



Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS

MUSSEL RAFT CULTURE IN GALICIA (MEJILLÓN DE GALICIA PDO)

1 Marine Stewardship Council use of the Risk-Based Framework

Table 1 – Fishery information

1	Fishery name
	MUSSEL RAFT CULTURE IN GALICIA (MEJILLÓN DE GALICIA PDO)
2	CAB
	BUREAU VERITAS
3	Date that the proposal to use the RBF is submitted to the MSC
	May 21, 2020
4	Date stakeholder comment period closes on the proposal to use the RBF
	June 22, 2020
5	PI that the RBF is to be applied for
	PI 2.2.1
6	Justification for use
	Despite the lack of detailed data on the species composition resulting from the spat collection done by hand using scrapers on the rocky coastal strip, the composition of the communities coexisting with the mussel beds is well known (see section 7.3.1.2 and table 7.3.1.1 of the ACDR). Existing studies characterising these communities reveal that:

- (i) Although the species composition is highly dependent on physical characteristics of the coastal strip (e.g. height, exposure, morphology), mussels form dense, aggregate beds, allowing harvesters to select the most appropriate areas to be exploited and minimizing the catch of non-target species.
- (ii) The only species coexisting with the mussels with commercial value is the goose barnacle.

The client decided to perform a sampling study in some areas used for spat collection with the objective to cover the lack of detailed data on the species composition. The new sampling study, which was not available at the site visit, shows that a low percentage of other non-commercial species belonging to genus *Chtlamalus* and *Balanus*, such as *Chtlamalus* spp (mainly *Chtlamalus stellatus* and *Chtlamalus montagui*) and *Balanus perforates*, could be found. The species information obtained during this sampling analysis, together with the bibliographic species data already described in the ACDR, provides the team with a better understanding of impact to the communities coexisting with the mussel beds. It is worth nothing to say that there are no incentives for the mussel producers to target those species because they do not have commercial value.

In the previous Communication on the RBF used, published in the MSC website on the 19 November 2019, was identified the goose barnacle as the only species coexisting with the mussels with commercial value. The team considers that after the data collected by the client it is likely that the contribution of the arcon barnacles regarding the total volume removed by the mussel collectors could be $\geq 5\%$. In light of the new data obtained, the assessment team has decided to consider that acorn barnacle shall be assessed as a main secondary species, and RBF shall be used for its assessment since no biologically based limits are available to assess the status of this species/stock (it is not possible to use default Performance Indicator Scoring Guideposts within default assessment tree for this PI).