Marine Stewardship Council
fisheries assessment

ISF Iceland lemon sole

Surveillance 2

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Global Trust Certification
Assessment team	Lead Assessor, Virginia Polonio Assessor, Guissepe Scarcela
Fishery client	Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries (ISF)
Assessment Type	Second Surveillance
Date	29 May 2021

Explanatory Note:
During this assessment, between the surveillance being announced and the site visit phase, ownership of Global Trust Certification Ltd. trading as SAI Global passed from SAI Global to NSF International.

As a result of this change, from 01 January 2020, Global Trust Certification will no longer operate as SAI Global for the purpose of delivering MSC assessments. The personnel within Global Trust Certification, including those involved in this assessment, remain unchanged.

1 Contents

1.1 List of Figures

1.2 List of Tables

2 Glossary

ASCOBANS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas
B	Biomass
B_{lim}	Limit biomass reference point below which recruitment of stock is expected to be impaired
B_{loss}	A particular Blim used by ICES based on the lowest past observed spawning stock biomass.
B_{MSY}	Biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (biological reference point); the peak value on a domed yield-per-recruit curve
$B_{trigger}$	The point when management intervention should be taken to avoid the stock falling below the limit reference point.
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COC	Chain of Custody
CPUE	Catch Per Unit of Effort
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
eNGO	environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
ETP	Endangered, Threatened or Protected (species)
F	Parameter for fishing mortality
FCP	MSC Fisheries Certification Process
F_{LIM}	Fishing Mortality Limit Reference Point
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
F_{MSY}	Fishing Mortality at MSY
GCR	MSC General Certification Requirements
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
HR	Harvest ratio (Harvest rate)
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas
ISF	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (the Client)
IS-SMB	Icelandic spring groundfish survey
IS-SMH	Icelandic autumn groundfish survey
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
MFRI	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun/Hafro) (formerly MRI)
MII	Ministry of Industries and Innovation (Atvinnuvega- og nýsköpunarráðuneytið)
MRI	Marine Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun/Hafro) (latterly MFRI)
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
mt	metric tonnes
NAFO	North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NWWG	ICES´s North-Western Waters Working Group
OSPAR	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
P1, P2, P3	Principle 1, Principle 2 and Principle 3. The three guiding Principles of the MSC
PCR	Public Certification Report
PI	Performance Indicator
PRI	Point of recruitment impairment (stock reference point)
RBF	Risk Based Framework
SSB	Spawning stock biomass
$SSB_{current}$	Average spawning stock biomass over recent years
SSB_{MSY}	Spawning stock biomass at MSY

SG	Scoring Guidepost
SI	Scoring Issue
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UoC	Unit of Certification
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

3 Executive summary

3.1 Summary of audit process

This report contains the findings of the 2nd surveillance audit of the 1st certification cycle of ISF Iceland Lemon Sole which was conducted by an audit team commissioned by Global Trust Certification Ltd. (the CAB, hereafter Global Trust) consisting of Virginia Polonio as lead assessor and responsible for P2 and traceability. Further, Guissepe Scarcella responsible for P1 respectively.

The surveillance audit process began in December 2020 and was conducted according to relevant requirements as outlined in MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v.2.2. The MSC Scheme Documents and Templates outlined in 4.3 Version details were used during this surveillance audit.

The audit was conducted as an off-site surveillance audit which included a remote desktop review of documentation relating to changes in management and science in the fishery and a remote 'site visit' which involved engagement with the client and relevant stakeholders through remote interviews. The remote 'site visit' was carried out on 27, 28 and 29 January 2020.

The audit focused on changes to the fishery and its management since the last surveillance audit in December 2019 and assesses the fishery's continuing compliance with MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fisheries and additionally evaluates progress against the agreed Year 2 milestones for the 2 outstanding conditions. Further, some P2 components have been re-scored due to the results of the harmonisation process carried out by Global Trust assessors involved in Icelandic fisheries.

Global Trust would like to thank all management and scientific agencies, industry bodies and stakeholders for their collaboration and for providing the information and data necessary to carry out this assessment.

3.2 Summary of history of assessments

This fishery was initially announced on the MSC website in February 2018 to enter to full assessment. It was certified in January 2019. After the first surveillance carried out in September 2019 the fishery was transferred from the original CB Vottunarstofan Tun ehf. to Global Trust (previously SAI Global) and the effective day of the transfer was December 19th, 2019.

During the full assessment carried out by CB Vottunarstofan Tun 4 conditions were raised against the fishery on Performance Indicators (PIs) 1.2.2, 2.3.2, 2.4.1 and 2.4.2. Since the assessment the fishery underwent 1 surveillance audits in 2019 where two conditions were closed.

As mentioned, during the 1st surveillance audit in 2019, the conditions on PIs 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 were closed. The outstanding conditions on 1.2.2 and 2.3.2 have been evaluated in this report.

3.3 Summary of audit findings

Table 1 below present a summary of the audit's findings as they relate to the various conditions, Performance Indicator (PI) and Principle (P) score changes.

In the PCR four conditions were raised, however the results of surveillance 1 concluded in 2 conditions closed by 2019. Therefore, the standing conditions for this Surveillance 2 are two, one on principle 1 and one on principle 2.

Table 1. Summary of surveillance findings.

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator	Status	Unit of Certification	PI original score*	PI revised score
1	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years	1.2.2	On target	Bottom trawl:	75	75
				Nephrops trawl:	75	75
				Danish seine:	75	75
2	By the fourth surveillance audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.	2.3.2	On target	Bottom trawl:	75	75
				Nephrops trawl:	75	75
				Danish seine:	75	75
3	By the fourth surveillance audit necessary conservation and management measures for all vulnerable marine habitats shall be in place and implemented, such that the trawl fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, on a regional or bioregional basis, and function. This condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk and the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice fisheries.	2.4.1	Close at SURV 1 (only bottom trawl)	Bottom trawl:	75	80*
				Nephrops trawl:	80	80
				Danish seine:	85	85
4	By the fourth surveillance audit necessary conservation and management measures for deep-sea sponge aggregation and coral gardens shall be in place and implemented, such that there is a partial strategy in place and implemented for these habitat types specifically, ensuring that the bottom and Nephrops trawl fisheries do not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure and function in Icelandic waters. This strategy will include, where necessary, appropriate formalised move-on measures to avoid interactions with ALL forms of VMEs. With regard to the bottom trawl UoA, this condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk, and the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice fisheries. With regards to Nephrops UoA, this condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod and ISF Greenland halibut fisheries	2.4.2	Close at SURV 1 (Bottom & Nephrops trawl)	Bottom trawl:	70	80*
				Nephrops trawl:	70	80*
				Danish seine:	80	80

***Re-scored at Surveillance 1 in 2019 report**

3.4 Updated certification status

Following this audit, Global Trust has determined that the fishery continues to meet applicable MSC requirements such that continued certification is appropriate; therefore, the certification status of the fishery as certified remains unchanged.

Updated certification status = **CERTIFIED**

4 Report details

4.1 Surveillance information

Table 2. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name		
	ISF Iceland lemon sole		
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)		
	Units of Assessment (UoAs) 1 – 3 (of 3)		
	Common across all UoAs		
	Species:	*Microstomus kitt*	
	Common name(s):	Lemon sole	
	Geographical Area:	FAO Statistical Area 27 / ICES 5.a; Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	
	Stock(s):	Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in ICES subarea 5.a	
	Management System:	Ministry of Industries and Innovation	
	Client Group and other eligible fishers*:	All registered Icelandic vessels that carry valid permits, issued by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries, for fishing within the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone.	
	Unique to each UoA		
	Fishing methods:	UoA 1	Bottom Trawl (TB)
		UoA 2	Nephrops Trawl (TN)
		UoA 3	Danish Seine (SD)
	***Includes any other eligible fishers that are outside the Unit of Certification**		
3	Date certified		Date of expiry
	03/01/2019		02/07/2024
4	Surveillance level and type		
	The surveillance level for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR but the programme has changed slightly in that the site visit will be conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As this is the only amendment an updated surveillance programme has not been provided.		
5	Surveillance number		
	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance	X	
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
6	Proposed team leader		
	Dr. Virginia Polonio (Team Lead, P2 Assessor and Traceability) Virginia meets the competency criteria as she has: ▪ 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 within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Passed an appropriate ISO Lead Auditor training course as required by MSC requirements. With respect to her additional duties under Principle 2, she has: ▪ +3 years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) Bycatch and ii) Habitats. With respect to her additional duties as the team member with primary responsibility for Traceability, she has: ▪ Passed the MSC's traceability module within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC's traceability requirements at least annually where relevant.		

Table 2. Surveillance announcement.	
	Virginia does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of her CV is provided in Appendix 1. Virginia will be off-site during this assessment.
7	Proposed team members *[remove if not applicable]*
	Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor): Giuseppe meets the fishery team member qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has: ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. With respect to his additional duties under Principle 1, Giuseppe has: ▪ +3 years' experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. ▪ +3 years' experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or similar species. Giuseppe does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of his CV is provided in Appendix 1. Giuseppe will be off-site during this assessment.
8	Audit/review time and location
	Surveillance activities will be conducted between 25 and 29 January 2021. As this is a remote assessment, activities will be carried out from the assessment team's home offices.
9	Assessment and review activities
	During the assessment, the team will review: – Any potential or actual changes in management systems. – Any changes or additions/deletions to regulations. – Any personnel changes in science, management or industry and their impact on the management of the fishery. – Any potential changes to scientific information, including stock assessments. – Any changes affecting traceability. – Any changes affecting harmonisation of overlapping fisheries, see PB1.3.5 The team will also evaluate progress against any open conditions, and if necessary to close a condition(s) whose deadline becomes due at this surveillance audit, rescore the relevant Performance Indicator(s).
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available: ▪ Stakeholders may submit written input using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which is available here. ▪ Stakeholders may consult directly with the audit team during the period specified in the 8. Audit/review time and location above. Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in 3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits opportunities below.

4.2 Background

CABs are required to outline in surveillance reports any changes to the fishery since the last assessment, including (but not limited to) changes to management systems, relevant regulations, personnel involved in science, management or industry, the scientific base of information (including stock assessments) and any developments or changes within the fishery's traceability systems.

4.2.1 Changes to Management systems and relevant regulations

The Icelandic Official Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) publishes Laws, Regulations, directives etc. and is available online[1]. Section A of the Gazette publishes inter alia Laws whereas Section B publishes *inter alia* Regulations. Each Section is searchable by 'categories' with there being a specific fisheries category.

There have not been any changes to Laws or Regulations since the last surveillance audit significant enough to impact the fishery's conformity to MSC requirements (where 'significant' in this context would result in a PI score falling below 60 or 80, a Principle score falling below an aggregate 80 score or a change in scope. A selection of relevant Icelandic fisheries Acts and Regulations enacted in 2020 are presented in Table 3 below with a number discussed inn further detail thereafter.

Table 3. Selection of relevant Icelandic fisheries Acts and Regulations made in 2020 (Source: Stjórnartíðindi[2]).

Number	Description	Date
Acts and Laws (Stjórnartíðindi – Section A)		
46/2020	LAW on the repeal of various laws (obsolete laws).	03/06/2020
88/2020	ACT amending various laws in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and salmon and trout fishing due to simplification of regulations and administration.	21/07/2020
Regulations and announcements (Stjórnartíðindi – Section B)		
130/2020	REGULATION on the repeal of regulations in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.	20/02/2020
165/2020	REGULATION on lumpfish fishing in 2020.	28/02/2020
186/2020	REGULATION on a temporary ban on fishing with bottom trawls in Nephrops fishing areas.	06/03/2020
205/2020	REGULATION on longline fishing by Norwegian vessels in the Icelandic fishing zone in 2020.	12/03/2020
298/2020	REGULATION on registration and electronic submission of catch information.	02/04/2020
325/2020	REGULATION on (5th) amendment to Regulation no. 745/2016 on weighing and registration of marine catch.	08/04/2020
353/2020	REGULATION on (5th) amendment to Regulation no. 674/2019, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2019/2020 (exchange market).	20/04/2020
363/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 676/2019, on the allocation of local quotas to fishing vessels in the 2019/2020 fishing year.	22/04/2020
364/2020	REGULATION on coastal fishing in the fishing year 2019/2020.	22/04/2020
410/2020	REGULATION on (6th) amendment to Regulation no. 674/2019, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2019/2020.	05/05/2020
461/2020	REGULATION on (7th) amendment to Regulation no. 764/2019 on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2019/2020.	20/05/2020
474/2020	REGULATION on the marking of fishing gear and lost fishing gear.	25/05/2020
571/2020	REGULATION on (2nd) amendment to Regulation no. 676/2019, on the allocation of local quotas to fishing vessels in the 2019/2020 fishing year.	06/11/2020
672/2020	REGULATION on the total allowable catch for the 2020/2021 fishing year.	06/07/2020
693/2020	REGULATION on cod equivalent coefficients for the fishing year 2020/2021.	10/07/2020
701/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 693/2020 on cod equivalent coefficients for the fishing year 2020/2021.	14/07/2020
88/2020	ACT amending various laws in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and salmon and trout fishing due to simplification of regulations and administration.	7/21/2020

[1] Icelandic Official Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi): https://www.stjornartidindi.is
[2] *Ibid.*

Table 3. Selection of relevant Icelandic fisheries Acts and Regulations made in 2020 (Source: Stjórnartíðindi[2]).

