

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	Dutch Oyster Association oyster
Assessment number	This is the fishery's first re-assessment.
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	Yes See Appendix 4: Reduced Re-assessment for details
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>MEC confirms that the fishery entering re-assessment meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1] and has not failed an assessment within the last two years.</p> <p>MEC further confirms the following:</p> <p>(7.4.1) The fishery does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals • Use poisons or explosives. • Operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, • Include any entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violation against forced labour laws. <p>(7.4.2) The fishery is not the subject of controversy and/or dispute.</p> <p>(7.4.3) The fishery has been determined to be enhanced; however, MEC can confirm that it conforms to all of the scope criteria. A variation request has been submitted along with this announcement to include the Pacific oyster under the enhanced scope criteria for this assessment (as per FCR 7.4.3.1).</p> <p>(7.4.4) Although the flat oyster is native, the Pacific oyster is an introduced species but conforms to the ISBF scope requirements based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has a larger population size than the native oyster, the species has extended its range and the species cannot be eradicated; • The species was introduced prior to 1993; • There are no continuing introductions to the area. <p>MEC confirms that it will follow the necessary steps in Annex SD.</p> <p>MEC notes that the requirements for ISBF are part of a pilot programme and may be subject to change.</p>

	(7.4.7) Proposed unit of assessment (UoA):	
	UoA 1 and 2:	
	Species / stock	Pacific Oyster <i>Crassostrea gigas</i>
	Geographical range	IVc: Southern North Sea, Waddenzee and Zeeuwse Delta (Oosterschelde, Voordelta, Lake Grevelingen & Lake Veere), The Netherlands
	Method of capture	UoA 1 Adult oysters/spat dredging on wild beds
		UoA 2 On-growing of oysters on culture plots, collecting harvest size oysters from culture plots by dredging.
	Client Group	Members of the Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
	Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)
	UoA 3 and 4:	
	Species / stock	Flat (native) Oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i>
	Geographical range	IVc: Southern North Sea, Waddenzee and Zeeuwse Delta (Oosterschelde, Voordelta, Lake Grevelingen & Lake Veere), The Netherlands
	Method of capture	UoA 3 Adult oysters/spat dredging on wild beds
		UoA 4 On-growing of oysters on culture plots, collecting harvest size oysters from culture plots by dredging.
	Client Group	Members of the Dutch Oyster Association (NOV)
	Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)
	(7.4.8) The unit of Certification (UoC) is the same as the UoA.	
	(7.4.11) An initial review of key traceability factors determined the following:	
	Risk Factor	Description of risk if applicable
	The possibility of non-certified gear used within the fishery	Not applicable, unless a new gear type is developed in future years.
	The possibility of vessels from the UoC fishing outside the UoC or in different geographical areas (on the same trip or on different trips)	Vessels from the UoC are recently involved in experiments to see whether oyster fisheries (fishing and grow-out) in Lake Veere is possible. The risk would be minimal since the trips to Lake Veere would be separate from the fishing activities on Lake Grevelingen or Eastern Scheldt.

	<p>The possibility of vessels from outside the UoC or client group fishing the same stock</p>	<p>The possibility of vessels from outside the UoC fishing the same stock is non-existent. However, there is the possibility to get a license to hand-pick and sell marketable oysters. These oysters are part of the same stock. This risk could be mitigated by publishing a list of eligible operators together with the certificate (pending a successful outcome of the reassessment).</p>						
	<p>Any other risks of substitution between fish from the UoC and fish from outside this unit</p>	<p>For the last few years, experiments are under way to grow oysters in off-bottom systems. The spat/small oysters are fished with the same vessels and fishing gear as the UoC. Instead of being placed on culture plots, the oysters are placed in baskets and/or bags for grow-out. Marketable oysters from off-bottom systems are also landed in Yerseke.</p> <p>As processing plants at Yerseke may contain oysters imported from other areas, Chain of Custody should commence at point of entry to processing plants or point of first sale, whichever is earliest.</p>						
	<p>(7.4.12) There are no other eligible fishers or other entities that may share the certificate as new client group members.</p> <p>(7.4.13) IPI stocks are not caught</p> <p>(7.4.16) The fishery does not overlap with any other fisheries in the MSC programme. No harmonisation is required.</p>							
Certificate sharing statement	<p>The fishery is not open to certificate sharing.</p>							
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	<p>The predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification awarded if the assessment result is positive is July 2018.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assessment stage</th><th>Date</th><th>Stakeholder Consultation Period</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fishery announcement</td><td>20th July 2017</td><td>All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period	Fishery announcement	20 th July 2017	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process
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	Site visit	22 nd / 23 rd August 2017	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit
	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	20 th April 2018	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	June 2018	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination
	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	July 2018	
Name of proposed Team Leader	<p>Chrissie Sieben (Team Leader)</p> <p>Chrissie Sieben has a Master's Degree in Marine Environmental Protection which she obtained at the University of Wales, Bangor. She is the MSC Fisheries Scheme Manager at MEC and specialises in marine and fisheries ecology, marine environmental impact assessment and sustainable fisheries. Previous to joining MEC, she worked as a fisheries consultant for MacAlister Elliott and Partners (MEP), where she worked on a number of projects including the application of WWF Common Methodology to wild capture and aquaculture fisheries for the WWF Hong Kong 'Good Fish Guide', Sustainable fisheries in the Trilateral Wadden Sea, acted as Fisheries Liaison for the London Gateway Project and carried out socio-economic characterisations and impact assessments of commercial fisheries for coastal developments. Prior to her work at MEP, she worked inter alia as a marine ecologist on environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and completed an internship with the Global Environment Facility / UNDP International Waters Programme. She is a fully qualified MSC Team Leader with particular expertise in Principle 2 and is involved in MSC full assessments, pre-assessments and fishery surveillance audits. Chrissie participates regularly in MSC CAB training sessions and workshops and has received in-depth Risk-Based Framework training. Within MEC she has also worked as a Chain of Custody auditor.</p> <p>Chrissie will act as the Team Leader for this assessment. She will also be responsible for ensuring that the Version 2 Certification Requirements are being met at every stage of the assessment process. Chrissie complies with the Team Qualification and Competency Criteria requirements listed in Table PC3 for sections;, 5. Current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context, 6. Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements and 7. Use of the RBF.</p>		

