



Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS

Tien Giang Hard Clam Fishery

**MSC Fishery Announcement
13th April 2022**

1 Marine Stewardship Council fishery announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name						
	Tien Giang Hard Clam Fishery.						
2	Assessment number						
	Initial assessment.						
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)						
	No						
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope						
	<p>Bureau Veritas Certification confirms that this fishery is within the scope of the MSC fisheries certification sought as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target species is not an amphibian, reptile, bird or mammal. - The fishery does not use poisons or explosives. - The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement. - The client or client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced or child labour violation in the last 2 years and submitted a completed forced and child labour policy statement. - The client or client group does not include an entity that has been convicted for shark finning violations within the last 2 years. - The fishery has in place a mechanism for resolving disputes, and disputes do not overwhelm the fishery. - The fishery is an enhanced fishery as per the MSC FCP v.2.2 7.4.2.12; and - The fishery is not an introduced species-based fishery as per the MSC FCP v2.2 7.4.2.13 - Past MSC Record – the GCD-TGCF has not previously failed assessment nor had a certificate withdrawn. - The GCD-TGCF unit of certification does not directly overlap with other MSC certified fisheries <p>Moreover, the fishery falls under the scope criteria for enhanced fisheries (FCP v2.2 7.4.2.12). This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “At some point in the production process, the system relies upon the capture of fish from the wild environment”, where the molluscs are taken as seed. - “The species are native to the geographic region of the fishery and the natural production areas from which the fishery’s catch originates”. - “There are natural reproductive components of the stock from which the fishery’s catch originates that maintain themselves without having to be restocked every year”. 						
5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)						
	<p>Table 5.1.1 – Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UoA 1</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Species</td> <td>Lyrate hard clam (<i>Meretrix lyrata</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stock</td> <td>Lyrate hard clam (<i>Meretrix lyrata</i>)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	UoA 1	Description	Species	Lyrate hard clam (<i>Meretrix lyrata</i>)	Stock	Lyrate hard clam (<i>Meretrix lyrata</i>)
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	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	<i>Hand and rake collection following re-laying of spat ('seed').</i>
	Client group	<i>Tien Giang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Go Cong Dong District People's Committee; People's Committee of Tan Thanh commune</i>
	Other eligible fishers	N/A
	Geographical area	FAO 71 (Pacific, Western Central), Latitude 92° – 101,8° N; Longitude 32,3° – 48° E in sand flat tidal area, from -4m to 1.5m. See section 5.2 for further details.
6	Certificate sharing statement	
	Not applicable	
7	Name of proposed team leader	
	The team leader will be Gemma Quílez Badía, who will also act as P3 expert. See Appendix 1 for a summary of her CV and how she meets the MSC competency criteria.	
8	Name(s) of proposed team members	
	<p>The assessment team consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gemma Quílez (team leader and P3 expert) - Miguel Gaspar (P1 expert). - Carmen Morant (P2 expert). - Dao Duong (local expert) <p>In accordance with MSC FCP 7.12.2c) Bureau Veritas Iberia has analysed the experience of each team member (see professional Bios in Appendix 1) to determine that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The team has no conflict of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment (ii) Each team member meets the qualification and competency criteria established in PC2 (iii) The fishery team (as a whole) meets the qualifications and competency criteria established in PC3 	
9	Stakeholder opportunities	
	<p>The Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) is now available for the stakeholders to provide input or comments by 5pm GMT, 12 June 2022 (60 days since the publication of the ACDR). Stakeholders must use the MSC Template for Stakeholders Input into Fishery Assessment v4.0 (Click here to download it).</p> <p>According to the MSC Fisheries Certification Process, an in-person site visit to different locations in Vietnam will be undertaken on the Week 20th of June 2022. During this visit relevant information will be collected on site and assessed, and meetings with different stakeholders (fisher's representatives, managers, scientists, and NGOs) will be held. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to an onsite meeting or remote conference call.</p>	
10	Assessment tree to be used	
	Since this is an enhanced catch-and-grow (CAG) bivalve fishery, the team will use the default tree (Annex SA) and apply Annex SB as a supplement. Both contained in the MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01.	
11	Estimated timeline	
	<p>It is expected that this assessment will take at least 9 months. The expected months for the publication of the key reports are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) -13th of April 2022 - Assessment site visit, stakeholder consultation – week of 20th June 2022 - Consultation and confirmation of Peer Reviewers – October 2022 - Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) - December 2022 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Draft Report (FDR) - February 2023 - Public Certification Report (PCR) -February 2023 <p>A separate timeline has been uploaded to the MSC database.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>According to the MSC Fisheries Certification Process, a site visit to different locations in Vietnam will be undertaken on the Week 20th of June 2022. During this visit relevant information will be collected on site and assessed, and meetings with different stakeholders (fisher's representatives, managers, scientists, and NGOs) will be held. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to an onsite meeting or remote conference call.</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 RBF see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework.</p> <p>Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit for PI 1.1.1 (the proposal to use the RBF will be submitted to MSC at the same time as this announcement and as soon as it is published it will be available at the following link). 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 (FCP v2.2 7.12.3 and Annex PF2.3.2).</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	Not needed
14	Announcement Comment Draft Report stakeholder input deadline
	The Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) is now available for the stakeholders to provide input or comments by 5pm UTC, 12 June 2022 (60 days since the publication of the ACDR).