Number	Description	Date
724/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 364/2020, on coastal fishing in the 2019/2020 fishing year.	21/07/2020
726/2020	REGULATION on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	21/07/2020
728/2020	REGULATION on the allocation of local quotas to fishing vessels in the fishing year 2020/2021.	22/07/2020
729/2020	REGULATION on 'line' fishing preference.	22/07/2020
744/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	24/07/2020
750/2020	REGULATION on (8th) amendment to Regulation no. 674/2019, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2019/2020.	28/07/2020
810/2020	REGULATION on (2nd) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	20/08/2020
836/2020	REGULATION on (3rd) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	27/08/2020
837/2020	REGULATION on a temporary ban on fishing in two areas in Jökuldýpi.	27/08/2020
838/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 729/2020, on 'line' concessions.	27/08/2020
861/2020	REGULATION on (6th) amendment to Regulation no. 745/2016, on weighing and registration of marine catch.	03/09/2020
891/2020	REGULATION on (4th) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	11/09/2020
909/2020	REGULATION on (3rd) amendment to Regulation no. 963/2019, on longline fishing off Iceland.	18/09/2020
945/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 474/2020, on the marking of fishing gear and lost fishing gear.	30/09/2020
989/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 890/2020, on the scallop fishing area.	09/10/2020
990/2020	REGULATION on (7th) amendment to Regulation no. 745/2016, on weighing and registration of marine catch.	09/10/2020
1006/2020	REGULATION on (5th) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	15/10/2020
1102/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 959/2019, on protected areas around Iceland.	13/11/2020
1176/2020	REGULATION on (6th) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	27/11/2020
1177/2020	REGULATION on (1st) amendment to Regulation no. 731/2020, on regional quotas for local laws in the fishing year 2020/2021.	27/11/2020
1178/2020	REGULATION on (2nd) amendment to Regulation no. 729/2020, on line concessions.	27/11/2020
1228/2020	REGULATION on (7th) amendment to Regulation no. 726/2020, on commercial fishing in the fishing year 2020/2021.	12/09/2020
1256/2020	REGULATION on (2nd) amendment to Regulation no. 468/2013, on the utilization of catch and by-products.	16/12/2020

While there have not been significant of the type that might impact the fishery's conformity to MSC requirements, there have nevertheless been some changes of note including those outlined below.

Regulation 130/2020[3] and **Laws 46/2020**[4] and **Law 88/2020**[5] were all enacted following a review of Icelandic legislation with the aim of streamlining the available legislation and removing repetition. In practice Regulation 130/2020 repealed or amended defunct or superseded fisheries and aquaculture regulations while Law 46/2020 repealed, and Act 88/2020 amended various fisheries and aquaculture laws (rather than Regulations).

[3] Regulation no. 130/2020 on the repeal of regulations in the field of fisheries and aquaculture: https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=6d6d093d-de84-4025-bfc7-b935f7be2cd7

[4] Law 46/2020 on the repeal of various laws (obsolete laws): https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=e06a1313-23c1-4fc2-9966-9f5b8bafc845

[5] Law 88/2020 on amendments to various laws in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and salmon and trout fishing due to simplification of regulations and administration: https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=340d5d92-4a64-4f4d-9923-1e88d5510ff0

Regulation no. 298/2020[6], was a major change to the Icelandic fishery management system that discontinues the use of paper logbooks and requires all catches to be reported via e-logbooks or a smartphone app specifically developed for the purpose.

4.2.2 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

The assessment team was advised during this audit of a structural change and several personnel changes in science and management agencies including:

- Within the Ministry of Industries and Innovation, the Directorates of Fisheries and Agriculture have been separated and the Directorate of Fisheries has a new Director with Ögmundar Knútssonar replacing Eyþór Björnsson[7].
- Within the Ministry itself, two personnel who were previously involved in MSC assessments on behalf of the Ministry of Industries and Innovation have left the Ministry.
- A new Chief of the MFRI has been appointed with Þorsteinn Sigurðsson replacing Sigurður Guðjónsson[8].

None the changes identified are of such consequence to impact the fishery's conformity to MSC requirements.

4.2.3 Principle 1 Stock Status update

The IS-SMB biomass index has been variable and decreasing from the maximum in 2006. Fproxy has been highly variable for two decades. IS-SMB recruitment index is close to average but has decreased from the maximum in 2010–2013 (Figure 1). MFRI advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in the fishing year 2020/2021 should be no more than 1073 tonnes.

This advice follows the ICES framework for stocks where reliable stock biomass indices are available, but analytical age-length based assessments are not feasible (Category 3 stocks; ICES 2012). IS-SMB survey biomass index of lemon sole 30 cm and larger, along with catch, is used to calculate Fproxy (catch/survey biomass). The target Fproxy was defined as 80% of the mean Fproxy from the reference period 2010–2015. Age-disaggregated catch data from 2010–2015 suggest that fishing mortality was too high and needed to be reduced by at least 20%. The advice is based on multiplying the most recent index value with target Fproxy value. This value is constrained by an uncertainty cap of 20% compared to the previous catch advice. The IS-SMB covers the entire fishing grounds of lemon sole around Iceland. Year-to-year fluctuations in survey biomass indices can be high, and high values are associated with high uncertainty.

Based on the evidence available from MFRI (2020) and collected during the meeting with the client, MFRI scientists and MII staff, it is possible to conclude that the scoring outlined in the PCR (Tun, 2019) is still valid both in relation to Principle 1 Outcome and Harvest strategy (Management).

[6] Regulation no. 298/2020 on the registration and electronic submission of catch information of Icelandic vessels with an electronic catch diary or smart device program: https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=f6bcdc92-938c-421b-bad1-8b50013564e2.
[7] https://www.mbl.is/200milur/frettir/2020/04/24/ogmundur_nyr_fiskistofustjori/
[8] New Director General of the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute appointed: https://www.hafogvatn.is/is/midlun/frettir-og-tilkynningar/nyr-forstjori-hafrannsoknastofnunar-skipadur

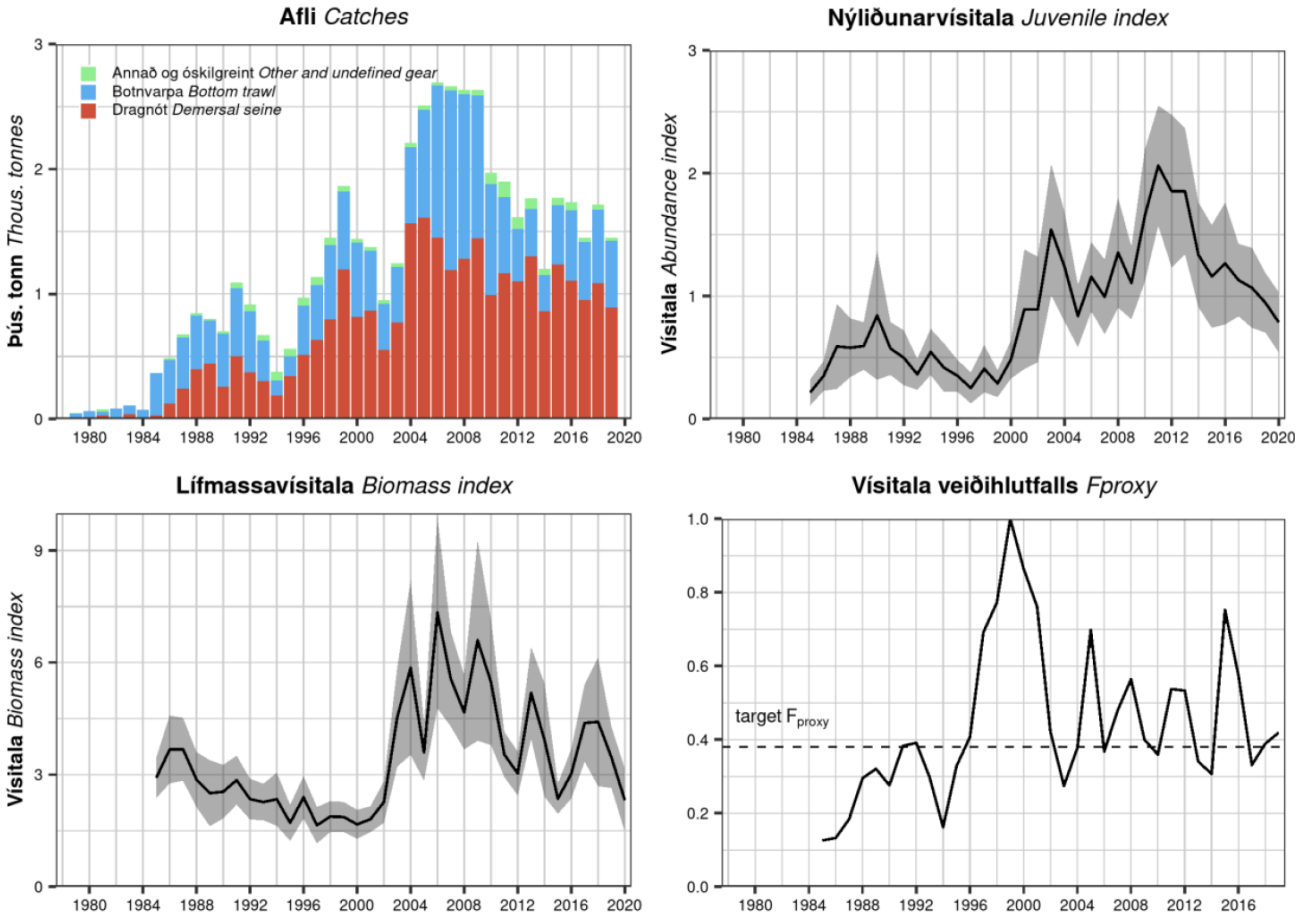

Figure 1 - Catches by gear type, IS-SMB juvenile (≤20 cm) and biomass (≥30 cm) indices and Fproxy. Grey areas represent 95% CI. Source: MFRI Assessment Reports 2020. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, 16 June 2020. (https://www.hafogvatn.is/en/harvesting-advice)

4.2.4 Principle 2 update

4.2.4.1 Primary species

Regarding primary species the update has been related the species Spotted wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*; ISL: Hlýri). Spotted wolffish represents a within scope non-ETP species not covered under P1. While biomass limits or targets are not defined for this stock management tools and measures, intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in a fishing mortality related reference point are in place.

Percentage of landings in the three UoAs has been very low; less than 1.65% in Bottom trawl and close to 0 in danish seine and Nephrops trawl. However, the assessment team would like to point out that during the visit as per personal communication, the Scientifics expressed their concerns about this stock. There is a strong need to protect the stock and studies in e.g. Canada showed that wolffish is generally robust and can survive capture by trawls. Therefore, the MFRI gave a landing advice and suggested that fishers would be allowed to discard spotted wolffish. Regulation 1256/2020 now allows fishers to discard viable spotted wolffish. In addition, MFRI is in the process of measuring the survival of spotted wolffish in Icelandic waters. This information along with age reading, will allow developing a recovery plan for the stock.

4.2.4.2 Secondary species and ETP species

Regarding secondary species and following the harmonisation activities carried out in the context of this surveillance audit the main update in principle 2 has been the review of the classification of the species to harmonise with the rest of ISF Iceland fisheries that are in Global Trust Certification portfolio. Initially, the relevant P2 assessors worked to identify P2 scoring elements that were common across fisheries, but which

were inconsistently considered under either the Secondary or ETP species component. The Primary species, Habitats and Ecosystem components were considered appropriately harmonised and were not considered again during this harmonisation exercise. Therefore, for ISF Iceland Lemon Sole, the key changes have been reflected in secondary species. Species that were consistently and appropriately assessed such as harbour porpoise as a secondary species in all fisheries are not considered further.

To understand why some species have been moved to different components is important to clarify the MSC requirements noted in the table below. As part of the MSC process, a fishery's impacts on each non-target species are considered under one of three components as described in Table 4 below. Note teams are only permitted to consider each P2 species within one of these components and the classification must be consistent through the different ISF Iceland fisheries.

