begin April 2018, with a site visit in May of 2018.													
	Activity	Month												
		2018								2019				
		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
	MSC Announcement, including team confirmation, notification of default assessment tree and assessment site visit													
	Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)													
	Assessment visit, stakeholder meetings													
	Examination of evidence, scoring, report preparation													
	Report review and finalization													
	Client review of draft report													
	Peer review of draft report													
	Stakeholder review of draft report													
	Final report/certification determination/objections period													
	Certificate decision													

Name of proposed Team Leader	<p>Mr. Richard Banks will serve as lead assessor. Richard Banks has considerable MSC experience having served as the Lead Assessor for four prawn trawl fisheries in Australia and on the PNA free school skipjack full assessment. Richard has also designed several fishery improvement plans in South East Asia and the Pacific, and acted as external reviewer to a number of MSC assessments on behalf of WWF. Richard currently works as an advisor to Parties to the Nauru Agreement. Richard is an economist and fisheries management and policy programming specialist having worked on similar issues for international agencies, Commonwealth and State Fisheries. Richard holds a bachelor degree in Fisheries Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Portsmouth, and Wye College, London, respectively.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Richard Banks meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has passed the MSC team leader training; • He has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • He has undertaken four fishery assessment as a team member in the last five years • He 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, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor and is qualified to undertake assessments using the MSC Risk-Based Framework, as described in FCR V2 Annex GPF.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Richard Banks has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
Name(s) of proposed assessors	<p>Dr. Cameron Dixon works as a fisheries consultant. His recent work includes Marine Stewardship Council assessment and peer review. In addition, he has undertaken independent reviews of fisheries assessed against the Coles' <i>Responsible Sourcing Seafood Assessment</i> framework and the World Wildlife Fund's <i>Ecological Sustainability Evaluation of Seafood</i> framework. Cameron is currently the Chair of the Northern Territory's Coastal Line Fishery Management Advisory Committee, and is a Technical Advisor for FisheryProgress.org. Prior to becoming a consultant, he worked as a Senior Fisheries Scientist for 20 years in South Australia and Victoria, during which time he completed his PhD with Melbourne University researching density-dependence in abalone stocks.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr Dixon 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 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 FCR V2 Annex GPF, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
	<p>Ms. Mihaela Zaharia earned her M Sc. In biological and Ecosystem Sciences. Her relevant experience includes involvement as a marine science researcher for Poseidon Aquatic Resources Management Consultants Ltd and National Institute for Marine Research and Development (Gr. Altipa). Ms. Zaharia was the P2 Assessor for both the Spencer Gulf and Northern Prawn Fishery, and also participated as a team member in a number of pre-assessments on clam, tuna, blue swimming crab and tropical prawns assessments and Fisheries Improvement Plans and prepared Risk Based Framework templates for the MSC. In addition to her employment history, Ms. Zaharia has also contributed several publications on fishery biology and science.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Zaharia 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 five years' experience in management and research in fisheries, • She has completed the MSC training. • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCR V2 Annex GPF, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	The default assessment tree contained within MSC Certification Requirements version 2 will be used for this assessment.
Site visit	The site visit will be in Adelaide and Port Lincoln, Australia, 22-24 May, 2018.

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of the South Australia sardine fishery has begun. The assessment will evaluate the fishery for compliance with the MSC's Standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. MRAG Americas has determined that the fishery is in scope.

As part of the assessment, MRAG Americas announces that stakeholder meetings and assessment of relevant documentation will be undertaken with a visit to the fishery in May 2018.

The assessment team will meet in Port Lincoln and Adelaide, AU, 22-24 May 2018. The purpose of these meetings is for a fishery assessment and stakeholder consultation to receive information from fishery representatives, government management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. MRAG invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant to the expedited assessments of the fishery. 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

Stakeholders may provide input at any time. We ask stakeholders who wish to meet with the team to make the request for a meeting by 5pm UTC on 14 May 2018.

The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders> and a template for stakeholder response available at <https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/forms-and-templates/template-for-stakeholder-input-into-fishery-assessments-v2.0/view?searchterm=stakeholder+input>. You may use the template or provide your response in any other format.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/>

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

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Submitted by: Amanda Stern-Pirlot

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