Bureau Veritas encourages that stakeholders interested in schedule a meeting provide the following details:

- a) Your name and contact details
- b) Your relation with the fishery
- c) Issues you would like to discuss
- d) Where and when are you available for a meeting (**week of 20th of June 2022**)

In order to make the necessary adjustments on the scheduled agenda of the assessment team, this information should be sent to the contact details provided below before the **12th of June 2022 at 5 pm UTC**. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to a meeting. If written information will be provided, please use the MSC template for stakeholder input into Fishery Assessments v4.0 ([click here](#) to download it).

Besides, Bureau Veritas encourage stakeholders to provide any information they might consider relevant in relation to the status of the target fish stock, ecosystem interactions, fishery management practices and/or progress on existing conditions/recommendations. Check at the MSC website the guide for stakeholder's engagement in fishery assessments:

- Stakeholder's Guide and Template for stakeholder's inputs available here: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>

Please send your comments to contact details provided right below.

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Date: 13/04/2022

Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

Dr Gemma Quílez, holds a Biology degree from Barcelona University (Spain), an MSc in Natural Resource Management from Leicester University (UK) and a PhD in Marine Biology from Newcastle upon Tyne University (UK).

She has around 20 years of experience working in Marine Biology, Marine Ecology, Marine Conservation Biology and Fisheries. In 1998, she did her MSc thesis on neritic and oceanic fish larvae from the Irish Sea. From 1999 to 2001 she worked at the ICM-CSIC (Marine Science Institute) of Barcelona (Spain) on trophic ecology of pelagic species larvae and participated in different oceanographic cruises on board the RV García del Cid. In 2004, while doing her PhD on Marine Invasive species, she was employed at the Fisheries Research Institute of Kavala, Greece, to conduct a study on trophic ecology of anchovy larvae. Also, during her PhD (2001-2006), she participated on several research cruises on board the RV Bernicia. Once she finished her PhD, she went to work on marine invasive species for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre (USA) until 2010. From 2010 until 2016, she worked as fisheries policy officer for the Mediterranean Programme of WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) in Barcelona, Spain. As such she worked on fisheries regional and international policy processes (e.g., GFCM, ICCAT, MedAC), mostly on Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and at ICCAT, both at a scientific and policy level. She also participated in the creation and in the following functioning of the co-management committee of the Catalan sandeel fishery. Since 2010 until present she has been working studying the biology, ecology and population dynamics of Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and being deeply involved in the stock assessment of the species at ICCAT level.