Table 4. MSC definition of Primary, secondary and ETP species

Component	Outcome PI	Definition
Primary species	PI 2.1.1	**Within scope species** not covered under P1 where management tools and measures, intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in either limit or target reference points are **in place**.
Secondary species	PI 2.2.1	**Within scope species** not covered under P1 where management tools and measures intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in either limit or target reference points are **not in place**. **Out of scope species** that are not ETP species.
ETP species	PI 2.3.1	ETP (Endangered, Threatened or Protected) species are: ▪ Species that are recognised by national ETP legislation; ▪ Species listed in the binding international agreements given below: a. Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), unless it can be shown that the particular stock of the CITES listed species impacted by the UoA under assessment is not endangered. b. Binding agreements concluded under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), including: i. Annex 1 of the Agreement on Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP); ii. Table 1 Column A of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); iii. Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS); iv. Annex 1, Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); v. Wadden Sea Seals Agreement; vi. Any other binding agreements that list relevant ETP species concluded under this Convention. ▪ Out of scope species that are listed in the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE).**

** **Note.** While some recent MSC assessments have considered species listed in the Icelandic Redlist, developed and published by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History (https://en.ni.is/resources/publications/red-lists/), to be ETP species, the assessment team in this instance feel the MSC definition of an ETP species to be clear in this regard; therefore, only species listed on the IUCN Redlist have been considered as ETP species.

In the PCR published in 2018, three out scope species were identified to be consistent with the other fisheries, Northern gannet (Morus bassunus) has been moved to ETPs. The justification given to each spcies in the to assign the current classification in this surveillance is explained as follows:

Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*; ISL: Hnísa) – Remain as Main Secondary species

With respect to national ETP species legislation, harbour porpoises are not specifically protected in Iceland. Additionally, with respect to relevant binding international agreements, harbour porpoises are listed in Appendix II (i.e. not Appendix I) of CITES, in Annex II of the CMS (but these listing only apply to Western North Atlantic, Black Sea, Northwest African and Baltic and North Sea populations) and on the IUCN Redlist as Least Concern (i.e. vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE)). Therefore, harbour porpoises do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species meaning that, as an out-of-scope non-ETP species, they are assessed by rule as a **main secondary species**.

Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus; ISL: Útselur) – Remain as Main Secondary species

As with harbour seals, grey seals do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species by virtue of their not being protected by national legislation, listed in CITES Appendix 1, listed in the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE) and while they are listed in the CMS, this listing applies only to Baltic Sea populations and hence does not apply. Grey seals are therefore an out-of-scope non-ETP species and as such represent a secondary species and, as out of scope species are always considered 'main' regardless of their total catch volume, they are assessed here as a **main secondary species**.

Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*; ISL: Súla) – Move to ETP species

The Northern gannet is included on the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. However is not included in the table 1 colum A as MSC states to be consider ETP under this criteria. Despite this, the Icelandic act: Act 61/1994[9], Article 6 of which protects all wild animals, including residents and non-residents, seabirds are included in the Act. The inclusion of seabirds in this foundational act on *inter alia* the protection of species qualifies all seabirds for consideration as ETP species in MSC assessments via the 'species that are recognised by national ETP legislation' criterion.

Having said that, Northern gannet has been moved to ETP species in this fishery and the ETP PIs have been reviewed to reflect the change.

Other update relevant to secondary species and aimed at protecting marine mammals and seabirds are listed herein, therefore related to ETPs has been that, while could not be directly relevant to the UoAs in this report, it might affect all ISF Iceland fisheries. Regulation No. 1100/2019 in place from December 2019 has stated a ban on hunting. This regulation is defined for the prohibition of seal hunting in an attempt to raise the population of marine mammals and other non-target species to acceptable levels (i.e. back above the management target). All seal fishing is prohibited in Icelandic territory (in sea, rivers and lakes) unless a special permit is obtained from the Fisheries Authority for seal fishing for its own use. Any sale and marketing of Icelandic seal and seal products is prohibited and MFRI having further advised that attempts to minimize anthropogenic disturbance of harbour seal colonies (e.g. by seal watching) are initiated, in particular during breeding and moulting seasons between May and August.

In terms of information collected that can affect the interpretation of the classification of the species has not presented relevant changes. Levels of compliance with reporting requirements for non-target species are still low. Logbook records were generally much lower than estimated bycatch.

During the site visit, MFRI provided the team with the last information on bycatch. As previous year interactions with seabirds and marine mammals have been negligible. The table below shows the most updated data:

Table 5. Bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds by gear type in 2016 – 2019 as reported by the fishing fleet. Source: MFRI 2020.

Demersal otter trawl					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Harbour seal	0	0	3	1	4
Unidentified dolphin	0	0	1	0	1
Total marine mammals	0	0	4	1	5
Northern gannet	0	0	0	3	3
Total seabirds	0	0	0	3	3

[9] Act No. 61/1994 (*in Icelandic*): http://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1994064.html

The requirement to use an app (Regulation no. 298/2020) to report the catches have been introduced but during the site visit the assessment team were told that this change applied for small vessel and results will not be available until spring when fishing seasons start. For the UoAs assessed in this surveillance the monitoring system is still the same as in previous year and the location of the fleet is by VMS rather than the use of the app.

4.2.4.3 Habitats and ecosystems update

In general, the no. of hours fished by fishing gears continues to decline and there has been an overall reduction since 2005 in fishing effort for fisheries using trawl, longline, gillnet, seine and Danish seine, but an increase in the effort for pelagic trawl and jiggers (Figure 3). During this audit, the client advised that some of the recent increase in the use of gillnets is explained by an increased in targeted gillnet fishing for Greenland halibut.

The primary reason for this declining trend in hours fished is thought to be increasing CPUE (i.e. TACs are achieved quicker and with less fishing effort) as exploitation rates have (generally) declined and stocks (generally) increased. As an example, for stocks with an analytical assessment and defined reference points, the exploitation rate (fishing mortality [F] and/or harvest rate [HR]) has declined in recent years and is now at F_{MSY} or HR_{MSY} (Figure 2 left), and the spawning-stock biomass is in all cases above $B_{trigger}$ (Figure 3 right).

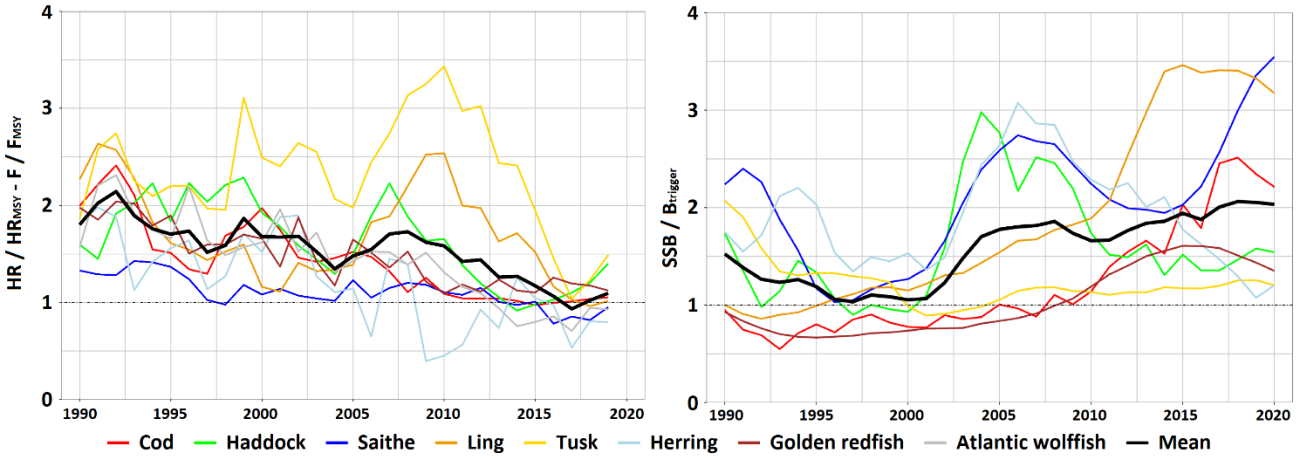

Figure 2. Relative fishing mortality (F/F_{MSY} or HR/HR_{MSY}) (left) and relative spawning-stock biomass ($SSB/B_{trigger}$) (right) for cod, haddock, saithe, golden redfish, ling, tusk and herring. Dotted lines denote F_{MSY} or HR_{MSY} and $B_{trigger}$. respectively (Source: Modified from ICES, 2020[10]).

The main abrasive pressure in the Icelandic Waters ecoregion is mobile bottom-fishing gears (primarily demersal trawls. As demersal trawl effort has declined (effort targeting fish and shrimp has decreased by approx. 40% in the period 2000 – 2014) so too has this abrasive pressure. ICES estimates, based on vessel monitoring system (VMS) and logbook data, that bottom trawls used by 12 m+ vessels were deployed over approx. 132,485 km^2 (or ca. 17.5 %) of the ecoregion in 2018 (Figure 3).

[10] ICES. 2020. Icelandic Waters ecoregion –Ecosystem overview. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, Section 11.1, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7633.

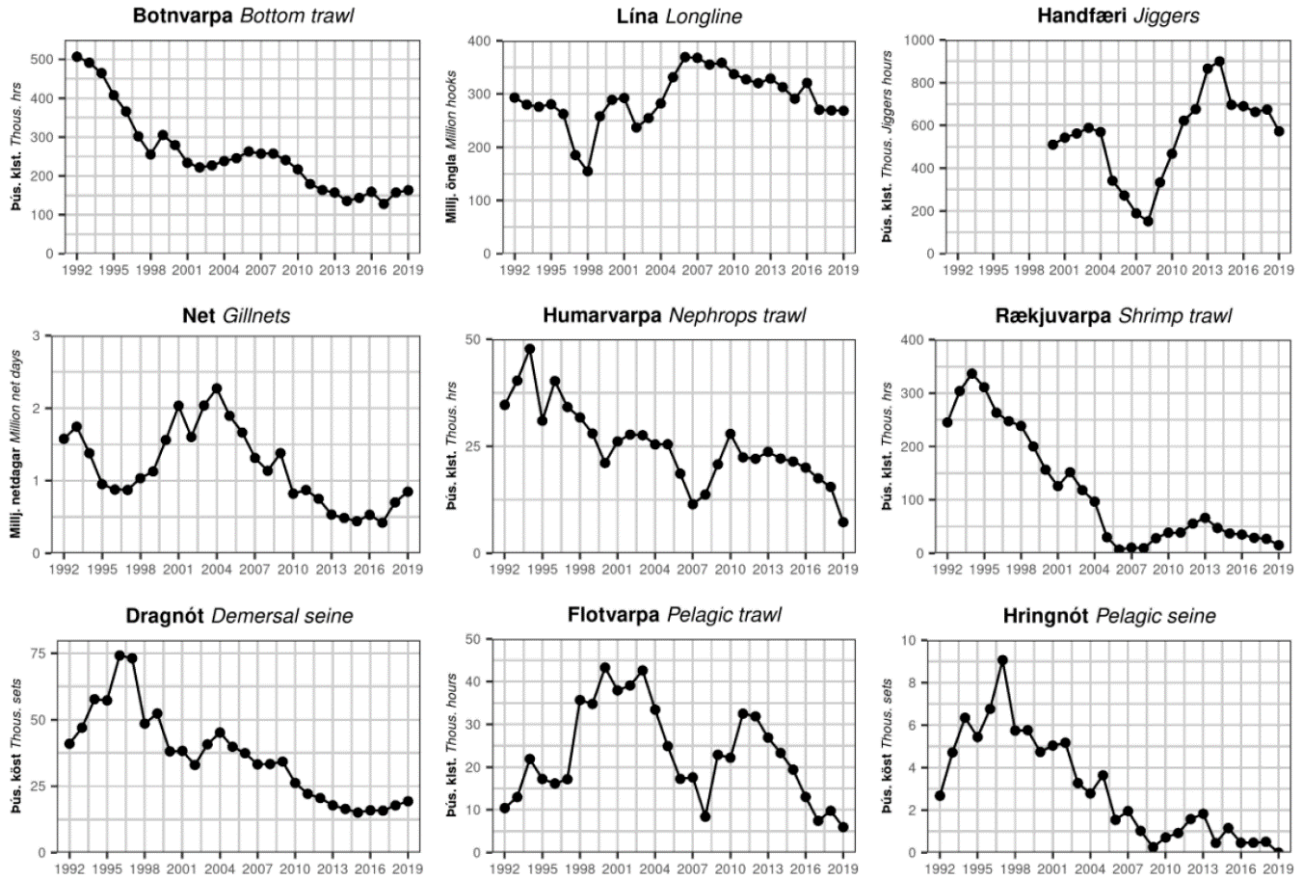

Figure 3. Temporal trends in effort by gear type since 1992 based on Icelandic fishing vessel logbooks (lumpfish nets excluded in gillnets effort) (MFRI 2020[11]).

