Control Union Pesca Ltd.

Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) Northern Demersal stocks (UoA 5 – Whiting)

MSC Expedited Audit Announcement

Control Union Pesca Ltd.

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Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

1	**Fishery name**	
	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) Northern Demersal stocks (UoA 5 – whiting)	
2	**Surveillance level and type**	
	Expedited audit of Principle 1. Following the publication of ICES advice for North Sea whiting published by ICES 28th June 2019. CU Pesca reviewed the information presented and as per as per FCP2.1 - 7.29.1 concluded that an "expedited audit" is required for this fishery as the new information may cause a major change in the status of Principle 1. This audit will examine whether or not there is any change in the perceived status of the stock with respect to the scoring of Principle 1 of this fishery.	
3	**Surveillance number**	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	X
4	**Proposed team leader**	

Name	Dr Hugh Jones
Areas of responsibility	Team Leader
Competency criteria (Annex PC)	Dr Hugh Jones has a PhD in Ecotoxicology and strong background in marine research including publications and reports on ecotoxicology, environmental risk assessments and fisheries research. Prior to joining CU Pesca he was employed as a fisheries scientist in the development of an empirical harvest strategy for commercial abalone fisheries and fisheries assessments of estuarine bivalves. This included work on population metrics (recruitment, growth), harvest dynamics (catch rates, market selectivity), and the use of fine scale geospatial techniques as performance measures to assess stock sustainability. Dr Jones has completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.01 Fisheries Certification and V2.1 process requirements
Conflict of interest in relation to this fishery	CU Pesca have reviewed Hugh's information and found no conflict of interest.

	On-site or off-site	Off-site It is proposed that Dr Hugh Jones will act as team leader for this audit and will be responsible for bringing together the work.
	CV	Available on request
5	**Proposed team members**	
	Name	Dr Robin Cook
	Areas of responsibility	Principle 1
	Competency criteria (Annex PC)	Dr Cook meets the following requirements in Table PC3: 1. Fish stock assessment and Table PC3 2. Fish stock biology / ecology. In a career spanning over 40 years, Robin has gained experience with the following stock assessment techniques: Bayesian age structured assessment models, Bayesian state-space models applied to demersal stocks that include marine mammal predation interactions, Surplus production modelling of mixed species, Extended Survivors Analysis (XSA), Time Series Analysis (TSA), Stock Synthesis, BAM, ADAPT, SAM and related methods. 30 plus years experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or species with similar biology: Robin is an expert in demersal fisheries population dynamics. His expertise has focused on North Atlantic systems, in particular the North Sea gadoid populations. Based on the information above and Robin's CV CU Pesca are confident Robin meets the requirements of Table PC3 for 1. Fish stock assessment and 2. Fish stock biology / ecology.
	Conflict of interest in relation to this fishery	CU Pesca have reviewed Robin's information and found no conflict of interest.
	On-site or off-site	Off-site
	CV	Available on request
6	**Audit/review time and location**	
	Off-site. The expedited audit will consist of an off-site audit on 2nd August 2019, based on publicly available stock assessment and management materials. Email contact will be available for both assessors and the client and conference facilities will be utilised as required.	
7	**Assessment and review activities**	

	During the audit, CU Pesca will communicate with the client and any relevant stakeholders and use any available up to date information to assess and review; • Any changes to the scientific base of information such as stock assessments and its impact on Principle 1 scoring. • A review of the current conditions on Principle 1 for UoA 5 • Any other significant changes in the fishery

CU Pesca would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the site visit. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Hugh Jones via email (hjones@controlunion.com), telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Comments must be made using the Template for Stakeholder Input into MSC-Assessments. Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team in person, this can be arranged. Remote meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above-mentioned email addresses.

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the surveillance report and cannot be used in determining conformity of the fishery with the MSC Standard. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.

Submitted by: Charlotte Todd

Date: 26th July 2019

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

Table 1 – Surveillance level rationale			
Year	**Surveillance activity**	**Number of auditors**	**Rationale**
2	On-site audit	2 auditors on-site	No change from PCR

Table 2– Timing of surveillance audit			
Year	**Anniversary date of certificate**	**Proposed date of surveillance audit**	**Rationale**
2	May 2019	November 2019	As per the stakeholder email sent 24th May 2019 the year 3 surveillance audit will be delayed until November 2019. This is to align with key dates in the fishery management cycle; November ICES Advice and EU management meetings.

Table 3– Fishery surveillance program				
Surveillance level	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**
6	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & re-certification site visit