

Global Trust Certification

Ireland rope grown mussel

MSC Surveillance Announcement

17 June 2021

1. Introduction

MSC certification requires regular surveillance audits of all certified fisheries and this Announcement marks the start of a surveillance audit of the above fishery. Global Trust Certification (hereafter Global Trust) is required to submit this announcement for posting on the MSC website at least 30 days before the audit activities are carried out.

The information Global Trust is required to provide when formally announcing annual surveillance activities, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

2. Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name	Ireland rope grown mussel
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	There is one UoA.
UoA 1		
	Target species	Mussel stock complex: blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>), Mediterranean mussel (<i>M. galloprovincialis</i>), foolish/Baltic mussel (<i>M. trossulus</i>) and hybrids.
	Geographic area	<p>All fishing activity takes place within FAO Major Fishing Area 27 Northeast Atlantic (ICES Areas 6.a, 7.a, 7.b, 7.g, and 7.j) and may be split between licensed seed collection and on-growing locations.</p> <p>Seed location – Coastal waters within the Republic of Ireland’s Territorial Seas (i.e. within the 12 nautical mile limit).</p> <p>Harvest locations – Permitted harvest areas in identified bays within the Republic of Ireland’s coastal waters potentially including (note this represents a list of all the bays/estuaries where rope mussel culture is currently practiced or where an application for rope mussel culture has been made):</p> <p>Poulnaclough Bay; Adrigole Harbour; Ardgroom Harbour; Ballycotton Bay; Ballymacoda Bay; Bantry Bay; Cleanderry Harbour; Clonakilty Bay; Coulagh Bay; Dunbeacon Bay; Dunbeacon Harbour; Dunmanus Bay; Gouleenacoush Harbour; Kenmare Bay; Kenmare River; Kilmakilloge Harbour; Kinsale Harbour; Oysterhaven; River Ilen; Roaringwater Bay; Arranmore Island; Donegal Bay; Illancrone Island; Lough Swilly; McSwynes Bay; Mulroy Bay; Ardbear Bay; Ballinakill Harbour; Bertraghboy Bay; Casheen Bay; Cleggan Bay; Friar Island; Galway Bay; Killary Harbour; Kinvara Bay; Mannin Bay; Castlemaine Harbour; Coongar Harbour; Dingle Bay; Shannon Estuary; Smerwick Harbour; Bellacragher Bay; Clew Bay; Waterford Harbour; Ballinekker; North Bay; Rosslare; South Bay Wexford; Wexford Harbour.</p>
	Stock	Mussel wild stock complex around the island of Ireland.
	Fishing gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seed mussel collection by suspended ropes and nets. ▪ On-growing of mussel using suspended ropes (including floating long-line cultivation).
	Management system	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), in particular its Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division and Marine Engineering Division; and DAFM’s associated agency the Marine Institute. Also, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA), Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) and the Marine Survey Office (MSO).
	Client group and other eligible fishers	<p>Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).</p> <p>All members of the rope-grown mussel industry, operating in the licensed harvest locations, will be eligible to access the certificate. However, only those entities that have agreed BIM’s terms of membership of the client group, including to contribute financially to the MSC assessment process and to comply fully with the MSC Standard and Fisheries Certification Requirements, will be considered to be part of the client group for the purpose of Certification. The most up to date client group will be available on the MSC website for this fishery (updated when any changes occur).</p> <p>There are other eligible fishers. In this case these are any producers, operating in the licensed harvest locations, who are not on the most up to date client group list. The Client has prepared and published a statement of their understanding and willingness for reasonable certificate sharing arrangements in accordance with FCR 7.8.3.3 and FCR 7.4.12.2 (see Appendix 3. Client certificate sharing statement and also the MSC website for this fishery).</p>

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.											
3	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Date certified</th> <th>Date of expiry</th> </tr> <tr> <td>04/07/2019</td> <td>03/01/2025</td> </tr> </table>	Date certified	Date of expiry	04/07/2019	03/01/2025						
Date certified	Date of expiry										
04/07/2019	03/01/2025										
4	<p>Surveillance level and type</p> <p>Surveillance level 3, off-site surveillance audit.</p> <p>The surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR or a previous surveillance report. An updated surveillance programme has been provided in Appendix 2.</p>										
5	<p>Surveillance number</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1st Surveillance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Surveillance</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Surveillance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Surveillance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (expedited etc)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 st Surveillance		2 nd Surveillance	X	3 rd Surveillance		4 th Surveillance		Other (expedited etc)	
1 st Surveillance											
2 nd Surveillance	X										
3 rd Surveillance											
4 th Surveillance											
Other (expedited etc)											
6	<p>Proposed team leader</p> <p>Conor Donnelly – Lead Assessor with responsibility for Principle 3 and traceability</p> <p>It is proposed that Conor Donnelly, a member of Global Trust’s internal staff will lead the Assessment Team. Conor meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject ▪ 3+ years’ fisheries experience ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually ▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team leader training course within the last 5 years. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. ▪ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years. ▪ Experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders ▪ Two years fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years. <p>Conor will be responsible for coordinating the Assessment Team, participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures.</p> <p>In addition to leading the Assessment Team Conor will be the team’s expert on Principle 3. To that end, he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst. <p>He will be responsible for traceability assessment and accordingly has passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The MSC’s Traceability training module within the last 5 years. ▪ New versions of the training when new traceability requirements are published prior to undertaking assessments against the new requirements. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the traceability requirements at least annually. <p>Conor does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A summary of Conor’s CV is provided in Appendix 1. Conor will be off-site during the audit.</p>										
7	<p>Proposed team members</p> <p>Sam Dignan – Assessor with responsibility for Principle 2 and Risk Based Framework (RBF)</p> <p>Sam meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject ▪ 3 years’ fisheries experience ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually ▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team member training within the last 5 years ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 2, Sam has:</p>										