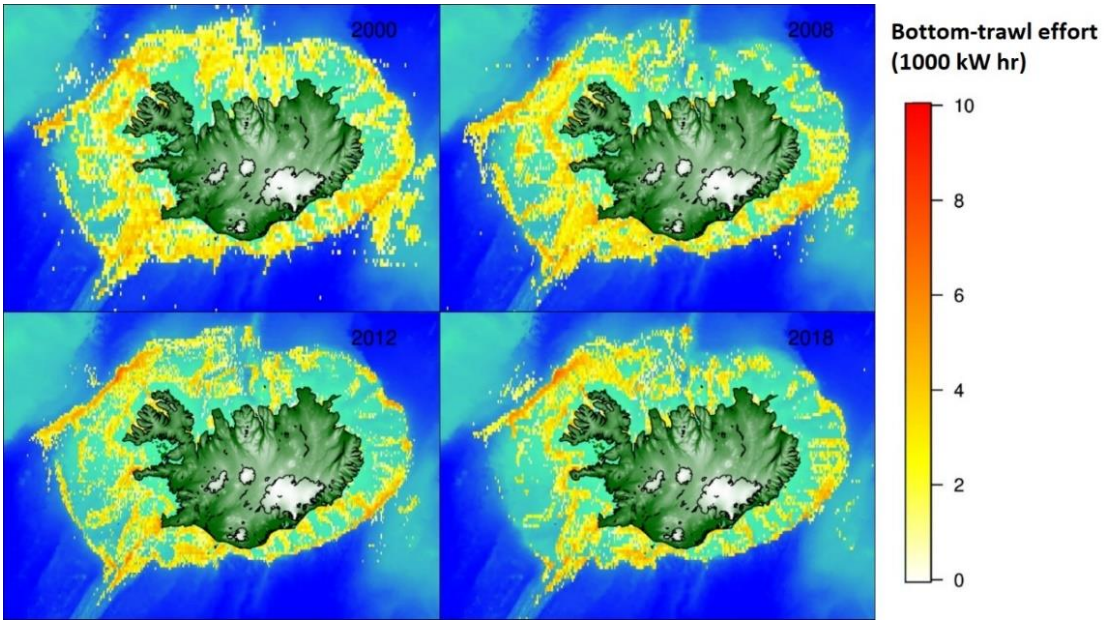

Figure 4. Spatial distribution of bottom-trawl effort (1,000 kW hr) based on logbooks from trawl fishery targeting demersal fish, shrimp, and Norway lobster in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018 (Source: ICES, 2020[12]).

[11] MFRI 2020. Vistkerfi Sjávar Og Áhrifaþættir (Ecosystem Overview) *in* State of Marine Stocks and Advice 2020: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/files/2020-sidur/00c-vistkerfi.pdf.

[12] ICES. 2020. Icelandic Waters ecoregion –Ecosystem overview. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, Section 11.1, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7633.

Further the Regulation 165/2020, implemented 13 new closed areas specifically intended to decrease marine mammal bycatch in the lumpfish fisheries, however this regulations are focus on this fishery and it is not directly relevant for the UoAs herein, these closed areas can benefit the protection of marine mammals in Icelandic waters. Of these 13 new closed areas, 1 (the largest) which was specifically expanded at the request of MFRI is situated where some lemon sole fishing grounds are located, however, the lemon sole fishery has no impact on those areas and fishing activities aimed at lemon sole are still permitted in those areas.

The figure below shows the fishing grounds by gear type. The gear types defined in this assessment are represented in the figure.

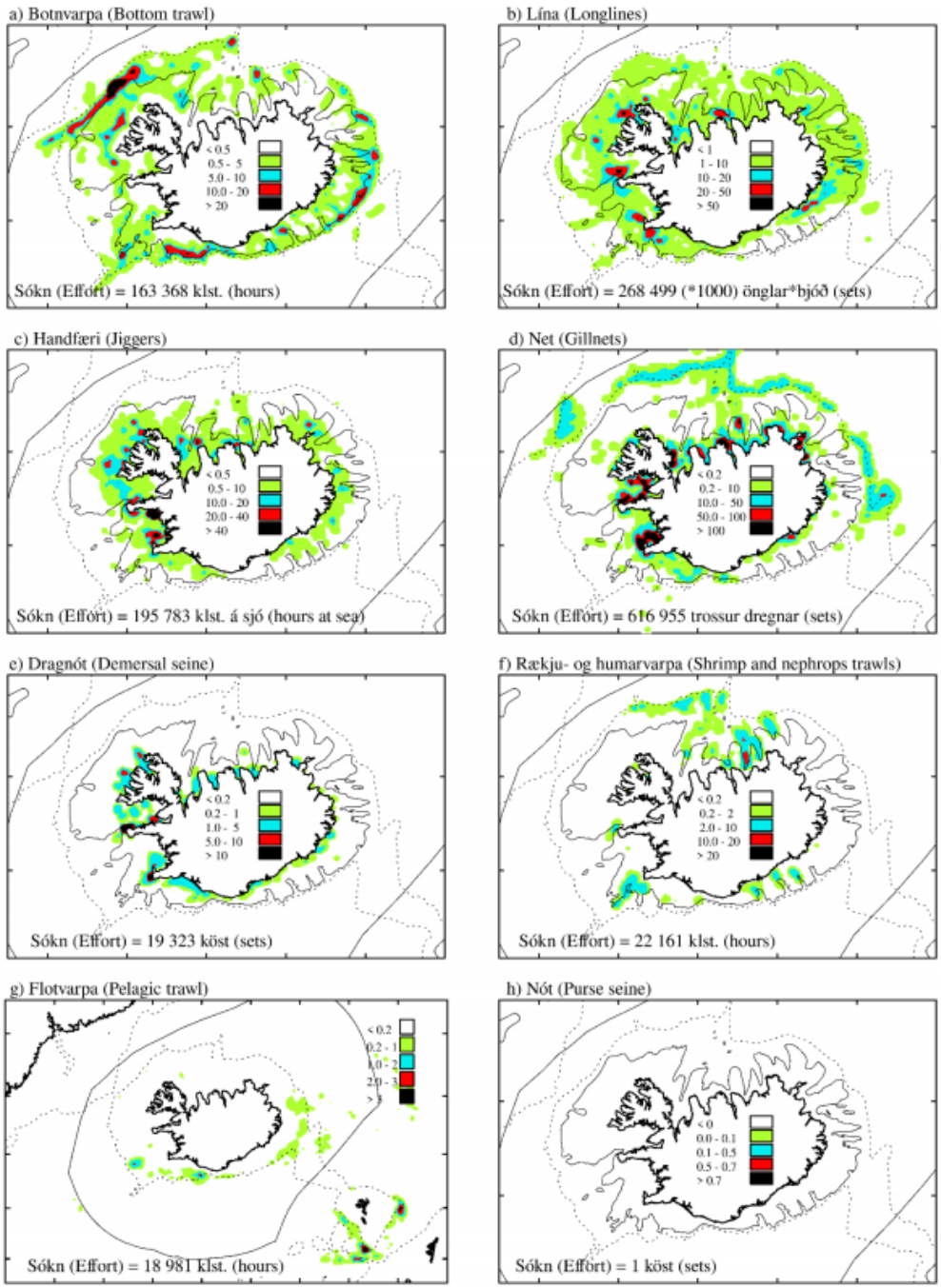

Figure 5. Effort of the Icelandic fishing fleet in Icelandic waters in 2019. (a) bottom trawl, (b) longline, (c) jiggers, (d) gillnets (including lumpfish nets), (e) demersal seine, (f) shrimp and Nephrops trawls, (g) pelagic trawl, and (h) purse seine. Source: State of Marine Stocks and Advice 2020

Finally, according to the client group representatives, gear manufacturers continue to work to make fishing gears more efficient in a bid to further increase CPUE.

Regarding key elements of the eecosystem, the assessment team was said during the site visit with the stakeholders that there are no main changes in ecosystem researches or information that could affect the scores done in the full-assessment or previous surveillance.

4.2.5 Principle 3 update

4.2.5.1 Relevant changes to Legislation and Regulations

Main regulations in fisheries has been reported previously in, however, here were no changes to the legislation and regulations that governs the ISF Iceland Lemon Sole Fishery and affect P3 scores from full assessment or previous surveillance.

The main regulations that could affect has been mentioned above is that the Fisheries Directorate developed a smartphone app to facilitate reporting of catches including non-target species and ETP. This should assist smaller vessels currently using paper logbooks. The app is ready, but there are no results yet as fishing season start in spring. Further, it won't affect vessels included in these UoAs.

4.2.5.2 Monitoring, control, and enforcement

Surveillance is undertaken by the Fisheries Directorate (Inspectors accompany vessels at sea and perform inspections at the quayside) and by the Icelandic Coast Guard (remote surveillance and vessel boardings at sea). The Fisheries Directorate publish a comprehensive summary of suspected offenses recorded during maritime surveillance and the enforcement action subsequently taken in their Annual Report. The Icelandic Coast Guard also provided a comprehensive information to the Assessment Team on surveillance undertaken and infringements detected. Due to COVID-19 the surveillance activities have been affected and not all of them could have been completed as expected. The assessment team was informed by the Coast Guard of the followed limitations they had due to the pandemic.

- By beginning of March, severe restrictions on direct interactions between people were imposed. This restricted surveillance possibilities on board vessels for Maritime Surveillance and Control organisations such as the Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG).
- These restrictions were imposed by Directorate of Health (Chief Epidemiologist) in Iceland to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus.
- These restrictions were lessened for a while during the summer, but for the majority of the year there were restrictions imposed.
- To meet the situation the ICG patrol vessels increased their visibility, using their boats to monitor the fisheries close to the fishing vessels.
- Despite the efforts made by ICG the pandemic had its impact. Fewer inspections and boarding of vessels result in less measuring of fish, which shows in few Short Time Closures in 2020 and none based on Fisheries inspections by ICG.
- The effects are very visible in this report of ICG Fisheries surveillance for 2020.

Last annual report and the results of the monitoring, control and surveillance are presented below reflecting the major issues caused by the pandemic clearly.

The number of inspections undertaken by the Coastguard was slightly lower than in previous years, but aerial surveillance has been closer to average (see figures below: Figure 5, Figure 6, Figure 7).

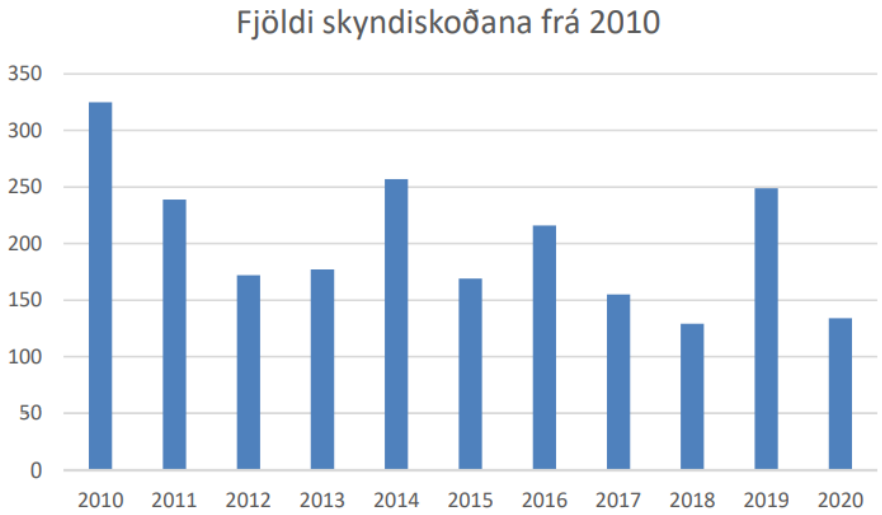

Figure 6. Number of inspections by the Coast Guard from 2005 (Source: Coast Guard presentation provided to the assessment team on site visit at Surveillance 2).

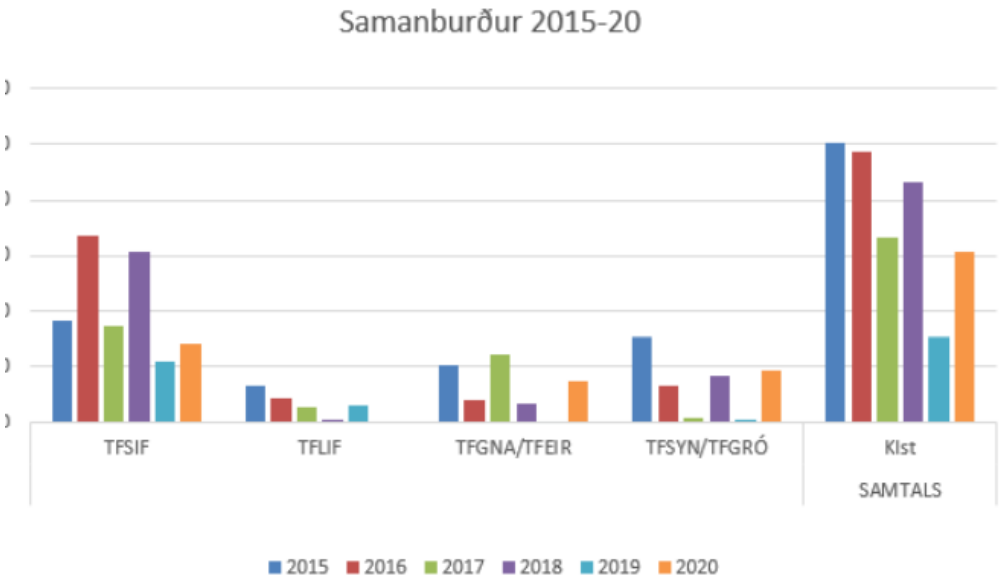

Figure 7. Air surveillance 2015-2020. The final column (Samtals) shows total hours air surveillance flown, whilst the other columns show hours by individual aircraft (Source: Coast Guard presentation provided to the assessment team on site visit at Surveillance 2).