In addition, from 2008 until 2018 she has been one of the two the Spanish representatives at two ICES working groups (WGBOSV - Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors, and WGITMO - Working Group on Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms). Her experience (over 8 years) studying the biology, ecology and population dynamics of Atlantic bluefin tuna, deeply involved with ICCAT, as well as her previous work on trophic ecology of pelagic species larvae, proves her capacity to meet the qualification and competency criteria for PC3 (i) Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems. Her 6 years as WWF fisheries officer working on fisheries policy processes (mostly on Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna) and on the co-management of the Catalan sandeel, proves her capacity to meet the qualification and competency criteria for PC3 (ii) Fishery management and operations. She complies with the current Annex PC of the MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.1. She has completed the MSC training in the use of the RBF. She does not have a conflict of interest with the fishery. She will be the team leader for this fishery assessment.

Carmen Morant is a marine scientist who holds a MSc in Marine Science and a MSc in Environmental Science from the University of Cadiz, also a Postgraduate Degree in Environmental Management and Auditing in Marine Science and Technology from Polytechnic University of Catalonia (2008). From 2011 to 2019 she worked as a freelance PAM and MMO on a wide range of projects from seismic and geographical surveys to offshore wind farms, or oil and gas prospects. She worked for over 6 years as a Fisheries Observer with the BFT implementing ICCAT (European) regulations, not just on-board purse seiners but also in ports and BFT farms, analysis the bycatch of all different species. During these years, she collaborated during 2 years with TRAGSA for the Spanish General Marine Secretariat, carrying out regular surveys of fish stocks, monitoring number of individuals, size, weight, origin, tagging, and preparing reports and evidence for the European Fishing Commission.

Carmen worked for an NGO in California targeting fishing anglers in an awareness program. This experience was complemented with her work both in Mexico and Costa Rica, where she undertook some research for local NGOs in how the local fishing industry impacted the sea turtles or the impact of whale watchers on marine mammals. Carmen joined the team in 2020 as P2 expert. She complies with the current Annex PC of the MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.1. She has completed the MSC training in the use of the RBF. She does not have a conflict of interest with the fishery.

Miguel B. Gaspar is a Senior Researcher with Aggregation at the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), and he is heading the IPMA's Research Centre of Olhão since 2013. In 1990, he completed a BSc in Marine Biology and Fisheries at the University of Algarve (Portugal) and undertook his PhD at the same university, where he studied several aspects related to the bivalve dredge fishery that occurs along the south coast of Portugal (biology and ecology of the target species, selectivity, and fishing gears impacts). He is responsible for the management of bivalve fisheries in Portugal, and he is the coordinator of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) programme at IPMA. He has been the coordinator of several international and national research projects focusing on the management of SSF, maritime spatial planning, and on the ecological impacts of artisanal fishing, aquaculture, and other anthropogenic activities on marine ecosystems. He is the Geographic Expert for Portugal at the European network FARNET and he is a member of diverse strategic committees on fisheries at national level. Author or co-author of more than 170 publications in international journals and book chapters. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal "Scientia Marina".

- He meets the competence criteria in to MSC Fisheries Certification Process v. 2.1, annex PC, concerning substantial and appropriate skills related to Principle 1 and Principle 2 requirements.
- He is trained as a team member according to v 2.0.
- He has passed the Fisheries Certification Process Version 2.1 and enhanced bivalve fisheries training modules for team members

For this assessment his main responsibility will be acting as P1 assessor. He has no conflicts of interest in relation to this fishery.

Dao Duong worked for NAFIQAD, a fishery management authority, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is an agency implementing food safety management for Vietnam's exported seafood products. During his time working for NAFIQAD, he was a food safety inspector. His main duty was to carry out inspections of seafood products before exporting, check the traceability records for seafood shipments produced from wild-caught marine materials to ensure that the harvested materials do not violate the IUU, also evaluate quality, food safety of fishery product, audit GMP factory. For this assessment his main responsibility will be acting as local expert. He has no conflicts of interest in relation to this fishery.