<p>Name(s) of proposed assessors</p>	<p>Dr Michael Bell - P1</p> <p>Dr Bell has 24 years' experience as a research scientist, including 17 years in fisheries, where his research has focused on assessment, monitoring and management of sustainable fisheries and the ecological consequences of marine fisheries. Mike is currently Research Associate at the International Centre for Island Technology at the Heriot-Watt University in Orkney providing research, teaching and consultancy on sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>Previous professional experience includes; stock assessment peer reviews, MSC assessments, Chair of the ICES Working Group on Nephrops Stocks, Scientific Advisor for Orkney Sustainable Fisheries, developing stock assessments & Fishery Improvement Projects for brown crab and researching crustacean and scallop fishery dynamics, and outside expert reviewer for stock assessments and science in support of fishery management in USA (scallops, surf clams, ocean quahogs, blue crab, Alaska crabs, short-finned squid, Caribbean reef fish, New England groundfish) and Ireland (cockle, crab, shrimp). Mike has also provided workshops on generalized linear modelling techniques, age-based stock assessments and mark-recapture modelling techniques.</p> <p>It is proposed that Mike would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1 and 2. Mike complies with the Team Qualification and Competency Criteria requirements listed in Table PC3 for sections; 1. Fish stock assessment, 2. Fish stock biology / ecology and 3. Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Ulf Löwenberg - P3</p> <p>Ulf is a fisheries biologist with more than 30 years' experience in the fisheries sector. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Hamburg in 1980 before working for the Federal Research Centre in Hamburg as a fisheries scientist. Since then, Ulf has worked for private and governmental clients on a variety of projects in Europe and Africa. His wide-ranging expertise covers the fields of research and teaching, stock assessment, resource management, fisheries economy, fisheries law, fisheries statistics, fisheries surveillance, geographic information systems, eco-certification, development policy, project development and project cycles.</p> <p>Ulf has been involved in a number of MSC pre-assessments, full assessments and surveillance audits in Europe, including fisheries in the UK, Germany and France. His work with ME Certification Ltd has seen him act as P3 assessor with some of our largest client groups. He has also become widely respected within the MSC for his involvement with the resolution of technical queries relating to the standard.</p> <p>It is proposed that Ulf would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 3. Ulf complies with the Team Qualification and Competency Criteria requirements listed in Table PC3 for section; 4. Fishery management and operations.</p> <p>All team members are fluent in English and Chrissie Sieben is fluent in Dutch.</p> <p>Full CVs for all team members have been submitted to the MSC separately.</p>
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	MEC can confirm that all members of the proposed team have no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
Assessment tree to be used	<p>It is proposed the default assessment tree (Version 2.0) will be used for the evaluation of this fishery.</p> <p>It is envisaged that MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) may be required for the following performance indicators:</p> <p>1.1.1 - Stock status</p> <p>2.1.1 – Primary species outcome</p> <p>2.2.1 - Secondary species outcome</p> <p>Further details on the use of RBF for this assessment can be seen on the accompanying MSC RBF form.</p>
Site visit	<p>The site visit is scheduled to take place in Yerseke, The Netherlands, on the 22nd / 23rd August 2017.</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.</p>

ME-Certification Ltd. (MEC) hereby announces the commencement of the re-assessment for the above fishery.

The site visit is scheduled to take place in Yerseke, The Netherlands, on the 22nd / 23rd August 2017.

We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings. All interested stakeholders should contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@mecert.com) or Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

ME Certification, 56 High Street Lymington SO41 9AH United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1590 613007 Fax: +44 (0)1590 671573

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 assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. 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: Gavin Fitzgerald, MSC Fisheries Officer

Date: 20th July 2016

Deadline for stakeholder comment: **17:00 GMT, 19th August 2017**

Appendix 4: Reduced Re-assessment

Table 4.1: Reduced Re-assessment Evaluation

Criteria 1	Yes/No	Rationale
Fishery was covered under previous certificate or scope extension	Yes	MEC can confirm that this fishery is covered under the previous certification and that there have been no changes to the scope of certification.
Criteria 2	Yes/No	Rationale
No conditions remain after 3 rd surveillance audit	Yes	At certification, there was one condition raised against 2.2.3 with a score of 75. By the 3 rd surveillance, the fishery had addressed this condition resulting in a revised PI score of 80 and the condition being closed.
Criteria 3	Yes/No	Rationale
Standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by 3 rd surveillance	Yes	All standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by the 3 rd surveillance.