A total of 9 infringements were detected by the Icelandic Coast Guard in 2020. The most frequently occurring relate to fisheries were manning of vessels which have decreased from last year and fishing in closed areas or with the wrong mesh sizes which have increased from 2019 data. Although numbers are still relatively low and 2020 is less representative than previous year due to the pandemic (Figure 8). Otherwise infringements detected have stayed level or decreased on previous years.

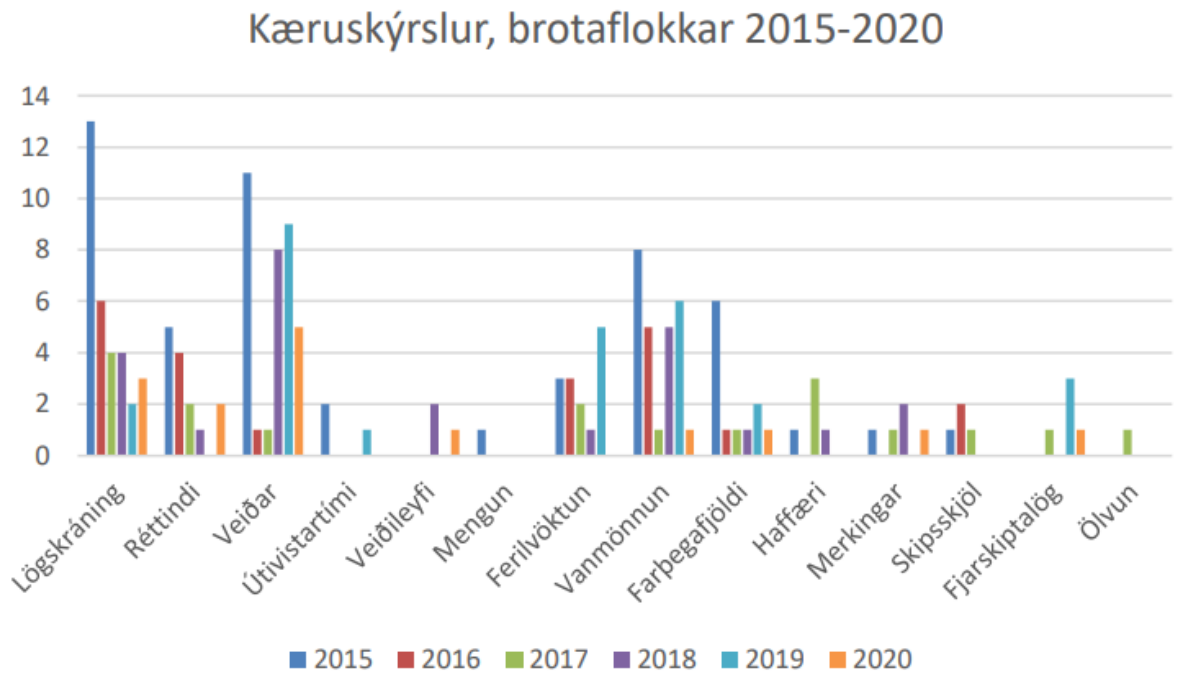

Figure 8. Infringements detected by number during Coast Guard inspections in 2015-2020; Lögskráningar – Manning list (registration of crew), Réttindi – License (e.g. Captain's license), Veiðar – Fishing (e.g. fishing in closed areas, using wrong mesh size), Útivistartími – Time limits (some vessels have restricted time per day for fishing), Veiðileyfi – Fishing permit, Mengun – Pollution, Ferilvöktun – VMS, Vanmönnun – Manning (minimum number of crew required), Farþegafjöldi – Passengers, Haffæri – Sea worthiness, Merkingar – Marking, Skipsskjöl – Ship's papers, Fjarskiptalög – Communications, Ölvun - intoxication (Source: presentation provided to the assessment team by the Coast Guard at Surveillance 2).

To conclude, inspections by ICG in 2020 did not lead to short term closures. Due to COVID-19 pandemic fewer inspections have been done. Last year measures by ICG led to 4 short term closures and the total number of Short-Term Closures in 2020 were 10 comparing with 2019 where the total number was 50.Therefore, surveillance in 2020 was challenging because of the pandemic. By early March 2020, restrictions on direct interactions between people, imposed by Directorate of Health (Chief Epidemiologist) in Iceland to prevent the spread of COVID 19, severely curtailed onboard surveillance activities by Maritime Surveillance and Control organisations such as the Icelandic Coast Guard. While these restrictions were relaxed during summer 2020 as Covid-19 levels in Iceland fell, there were at least some level of restrictions in place for most of the year.

To mitigate the situation the Coast Guard patrol vessels increased their visibility, using their boats to monitor the fisheries close to the fishing vessels; however as discussed above, in spite of these mitigation efforts, the pandemic did have an impact with fewer inspections and boardings resulting in less measuring of fish, which showed in relatively few short time closures in 2020 and none based on Coast Guard inspections. Overall, the effects are visible in the data provided by the Coast Guard showing surveillance activities and outcomes in 2020 (Figure 6Figure 7 Figure 8).

4.2.1 Client Group and Traceability Update

Considered in this section are any developments or changes within the fishery with the potential to impact traceability or the ability to segregate fish from the Units of Certification (UoCs) from fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish).

There are no changes within the client group (ISF) beyond the addition of a number of additional certificate sharers. At the time of the surveillance audit there 62 ISF 'shareholders' with full access and 4 with 'lesser' access where 'lesser' access can be shared by parent companies with their subsidiaries for a reduced fee.

Beyond this there have been no changes that would affect traceability and ability to segregate MSC and non-MSC products. ISF continues to try and reduce what risks do exist by adding additional allowable (i.e. certified) gears and client group members where possible.

4.2.2 MSC Covid Derogation 6[13]

While not unique to the fishery being assessed, MSC's Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension is of such relevance to this assessment so as to warrant inclusion here.

Th derogation became effective date on 28 March 2021 and applies to any fishery was certified before 28 March 2021 (which this fishery was) with the objective of extending existing deadlines on eligible conditions by 12 months, and providing a reprieve to fishery certificate holders that have the potential to face exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries management systems. 'Eligible' conditions in this case are conditions raised against a specified list of Performance Indicators (PIs) as outlined in the derogation and CABs can only apply the derogation to conditions set against those PIs.

For certified fisheries such as this, CAB are required to apply the derogation at the publication of the next surveillance audit report after 28 March 2021; therefore, as this is the case here, the derogation has been applied as part of this assessment.

In practice, and having confirmed that those conditions are indeed eligible, Global Trust has extended condition deadlines for all 'eligible' conditions by 12 months; thereafter, Global Trust has revised condition milestones to account for the extended deadline by simply moving all associated milestones by 12 months.

As condition milestones and deadlines had been revised, Global Trust allowed the client (ISF) additional time to revise the relevant client action plans, where necessary.

Condition eligibility, extended condition deadlines and revised condition milestones have clearly been reported in this Surveillance Report (see in particular 5.3 Conditions). Wherever it has been applied, the derogation is specifically referenced.

To ensure that the non-eligible condition on PI 2.3.1 remained aligned with associated conditions on PIs 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 extended under derogation 6, Global Trust also sought and was granted a variation request to be allowed additionally extend the condition on PI 2.3.1; this is explained in further detail in 5.3 Conditions and the Variation Request as well as MSC's acceptance are included in full in 6.5. Relevant Variation Requests.

See Appendix 1 for more information or go to MSC portal (link below).

[13] https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/Derogation-6-Covid-19-Fishery-Conditions-Extension

4.3 Version details

The versions of the MSC fisheries program documents used for this assessment are outlined in Table 6 below.

Table 6. MSC Scheme Documents and Report Templates used during this assessment.

Document	Version Number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) (and Guidance)	2.2
MSC Fisheries Standard (and Guidance)	2.01
MSC General Certification Requirements (GCR)	2.4.1
MSC Reporting Template	2.1
Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension	1.0

5 Results

5.1 Surveillance results overview

5.1.1 Summary of conditions

The table below (Table 7) shows the conditions that remain open at the third surveillance audit and what the focus of the surveillance is. For further details 5.3 Conditions

Table 7. Summary of surveillance findings.

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator	Status	Unit of Certification	PI original score*	PI revised score
1	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years	1.2.2	On target	Bottom trawl:	75	75
				Nephrops trawl:	75	75
				Danish seine:	75	75
2	By the fourth surveillance audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.	2.3.2	On target	Bottom trawl:	75	75
				Nephrops trawl:	75	75
				Danish seine:	75	75
3	By the fourth surveillance audit necessary conservation and management measures for all vulnerable marine habitats shall be in place and implemented, such that the trawl fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, on a regional or bioregional basis, and function. This condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk and the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice fisheries.	2.4.1	Close at SURV 1 (only bottom trawl)	Bottom trawl:	75	80*
				Nephrops trawl:	80	80
				Danish seine:	85	85
4	By the fourth surveillance audit necessary conservation and management measures for deep-sea sponge aggregation and coral gardens shall be in place and implemented, such that there is a partial strategy in place and implemented for these habitat types specifically, ensuring that the bottom and Nephrops trawl fisheries do not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure and function in Icelandic waters. This strategy will include, where necessary, appropriate formalised move-on measures to avoid interactions with ALL forms of VMEs. With regard to the bottom trawl UoA, this condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk, and the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice fisheries. With regards to Nephrops UoA, this condition is harmonised with that for ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod and ISF Greenland halibut fisheries	2.4.2	Close at SURV 1 (Bottom & Nephrops trawl)	Bottom trawl:	70	80*
				Nephrops trawl:	70	80*
				Danish seine:	80	80

5.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

Table 8 below represents a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) table for the UoAs as a whole and for each UoC (i.e. fishing gear) separately. In each case the data presented are the latest available and are based on the Icelandic fishing/quota year which runs from 01 September to 31 August.

Table 8. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data (Data from: http://www.fiskistofa.is/veidar/aflaupplysingar/yfirlit-sidasta-fiskveidiars/arlegaflahefti/).

TAC			Year	2019/2020	Amount	1,341 t
UoA share of TAC			Year	2019/2020	Amount	1,341 t
UoA share of total TAC			Year	2019/2020	Amount	1,095 t
Total green weight catch by UoC	UoA 1	Bottom Trawl	Year (most recent)	2019/2020	Amount	418 t
			Year (second most recent)	2018/2019	Amount	407 t
	UoA 2	Nephrops Trawl	Year (most recent)	2019/2020	Amount	16 t
			Year (second most recent)	2018/2019	Amount	12 t
	UoA 3	Danish Seine	Year (most recent)	2019/2020	Amount	656 t
			Year (second most recent)	2018/2019	Amount	586 t

5.1.3 Recommendations

There is no new recommendations for this surveillance audit.

5.2 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Included in this section are scoring tables for any Performance Indicators (PIs) that required re-scoring during this audit. The scoring tables used are those from the version of the MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template used during the initial assessment and the 'original' rationales are those current entering this surveillance audit. In addition, to allow readers to track the development of rationales through time, and even where this would not have been this assessment team's preference, the tables have been structured as they were in the latest Public Certification Report (e.g. with all UoAs combined into one scoring table). To understand the development of rationales through the course of this certification cycle, readers should read this surveillance audit report in conjunction with the latest re-assessment report and previous surveillance audit reports.

Within the scoring tables rationales are identified as follows:

1. Original rationales entering this surveillance audit that remain relevant are in **black**.
2. Original rationales entering this surveillance audit that are no longer relevant are ~~struckthrough and greyed out~~.
3. Rationales revised during this surveillance audit are in **blue**.

