

Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine

Client:
Omega Protein Corporation

Stakeholder Notification

This document serves as a notification to stakeholders of a number of important developments in the ongoing assessment of this fishery against the MSC Fishery Certification Requirements (FCR):

1. Change in Lead Assessor.
2. Accepted Variation Request to extend timeline to submit Final Report to MSC.
3. Revised Assessment Timeline.
4. Update on the current status of the Assessment.

Note all relevant documents are publically available and may be accessed on the MSC website at the webpage dedicated to this fishery:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/omega-protein-corporation-u.s.-atlantic-menhaden-purse-seine/@assessments>

1. Change in Lead Assessor

As part of the ongoing assessment of this fishery, SAI Global originally announced an Assessment Team, comprised of members with experience and expertise in the areas of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management. The Assessment Team as originally announced was:

- Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor and primary responsibility for Principle 1).
- Sam Dignan (Assessor and primary responsibility for Principle 2).
- Bob Allain (Assessor and primary responsibility for Principle 3).

SAI Global now wish to announce a change in Lead Assessor from Dr. Ivan Mateo to Sam Dignan. The remaining responsibilities within the Team remain unchanged. SAI Global can confirm that Sam meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Criteria outlined in Annex PC of the MSC FCR v2.0. The C.V.s of all three Team members are available on the MSC webpage for this fishery.

2. Accepted Variation Request (VR)

On November 02nd 2018, SAI Global submitted a VR to MSC requesting permission to provide the Final Report to MSC within 21 months of the original announcement that the fishery was entering assessment rather than within 18 months as required by MSC FCR v2.0; 7.3.2. That VR has been accepted by MSC meaning that the deadline for providing a Final Report to MSC will be March 06th 2019.

The reasons the VR was necessary as well as further details are provided in the VR itself which may be view on the MSC webpage for this fishery where the MSC's response outlining their rationale for accepting this VR is also available.

3. Revised Assessment Timeline

A revised indicative timeline for completion of this assessment has been upload to the MSC webpage for this fishery. The revised replaces the one previously published on March 05th 2018. The reasons for deviating from the previous timeline are outlined in the aforementioned VR on the MSC webpage for this fishery.

As a consequence of this revised timeline, a Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) is not likely to be available until December 2018; the current status of this assessment is outlined below.

4. Update on the current status of the Assessment

With regards to the current status of the ongoing assessment of this fishery, the fishery has now progressed to the point where a draft report was provided to the MSC Peer Review College (PRC) on October 23rd 2018 for review. The names and brief bios of the proposed Peer Reviewers are available on the fishery's webpage. When SAI Global receive the report back from the PRC the Assessment Team are required to address all of the comments raised by the Peer Reviewers.

Once the Team has addressed the PRC comments a Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR), which will include all stakeholder comments to date as well as the Assessment Team's response to those comments, will be published on the webpage for this fishery. Once the PCDR has been published there will be a 30 day stakeholder comment period during which stakeholders will be invited to comment on the findings of the report. All registered stakeholders will receive direct notification when the PCDR becomes available.

Finally SAI Global would like to thank all stakeholders for their ongoing patience as we understand and appreciate that stakeholders are anxious to review the findings of the Assessment Team to date.

Comments should be sent to:

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Uploaded by: Niamh Connor