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years’ or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) bycatch and ii) habitats. <p>Sam has also passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The MSC’s RBF training course in the last 5 years ▪ New versions of the training when new RBF requirements are published prior to undertaking assessments against the new requirements ▪ Reviewed any updates to the RBF requirements at least annually. <p>And he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders ▪ Two years fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years. <p>Sam does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A summary of Sam’s CV is provided in Appendix 1. Sam will be off-site during the audit.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	The ‘site visit’ portion of this audit will take place remotely between Monday 19 th and Wednesday 21 st July. As this is a remote site visit, Conor and Sam will participate from their offices at home.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The following will be assessed/reviewed during this audit (Note this may not be an exhaustive list):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the fishery and its management. 2. Progress against conditions of certification. 3. Any developments or changes within the fishery that impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products. 4. Any other significant changes in the fishery.
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders may submit written input using the ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments’ which is available here: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment. ▪ Stakeholders may consult directly with the audit team during the period specified in the 8. Audit/review time and location above. <p>Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in 3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits opportunities below.</p>

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits

During surveillance audits, CABs are required to seek the views of relevant parties. With this in mind, Global Trust wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to provide written information relevant to the surveillance audit process and/or consult directly with the audit team.

Prior to participating, stakeholders should familiarise themselves with the MSC process using the resources provided on the MSC's website: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>.

Global Trust would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. With this being said, information that they cannot be shared with all stakeholders cannot be referenced in an assessment or used in determining assessment outcomes unless it relates to; a) financial transactions about certification, b) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or c) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client's country.

3.1 Submitting written information

Please note that Global Trust can only accept written stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which can be found on the MSC website here: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>.

When submitting information, stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact.

In order for your written submissions to be considered as part of this audit, you must:

1. Use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments.
2. Submit it by **17:00 UTC on Sunday, 18 July 2021**.
3. Send it to Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org

3.2 Consulting directly with the audit team

As part of this audit, the audit team will be available for direct consultations with stakeholders during the period specified in the "Audit/review time and location" Section of Table 1 above.

If you would like to consult directly with the audit team during this period, please advise us of your interest in doing so by:

1. Contact us at Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org.
2. **17:00 UTC on Sunday, 18 July 2021**.
3. Provide at least the following details when doing so:
 - Your name and contact details.
 - Your association with the fishery.
 - The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Surveillance Audit Team Leader: Conor Donnelly, Primary Responsibility for P3 and Traceability.

Conor is an experienced marine ecologist and environmental manager with a background of over 17 years at the UK statutory nature conservation body, Natural England, where he was Senior Marine Adviser responsible for marine delivery across the East Midlands, Norfolk and Suffolk. He has a BSc. in Environmental Science from King's College, University of London and an MRes. in Marine and Coastal Ecology and Environmental Management from the University of York. Conor has particular experience of shellfisheries and their management, in particular the mussel, cockle and shrimp fisheries of The Wash, UK, where he has extensive experience of working with fisheries managers, the fishing sector, local communities and eNGOs to assess the environmental impacts of these fisheries and provide advice on their management. He was Natural England's representative on the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and its predecessor. He also advised and supported the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on fisheries casework in the southern North Sea under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) including meetings with other member states. Other experience includes Marine Protected Area designation, conservation advice and condition assessment; conservation legislation and policy; and working with partners and stakeholders to deliver positive environmental outcomes. Conor is an ISO lead auditor.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: Sam Dignan, Primary Responsibility for P2 and RBF.

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a BSc in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions. Sam is an ISO approved lead auditor.

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR or a previous surveillance report.

As the surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR or a previous surveillance report, the following is presented below:

1. A rationale for any reduction from the default surveillance level following FCP v2.2 7.28.4–7.28.7.
2. A rationale for any deviations from carrying out the surveillance audit before or after the anniversary date of certification.
3. A completed revised fishery surveillance programme.

Table 2. Surveillance level rationale.

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
2	Off-site audit	2 remote auditors	There is one condition. In the first-year surveillance, surveillance year 2 was changed to an on-site audit. However, due to the health risks presented by the on-going pandemic situation and in line with the latest MSC Covid-19 derogation (Derogation 3, issued 19 February, 2021), surveillance 2 has now been changed back to an off-site audit.

Table 3. Timing of surveillance audit.

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
2	4 January each year (Anniversary of certification + 6 months per MSC Covid-19 Derogation)	July 2021	For the sake of efficiencies, the intention is to align the surveillances of the rope grown and bottom grown mussel certificates around a common date in June/July. As the rope grown mussel certificate has been extended by 6 months this means the audit will take place 6 months before the new certificate anniversary.

Table 4. Fishery surveillance programme.

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

*The surveillance programme has been aligned with that of the bottom grown mussel fishery which has proposed off-site audits in Year 2 and Year 3 and an on-site audit in Year 4. This is in response to the on-going pandemic situation and because it is possible to remotely verify information and progress against the one condition identified (the assessment team has reviewed the verification of information criteria presented in the initial assessment, see Table 29 of the [Public Certification Report](#), and consider that it still holds true).

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the ‘MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1’. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification’s corporate identity, Global Trust has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council’s ‘MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1’ and its content is copyright of “Marine Stewardship Council” - © “Marine Stewardship Council” 2020. All rights reserved.

Table 5. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue.
1.1	12 June 2015	Appendix 2 with surveillance frequency Table added.
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1.
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability.
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2.

A controlled document list of MSC programme documents is available on the [MSC website \(www.msc.org\)](http://www.msc.org).

Marine Stewardship Council
 Marine House
 1 Snow Hill
 London EC1A 2DH
 United Kingdom

Phone: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900
 Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901
 Email: standards@msc.org