5.2.1 Principle 2

5.2.1.1 PI 2.2.1 – Secondary species outcome

PI 2.2.1		The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Main secondary species stock status**			
	Guide post	Main secondary species are **likely** to be above biologically based limits. OR If below biologically based limits, there are **measures** in place expected to ensure that the UoA does not hinder recovery and rebuilding.	Main secondary species are **highly likely** to be above biologically based limits. OR If below biologically based limits, there is either **evidence of recovery** or a **demonstrably effective partial strategy** in place such that the UoA does not hinder recovery and rebuilding. AND Where catches of a main secondary species outside of biological limits are **considerable**, there is either **evidence of recovery** or a, **demonstrably effective strategy in place between those MSC UoAs that have considerable catches of the species**, to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding.	There is a **high degree of certainty** that main secondary species are above biologically based limits.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine NA

Rationale

Introductory note

The SG60 and SG80 for this scoring issue are multi-part in nature and can be broken down into 2 and 4 questions respectively as follows:

- SG60:
  1. Are main secondary species likely (>60th %ile) to be above biologically based limits?
  2. If below biologically based limits, are there measures in place that are expected to ensure that the UoA does not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of the Main secondary species being assessed?
- SG80:
  1. Are main secondary species highly likely (>70th %ile) to be above biologically based limits.
  2. If below biologically based limits, is there evidence of recovery?
  3. If below biologically based limits and no evidence of recovery, is a demonstrably effective partial strategy in place such that the UoA does not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of the Main secondary species being assessed?
     a. And, where catches of the main secondary species outside of biological limits are considerable, is there a demonstrably effective strategy in place between those MSC UoAs that have considerable catches of the species, to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding?

The SG100 on the other hand is simple and only stipulates one question, is there is a high degree of certainty (>70th %ile) that the main secondary species being assessed is above biologically based limits.

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

Given the above, assessing this scoring issue requires a stepwise approach which the assessment team has endeavoured to replicate in the structure of the below rationales.

Data on catches of secondary finfish and shark species was available for all gears, and data on out of scope secondary seabird and marine mammal species from on-board observations was available for all UoAs. In total, approximately 143 vessels catch lemon sole as bycatch in other demersal targeted fisheries (ISF, pers. comm.). There are approximately 15 bottom trawl vessels (ISF, pers. comm.), 45 Danish seine vessels (DF, pers. comm.) and the remainder nephrops trawl that land lemon sole. Lemon sole landings are limited to the Icelandic EEZ.

However, interactions with seabirds and mammals are rare, the assessment team for the second surveillance audit, clarifies that all the seabirds species have been moved to ETPs. Seabirds do not meet the MSC criteria to be classified as secondary species and due to harmonisation activities, the Northern gannet have been moved to ETPs tables.

Danish seine

Danish seine is operated very close to the bottom and the opening of the nets is closed before it is hauled to the surface; this makes interaction with marine mammals and seabirds very rare (DF, pers. comm). There are no significant interactions recorded between Danish seine with out-of-scope species, and any such interactions are therefore considered negligible. All other secondary species are minor (see SI2.2.1b). Because there are no main secondary species for Danish seine, scoring issue (a) is not used. Each element (minor species) is assessed against scoring issue (b).

Bottom trawl and nephrops trawl

There are no secondary species of finfish or shark which are main species for bottom and nephrops trawl.

The following out-of-scope species are main secondary species which may have interactions with the UoAs considered in this assessment: ~~northern gannet,~~ harbour seal and grey seal.

~~**Northern gannet:** The northern gannet is found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean; breeding sites include northern France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Norway and the eastern tip Quebec (Canada) (del Hoyo et al. 1992). The Icelandic population was estimated to number 31,500 breeding pairs (63,000 in total) in 2005-2008 (Arnthór Garðarsson. 2008a, cited in Birdlife International, 2015). This strictly marine species wanders mostly over continental shelves, feeding on shoaling pelagic fish which are mostly caught by plunge-diving from great heights. It also follows trawlers and will form large congregations where food is plentiful. Breeding is highly seasonal starting between March and April, usually in large colonies on cliffs and offshore islands, but also sometimes on the mainland. Both short and long term population trends for this species have been estimated to be increasing in Iceland, and the species was recently given an IUCN status of 'Least Concern' in Europe (see status on http://www.iucnredlist.org/). The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the IUCN red list population trend criterion (>30% decline over ten years or three generations). The population size is very large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the IUCN red list population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations) (BirdLife International, 2016). The estimated extent of northern gannet population occurance is 41700000 km2 (BirdLife International, 2016). Global population size is c. 1,500,000-1,800,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International, 2016), of which 31,500 pairs are estimated to breed in Iceland (Arnthór Garðarsson. 2008a, cited in Birdlife International, 2015). According to the most recent bycatch estimates available from the MFRI, demersal otter trawl (including bottom trawl and Nephrops trawl) account for a maximum of 45 northern gannet deaths a year (see Table 3-13). Based on the estimated Icelandic population size of 63,000 individuals, an average annual catch of northern gannets caught as bycatch within bottom trawl and nephrops trawl would account for only 0.07% of the total estimated Icelandic population per year. Gillnets equate to 292 northern gannets per year, and long line 207 deaths per year, which combines with bottom and nephrops trawl to account for 0.79% of the population. Increasing population trends indicate that the species is highly likely to be above biologically based limits, and the limited interaction, both for bottom trawl and Nephrops trawl, together with cumulative impacts from other gears, are highly unlikely to have a significant effect on the population size. SG 80 is met for both bottom trawl and nephrops trawl. SG 100 is not met since based on the available information it cannot be concluded that there is a high degree of certainty that this species is above biologically based limits.~~

Harbour seal: ~~Harbour seals are one of the most widespread of the pinnipeds. They are found throughout coastal waters of the northern hemisphere, from temperate to polar regions. Available data show that the Eastern Atlantic harbour seal population is relatively large and widespread. A decline in numbers has recently occurred or is still occurring in some areas (e.g., Shetland~~

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

~~and Orkney Islands, Firth of Tay), but in other parts of the range numbers are thought to be stable or increasing (Baltic Sea, southern Scandinavia). As a result, the Eastern Atlantic harbour seal does not meet any of the IUCN criteria for 'threatened' categories and is listed as 'Least Concern' (Bowen, 2016). However, despite the species' potential for long-distance movements, harbour seals are known to be regionally philopatric on a scale of several hundred kilometres. Studies of the *Phoca vitulina* population structure have shown that there are in fact a number of distinct population units in the North Atlantic, including a distinct population in Iceland (Stanley et al. 1996; Goodman, 1998; Andersen and Olsen, 2010; Andersen et al., 2011). A census of the Icelandic harbour seal population carried out in 2016 indicated a continuing decline in the harbour seal population. The estimated population size (7652 individuals) was 77% smaller than when first estimated in 1980, and 32% smaller than in 2011, when the last complete population census was undertaken (Figure 3-20). In addition, the estimate was 36% lower than a government issued management objective for the minimum population size of harbour seals in Iceland. The study concluded that based on criteria used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the conservation status of the Icelandic population should be considered as 'Endangered'. The reasons for the observed population decline are poorly understood, but the most likely factors contributing to the downward population trend are likely to be by-catch (in static net fisheries) as well as direct hunting, which still takes place in Iceland (Þorbjörnsson, 2017).~~

~~The Icelandic Government management objective for minimum population size of harbour seal is 12,000 individuals (NAMMCO, 2006). Management actions include regular census of harbour seals in Icelandic waters. The latest census in 2016 showed decline in numbers to levels below the management objective for minimum population size (Hauksson et al., 2017). Current management is predominately related to gears that pose a higher risk to harbour seal, namely set nets and include restrictions in gear used in different areas and areal closures. Further management actions are currently being considered and implemented within Icelandic set net fisheries e.g. as required by MSC certificate conditions for a number of Icelandic set net fisheries. Increased monitoring of the population will create an important foundation for an improved management plan for the Icelandic population (MFRI, 2018). Presently, MFRI are working towards building population models to test whether the current level of bycatch and hunting can account for the reported population decline (MFRI, 2018).~~

~~Based on the most recent MFRI data available (2014-2016), bottom trawl (including Nephrops trawl) account for a maximum of 28 harbour seal deaths per year (see Table 3-14), which would account for 0.4% of the total estimated Icelandic population per year. This percentage of bycatch is unlikely to be of concern. The MFRI observer surveys and skipper recordings of marine mammal interactions within the eLog system allow the level of interaction between gears and this species to be understood. These data recording systems are considered a partial strategy to monitor the level of interactions and demonstrates that the bottom trawl and nephrops trawl gears do not hinder the recover or rebuilding of harbour seals. MFRI consider the interaction between bottom trawl and nephrops trawl with harbour seals negligible (MFRI, pers. Comm.). It is considered very unlikely that seals will come into the trawl based on the operational depth of the trawls, which are sunk to at least 15m (ISF, pers. comm.).~~

~~Overall, the team consider that SG 80 is met. As the harbour seal population is not considered to be above biologically based limits, SG100 is not met.~~

Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*; ISL: Landselur)

Harbour seals were correctly identify in the PCR for this assessment, so no actions have been required for the species. However, based on the harmonisation activities described in section 6.4 Harmonised fishery assessments the below rationale has been drafted for the species and included in all ISF Iceland demersal fisheries listed in the harmonisation section to be consistent among all the surveillance reports. Following the introductory notes the rationale has been structure as follows to make easier the understanding of the overall outcome.

SG60:

1. Are harbour seals likely to be above biologically based limits?

The latest available estimate for the Icelandic population of harbour seals, from the 2018 harbour seal census, is 9,434 animals (95% CI = 6,149 – 12,726). While approx. 72% smaller than the 1980 estimate, this 2018 estimate represents a 23% increase over the previous (2016) estimate. Most of the observed decrease in the population occurred between the years 1980 and 1989 which was coincidental with a bounty system being in place. In the period 2011 – 2018, no significant trend in population size was detected, indicating that the population currently seems to fluctuate around a stable minimum stock level.

There is a management limit in place for this species, introduced by the Icelandic authorities in 2006, which is based on maintaining the harbour seal population at or above 12,000 animals (NAMMCO 2006); for the sake of scoring this limit can be

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

considered to be 'biologically based' as it functions to maintain a Minimum Viable Population (MVP). Based on the 2018 census, there is a 94% chance that the population is below the current management threshold.
As the harbour seal population is currently below its management limit, it cannot be said that harbour seals are likely to be above biologically based limits.

With this being the case, consideration must move to whether there are measures in place that are expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals.

2. Are there measures in place that are expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals?
In MSC (ref. MSC FCP v2.2 §Table SA8: Principle 2 Phrases) "measures" are actions or tools in place that either explicitly manage impacts on the component or indirectly contribute to management of the component under assessment having been designed to manage impacts elsewhere.

Despite not being designed to do so, the management measures in place in the fisheries (TACs, restrictions on trawling areas etc.) do serve to limit the impacts of the trawling UoAs on harbour seals as evidenced by the extremely low number of estimated annual removals. Based on MFRI estimates, estimated annual bycatches of harbour seal in in trawls (average 2014 – 2018) are 17 animals annually which must be considered against the backdrop of estimated removals of 1,625 (1,381 – 1,869) individuals annually in the lumpfish gillnet fishery and a population of approx. 9,434 animals (6,149 – 12,726); therefore, the measures in place are expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals.

SG60 Summary:
Based on there being no declining trend in recent years (2006 – 2018) and potentially a slight (11.04%) increase between the 2016 and 2018 censuses, the harbour seal population appears to be recovering, or at least not declining further. This coupled with comparatively low estimated removals, provides the assessment team with sufficient confidence to conclude that the management measures currently in place are expected to ensure that the gillnet and trawl UoAs do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals; therefore, **SG60 is met for harbour seals.**

With SG60 being met, we move on to assess harbour seals at the SG80 level.

SG80:
1. Are harbour seals highly likely to be above biologically based limits?
The rationale for SG60 applies again here. In brief, the latest available estimate for the Icelandic population of harbour seals is 9,434 animals (95% CI = 6,149 – 12,726) whereas the corresponding management limit is 12,000 animals. As the harbour seal population is currently below its management limit, it cannot be said that harbour seals are highly likely to be above biologically based limits. With this being the case, consideration must firstly move to whether there is evidence of recovery?

2. Is there evidence of recovery?
The fact that the population is estimated to have increased 11.04% between the last two censuses in 2016 and 2018 is not considered by the assessment team to in-and-of-itself constitute 'evidence of recovery'. When the totality of the available data on the harbour seal population are considered, over the ≈40 years for which such records are available, there was a period of decline (1980 – 2006) and a period of relative stability (2006 – 2018). If the observed population growth rate of 11.04% between 2016 and 2018 continues to be realised, the population should reach the management objective of 12,000 animals by 2021. While, the 2020 harbour seal census should provide a valuable update on whether the population is truly 'recovering', the report is not yet available such that to date the team do not consider there to be sufficient evidence of recovery to justify a score of SG80 for harbour seals on that basis.

With harbour seals not being highly likely to be above biologically based limits, and with there being insufficient evidence of recovery, the next question is whether a demonstrably effective partial strategy is in place such that the UoAs does not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals.

3. Is a demonstrably effective partial strategy/strategy in place?
Here again the MSC provides a specific definition of a "partial strategy", where a partial strategy represents a cohesive arrangement which may comprise one or more measures, an understanding of how it/they work to achieve an outcome and

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

an awareness of the need to change the measures should they cease to be effective. It may not have been designed to manage the impact on that component specifically.
Despite not being designed to do so, the management measures in place for trawls (e.g. TACs for target species, temporal restrictions on fishing areas, restrictions on the number and length of net etc.) serve to limit impacts on harbour seals. Additionally, while not directly relevant to the UoAs, other recent developments implemented in an attempt to return the harbour population to acceptable levels include a ban (with some exceptions) on seal hunting in Iceland (Regulation 1100/2019), the introduction of 13 new closed areas in the lumpfish fishery (Regulation 165/2020) and MFRI having further advised that attempts to minimise anthropogenic disturbance of harbour seal colonies (e.g. by seal watching) are initiated. A further change as of Regulation 165/2020 that has the potential to indirectly benefit marine mammals is a reduction in the tending time for lumpfish gear from every 4 days to every 3 days which may limit the total number of nets some fishers are able to fish thereby reducing effort. Given all that is being done to address the 'depleted' status of the harbour seal population in Iceland and the the low number of estimated removals by trawls (approx. 17 individuals annually), the assessment team is satisfied that there is a demonstrably effective partial strategy in place such that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals.

The last part of the SG80 scoring guidepost requires MSC UoAs that have considerable catches of a particular main secondary species to have a demonstrably effective strategy in place between them MSC to ensure that they collectively do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of the species.

Here assessment teams are only required to consider only the impacts of those MSC UoAs with 'considerable catches' where considerable catches are those where the main secondary species comprises more than 10% of the catch by weight of the UoA. Given that total catches by trawls are in the tens of thousands of metric tonnes annually, bycatches of harbour seals do not comprise >10% of the catch by weight of the gillnet or trawl UoAs and as such are not 'considerable'; therefore, the last part of the SG80 scoring guidepost is not applicable.

SG80 Summary:
Overall, based on the currently available information, harbour seals are not likely to be above biologically based limits and there is not sufficient evidence of recovery to justify a score of SG80 on that basis; however, there is a demonstrably effective partial strategy in place such that the UoAs do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals such that **SG80 is met for harbour seals.**

SG100:
The SG100 for scoring issue A only asks whether there is a high degree of certainty (>70th %ile) that the main secondary species being assessed is above biologically based limits. As discussed in the rationales for SG60 and SG80 above, harbour seals are currently considered to be below their management limit; therefore, **SG100 is not met for harbour seals**.
seals.

~~**Grey seal:** Grey seals have a sub-Arctic to cold temperate distribution in over the continental shelf in North Atlantic waters (Hall, 2002). Grey seals' diet varies by location, though they are largely benthic feeders, which in many areas primarily feed on sandeels found in sandy or gravelly benthic habitats (McConnell et al. 1999; Hall, 2002). There are three populations isolated both geographically and by timing of reproduction: (i) the western Atlantic population (centered in northeastern North America); (ii) the eastern Atlantic population, which is concentrated around the coast of the United Kingdom and Ireland but also includes breeding colonies in Iceland, the Faroe Islands and along the mainland coast of northern Europe as far south as Brittany in France (iii) the Baltic Sea. The Icelandic population has been estimated at 4,100 individuals (MFRI, G. Sigurðsson, pers. Communication). Grey seal numbers are known to have increased strongly in recent years (including the northeast Atlantic population which is found in Iceland) as a result of measures to protect this species (Klimova et al., 2014). Based on the overall increasing population trends, this species is classified as 'Least Concern' by IUCN (European Mammal Assessment team, 2007).~~

~~The Icelandic Government management objective for minimum population size of grey seal is 4,100 individuals (NAMMCO, 2006). Management actions include regular census of grey seals in Icelandic waters. The latest census in 2012 showed decline in numbers to levels of 4,200 in 2012 (from 10,000 in 1982), and recent estimates from MFRI indicate population size of 4,100. Therefore, the grey seal population is now close to or at the recommended number. Currently actions are focused on increased monitoring of the population to create a foundation for an improved management plan for the Icelandic population (MFRI,~~

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

~~2018). The most recent MFRI data available (2014-2016), bottom trawl (including Nephrops trawl) account for a maximum of 22 grey seal deaths per year (see Table 3-14), which accounts for 0.5% of the total estimated annual number of grey seals which visit Icelandic waters to feed. This percentage of bycatch is unlikely to be of concern. The MFRI observer surveys and skipper recordings of marine mammal interactions within the eLog system allow the level of interaction between gears and this species to be understood. These data recording systems are considered a partial strategy to monitor the level of interactions and demonstrates that the bottom trawl and nephrops trawl gears do not hinder the recover or rebuilding of grey seals. MFRI consider the interaction between bottom trawl and nephrops trawl with grey seals negligible (MFRI, pers. Comm.).~~

~~Overall, the team consider that SG 80 is met. As the grey seal population is not considered to be above biologically based limits, SG100 is not met.~~

Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus; ISL: Útselur)

Based on the harmonisation activities described in section 6.4.1 Harmonisation activities, grey seals have been added as a scoring element relevant to UoA 1. Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl. No interactions have been reported by Danish seine.

The most recent abundance (2017) estimate for grey seals is 6,300 animals (95% CI = 5,400 – 7,200) or 32% less than when the population size was first estimated in 1982. While abundance increased between 2012 and 2017, the 2012 population was estimated to be around 4,200 animals (95% CI = 3,400 – 5,000), no statistical significance was detected. In 2004, the Icelandic Government developed a specific management objective for the Icelandic grey seal population, which aims to maintain the population above 4,100 animals; this represents a biologically-based limit (based on maintaining a minimum viable population (MVP)) for this species.

In the case of this performance indicator (PI 2.2.1); 'Likely' = >60th %ile; 'Highly likely' = >70th %ile, and; 'High degree of certainty' = >80th %ile. As discussed previously the current (2017) estimate for this species is 6,300 animals (95% CI = 5,400 – 7,200). Therefore, given that lower 95% confidence interval for the population (5,400 animals) is currently estimated to be above the management objective/limit (4,200 animal), it can be said that grey seals are highly likely to be above their biologically based limits; **SG60 and SG80 are met for grey seals**.

While grey seals are above their management limit, there is significant uncertainty related to these estimates such that despite the lower 95% confidence interval for the population (5,400 animals) being above the management limit (4,200 animal), the assessment team do not consider there to be a high degree of certainty that grey seals are above biologically based limits; **SG100 is not met for grey seals**.

b	**Minor secondary species stock status**				
	Guide post			Minor secondary species are highly likely to be above biologically based limits. OR If below biologically based limits', there is evidence that the UoA does not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of secondary species	
	Met?			UoA 1 Bottom trawl UoA 2 Nephrops trawl UoA 3 Danish seine	No No No

Rationale

The status of the minor secondary species is not certain (see Table 3-11 for list of secondary species). The only evidence is the low level of landings. This is not sufficient to demonstrate whether minor secondary species are above any biologically based limits. No ecological risk assessment has been undertaken. There is evidence that Atlantic halibut has been reduced below biologically based limits (its PRI), but that the stock has been recovering over the last few years. There is a prohibition on

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit

retaining viable halibut and landings have been very low. Because the abundance indices suggest that the stock has been increasing, the current fisheries are not preventing stock recovery.

Each element (minor species) is assessed against scoring issue b. If it does not meet SG100, it is treated as though it still meets SG80 (which is blank), which is automatically met by virtue of being a minor species. Although there is evidence that Atlantic halibut meets SG100, the status of the other minor secondary species cannot be determined, so SG100 is not met for all gears.

References

BirdLife International 2015; BirdLife International, 2016; Boveng, 2016; del Hoyo et al. 1992; European Mammal Assessment team 2007; Gilles et al. 2011; Hauksson et al., 2017; Frost and Lowry 1981; Hagemeijer and Blair 1997; Hall 2002; Hammill et al. 2014; ICES 2013; Kelly 1988; Klimova et al. 2014; Kovacs, 2015; NAMMCO, 2006; MFRI, 2018; MFRI, 2018; Ólafsdóttir et al. 2002; Sigurjónsson and Víkingsson 1997; Stenson 2003; Þorbjörnsson, 2017; Rice 1998.

- Bjørge, A., and Øien, N. (1999). Statusrapport for Havforskningsinstituttets overvåkning av kystsel (*in Norweigan*).
- Regulation No. 1100/2019. Regulation on hunting of seals (*in Icelandic*): https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=98fc730b-d3a3-40a5-a279-e3ae19c5e6a8
- Regulation 165/2020 on lumpfish fishing in 2020(*in Icelandic*): https://www.reglugerd.is/reglugerdir/eftir-raduneytum/atvinnuvega--og-nyskopunarraduneyti/nr/21836
- Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Population estimate, trends and current status of the Icelandic harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) population in 2018. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-36: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/hv2019-361145062.pdf.
- MFRI, 2019. Bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals - Lumpsucker gillnets (*in Icelandic*): https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/medafli-fugla-og-spendyra-i-grasleppuveidum1158397.pdf
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission and the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. (2019). Report of Joint IMR/NAMMCO International Workshop on the Status of Harbour Porpoises in the North Atlantic. Tromsø, Norway: https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/final-report_hpws_2018_rev2020.pdf.
- **MFRI Advice 2019:** Harbour seal: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/landselur_191145061.pdf.
- Pálsson Ó. K., Gunnlaugsson Þ., and Ólafsdóttir D. (2015). By-catch of seabirds and marine mammals in Icelandic Fisheries. Marine Research no 178. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/fjolrit-178.pdf.
- **IUCN Redlist listings:**

Harp seal: https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41671/45231087

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)			Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)			SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	Harbour seal	1 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 2	**80**
		Grey seal	1 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 2	**80**
		~~Northern gannet~~				
2	Nephrops trawl	Harbour seal	1 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 2	**80**
		Grey seal	1 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 2	**80**
		~~Northern gannet~~				
3	Danish seine	None	NA	NA	0 of 2	**80**

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**80**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**80**
3	Danish seine	NA	NA	0 of 1	**80**

PI 2.2.1	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biologically based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit	
Condition number (if relevant)	1 Bottom trawl 2 Nephrops trawl 3 Danish seine	**NA**

5.2.1.2 PI 2.2.2 – Secondary species management strategy

PI 2.2.2		There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Management strategy in place**			
	Guide post	There are **measures** in place, if necessary, which are expected to maintain or not hinder rebuilding of main secondary species at/to levels which are highly likely to be above biologically based limits or to ensure that the UoA does not hinder their recovery.	There is a **partial strategy** in place, if necessary, for the UoA that is expected to maintain or not hinder rebuilding of main secondary species at/to levels which are highly likely to be above biologically based limits or to ensure that the UoA does not hinder their recovery.	There is a **strategy** in place for the UoA for managing main and minor secondary species.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears: Various measures are taken to ensure the protection of juvenile fish, vulnerable and critical habitats. Such measures will serve to reduce bycatch of secondary out of scope ~~seabird and~~ marine mammal species; although not established to protect such species, area closures will also serve to maintain bycatch of marine mammals ~~and seabirds~~ at low levels since bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located (MFRI, pers. communication).
The measures includes regulations on the type of fishing gear allowed in different areas, rules on the minimum mesh size and closed areas including permanent closures for habitat protection and temporary closures to protect juvenile fish and spawning/nursery areas (see Figure 3-21 and 3-22). The long-term area closures in place may apply to specific fishing gear, fishing-vessel size or all fishing for certain periods of time.

For instance, in order to protect the spawning stock of cod, extensive seasonal closures are in operation during the spawning season (Regulation nr. 30/2005); all cod fisheries are closed within 12 miles along the south and west coast and within 6 miles along the north and east coast in April each year. Sorting grids are not used within bottom trawls, nephrops trawls or Danish seine fisheries. Sorting grids were trialled in the past but found to damage the fish (bottom trawler skipper, pers. comm.).

In Icelandic fisheries, additional measures in place to manage bycatch of out of scope species and in this fishery would be aimed at marine mammals, harbour seals and grey seal, include:

• Marine mammals ~~and seabird bycatch~~ are monitored by mandatory eLog system, and onboard observers from the DF and the MFRI, which monitor ca. 1-2% of all fishing trips by bottom and nephrops trawl.

~~• Fishers are not allowed to offer for sale, give away, nor accept as a gift, any bird that has been killed in fishing nets.~~

• Any ~~birds or~~ mammal caught alive must be released. These measures are specifically in relation to monitoring interaction between the UoAs under assessment and are considered to form a partial strategy, which is expected to maintain / not hinder rebuilding of main secondary species at / to levels which are highly likely to be within biologically based limits, or to ensure that the UoA does not hinder their recovery.

Additionally, while not directly relevant to these UoAs, other recent developments implemented in an attempt to return the harbour population to acceptable levels include a ban (with some exceptions) on seal hunting in Iceland (Regulation 1100/2019), the introduction of 13 new closed areas in the lumpfish fishery (Regulation 165/2020) and MFRI having further advised that attempts to minimise anthropogenic disturbance of harbour seal colonies (e.g. by seal watching) are initiated. A further change as of Regulation 165/2020 that has the potential to indirectly benefit marine mammals is a reduction in the tending time for lumpfish gear from every 4 days to every 3 days which may limit the total number of nets some fishers are able to fish thereby reducing effort.

Given all that is being done to address the 'depleted' status of the harbour seal population in Iceland and the low number of estimated removals by demersal trawls (17 individuals annually respectively), the assessment team is satisfied that there is a

PI 2.2.2	There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch

demonstrably effective partial strategy in place such that these UoAs do not hinder the recovery and rebuilding of harbour seals.

The other secondary species of relevance to theses UoAs (grey seals mostly) is all deemed highly likely to be above biologically based limits or there is either evidence of recovery or a demonstrably effective partial strategy in place such that the UoA does not hinder recovery and rebuilding; see rationale for PI 2.2.1 SIa above. Given that the current partial strategies brought those species to this place, these partial strategies are expected to maintain them there.
All-in-all the assessment team considers the necessary partial strategies to be in place in the demersal and Nephrops trawl UoAs that are expected to maintain main secondary species at, or not hinder their rebuilding to, levels which are highly likely to be above biologically based limits such that **SG80 is met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA2 Nephrops trawl.**

~~SG 60 and SG80 are met. However, this is not considered a comprehensive strategy and therefore SG100 is not met.~~

b	**Management strategy evaluation**						
	Guide post	The measures are considered **likely** to work, based on plausible argument (e.g. general experience, theory or comparison with similar UoAs/species).		There is **some objective basis for confidence** that the measures/partial strategy will work, based on some information directly about the UoA and/or species involved.		**Testing** supports **high confidence** that the partial strategy/strategy will work, based on information directly about the UoA and/or species involved.	
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl UoA 2 Nephrops trawl UoA 3 Danish seine	Yes Yes Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl UoA 2 Nephrops trawl UoA 3 Danish seine	Yes Yes Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl UoA 2 Nephrops trawl UoA 3 Danish seine	No No No

Rationale

All gears: The measures which are currently in place (see scoring issue 'a' for a description) although not specifically established to reduce catches of secondary species, can be expected to protect such species and to maintain bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds at low levels. Furthermore, bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located (MFRI, pers. communication). SG 60 is met.

There are a number of measures that aim to ensure compliance with the law, including monitoring and surveillance which are conducted by the DF and the coast guard to ensure compliance of regulations. Annual assessment of discarding by MFRI indicates that discarding is very limited, and control and surveillance information indicates that temporal and permanent fishing ground closures are respected. This provides objective basis for confidence that the measures, considered to form a partial strategy, will work. Data is being recorded and it is understood that the gears under assessment have a negligible impact on marine mammals ~~and birds~~. SG 80 is met.

~~However, this is not supported by testing and SG 100 is not met for these main secondary species. Since there is no direct strategy to manage catches of minor species (with the exception of Atlantic halibut), and the effect of the current harvest strategy on minor secondary species has not been tested, SG100 is not met.~~

All-in-all, and based on information directly about the UoAs and species involved, the assessment team consider there to be some objective basis for confidence that the partial strategies will work such that **SG60 and 80 are met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl and UoA 3 Danish seine** where applied.

To achieve SG100 here, testing must support high confidence that the partial strategy/strategy will work. By their nature, secondary species are not subject to comprehensive stock assessments and, as such are not considered by the assessment team to have yet met the bar of 'testing'; therefore, as testing does not support high confidence that the partial strategy/strategy will work for all secondary species, **SG100 is not met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl and UoA 3 Danish seine** where applied.

c	**Management strategy implementation**

PI 2.2.2		There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch		
	Guide post		There is **some evidence** that the measures/partial strategy is being **implemented successfully**.	There is **clear evidence** that the partial strategy/strategy is being **implemented successfully and is achieving its objective as set out in scoring issue (a).**
	Met?		UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears: Control and surveillance information indicates that temporal and permanent fishing ground closures are respected, and restrictions on coastal fishing are likely to have reduced fishing mortality rates of bycatch species. There is thus some evidence that management measures are being implemented successfully; SG 80 is met.

Lack of analysis of electronic logbook data (and associated scientific reporting) on bycatch rates of vulnerable species, and the fact that observer coverage to adequately monitor bycatch rates of vulnerable species remains low (1-2%) means that there is no clear evidence that all management measures are being implemented successfully. Moreover, there is no evidence that these actions are achieving the objective of maintaining out-of-scope secondary species above biologically based limits. More monitoring of ~~seabird and~~ marine populations would be required to assess this. In addition, the status of most minor finfish is effectively unknown. Therefore, evidence is lacking to show that the objectives of maintaining stocks above biologically based limits is achieved. SG 100 is not met.

d	**Shark finning**			
	Guide post	It is **likely** that shark finning is not taking place.	It is **highly likely** that shark finning is not taking place.	There is a **high degree of certainty** that shark finning is not taking place.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes

Rationale

All gears: There are several species of shark caught by the UoAs under assessment (Greenland shark, spiny dogfish, porbeagle shark, leafscale gulper shark). The discard prohibition in effect in Iceland effectively makes shark finning illegal. There is no local market for fins alone, but a limited market for whole sharks does exist. With very low quantities caught, there is no incentive to land fins separate from sharks themselves. In addition, the team witnessed the landing of a Greenland shark by a bottom trawl vessel during the site visit; the shark was landed whole with all fins attached (see photo below). As a result, there is a high degree of certainty shark finning is not taking place; SG100 is met.

e	**Review of alternative measures to minimise mortality of unwanted catch**			
	Guide post	There is a review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of **unwanted** catch of main secondary species.	There is a **regular** review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of **unwanted** catch of main secondary species and they are implemented as appropriate.	There is a **biennial** review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of **unwanted** catch of all secondary species, and they are implemented, as appropriate.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes

Rationale

All gears: No catches of main in-scope secondary species have been reported for these gears. With regards to out-of-scope ~~seabird and~~ marine mammal species, review of the MFRI observer data represents an ongoing review of the effectiveness of

PI 2.2.2	There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch

UoA-related mortality of main secondary species. The effectiveness of measures to minimise UoA related mortality is kept under review by the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) which has met regularly since 2009. The latest WGBYC workshop was held in May 2018, in Reykjavik, Iceland (ICES, 2018). WGBYC reports and reviews progress being made with mitigation measures by EU Member States and ICES Member countries with coastal area in the European Atlantic (e.g. Iceland).

The report includes species considered to be out-of-scope main secondary species within this assessment i.e. seabirds and seals. The fishing industry routinely and regularly review gear technology. The ultimate aim of this is to improve efficiency and as part of that aim, reduce the levels of unwanted catch and minimise seabed contact. A workshop on new technology for Nordic fishing fleets was held in Reykjavik in 2013. This reviewed new gear technology in relation to selectiveness of fishing gear, environmental impacts of fishing gear and catch handling. The effectiveness and practicalities of various technologies were discussed at this workshop, which was attended by international experts in this field from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Faroe Islands (Viðarsson et al. 2014). Other fishing gear development workshops with Icelandic participation have been held, including in Hirtshals, Denmark, in 2009. At this workshop funded by SINTEF, international experts from Iceland, Denmark and Norway explored use of seine nets and trawl concepts within a flume tank with the aim of working towards more efficient fishing gear (SINTEF, 2009). With regards to unwanted catches of minor in-scope species, the review of alternative measures to minimise mortality is addressed within the harvest strategy for all species and therefore a review is conducted routinely by the MFRI alongside all other issues pertinent to controlling fishing mortality. This on-going consideration is evident in stock assessments, scientific advice and policy documents. Such work is ongoing throughout the year. The use of sorting grids, which were mandatory within Icelandic trawls since 1997, was reviewed in 2013 (Viðarsson et al. 2014). This led to the decision for sorting grids be mandatory only for specific gear/target species in certain areas, specifically for trawls targeting shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) and pelagic species. It is noted that "the application of sorting grids can have severe effects on water flow in the trawl, the selectiveness can be highly variable depending on catch rate and information given by catch sensors can be unreliable when the path of the catch is interrupted with a sorting grid" (Viðarsson et al., 2014). In addition, anecdotal evidence from the skipper of a bottom trawl vessel cited sorting grids to be prohibitive to work with on-deck (from a labour perspective) and would result in damage to the fish. Sorting grids subsequently are not mandatory within the Icelandic trawl nets included within this assessment. In terms of implementation of measures, the Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for the implementation of laws and regulations regarding fisheries management in Iceland and for monitoring and enforcement regarding the fisheries operation. The Iceland Coast Guard monitors the fisheries of vessels operating in Icelandic waters, as well as monitoring closed areas. Additionally, it inspects the fishing gear, for example the mesh size of the nets. There is evidence that the strategy to avoid unwanted catch is successful. Landings of in-scope secondary species that have market value are very low. This is at least partly due to improvements in technology that allow better targeting of fish to fill quotas. This will also increase avoidance of unwanted species. The fishing industry have a policy to make best possible use of all products, including bio-medical products and new markets for new products (such as developing markets for dried starry ray, dried cod heads, and encouraging restaurants to use more unusual species, see Clucas, 2014). This converts otherwise unwanted to wanted catch, which is perhaps the most effective way of dealing with this issue. Reviews are considered to occur regularly, but are not systematically biennial and therefore SG100 is not met.

References

Clucas, 2014. Viðarsson et al., 2014, SINTEF, 2009, ICES WGBYC, 2018
Regulation 165/2020 on lumpfish fishing in 2020 (in Icelandic):
https://www.reglugerd.is/reglugerdir/eftir-raduneytum/atvinnuvega--og-nyskopunarraduneyti/nr/21836
MFRI, 2019. Bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals - Lumpsucker gillnets (*in Icelandic*):
https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/medafli-fugla-og-spendyra-i-grasleppuveidum1158397.pdf
Pálsson Ó. K., Gunnlaugsson Þ., and Ólafsdóttir D. (2015). By-catch of seabirds and marine mammals in Icelandic Fisheries. Marine Research no 178. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/fjolrit-178.pdf

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)	Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)	SG60	SG80	SG100	

PI 2.2.2			There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch			
1	Bottom trawl	Harbour seal	4 of 4	5 of 5	2 of 5	**85**
		Grey seal	4 of 4	5 of 5	2 of 5	**85**
		~~Northern gannet~~				
2	Nephrops trawl	Harbour seal	4 of 4	5 of 5	2 of 5	**85**
		Grey seal	4 of 4	5 of 5	2 of 5	**85**
		~~Northern gannet~~				
3	Danish seine	None	NA	3 of 3	2 of 5	**85**

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**85**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**85**
3	Danish seine	NA	NA	0 of 1	**85**
Condition number (if relevant)		All UoAs			**NA**

5.2.1.3 PI 2.2.3 – Secondary species information

PI 2.2.3		Information on the nature and amount of secondary species taken is adequate to determine the risk posed by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage secondary species		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Information adequacy for assessment of impacts on main secondary species			
	Guide post	Qualitative information is **adequate to estimate** the impact of the UoA on the main secondary species with respect to status. OR **If RBF is used to score PI 2.2.1 for the UoA:** Qualitative information is adequate to estimate productivity and susceptibility attributes for main secondary species.	Some quantitative information is available and **adequate to assess** the impact of the UoA on main secondary species with respect to status. OR **If RBF is used to score PI 2.2.1 for the UoA:** Some quantitative information is adequate to assess productivity and susceptibility attributes for main secondary species.	Quantitative information is available and **adequate to assess with a high degree of certainty** the impact of the UoA on main secondary species with respect to status.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine NA

Rationale

All gears: Icelandic regulations require that all bycatch is recorded. All data recorded by onboard observers is routinely made available to the MFRI for analysis. Routine scientific surveys are supplemented by targeted research projects and population counts in Iceland, including for out-of-scope marine mammals classified in this fishery as secondary species~~and seabirds~~. For example, during June-August 2015, the MFRI participated in a large-scale cetacean sightings survey (NASS-2015) conducted in cooperation with the Faroes, Greenland and Norway under coordination of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. The Icelandic part of the survey was conducted from two research vessels and one aircraft (NAMMCO, 2016). More recently, in July - September 2017 the Icelandic Seal Centre, the Vör Marine Research Centre and the MFRI joined forces to carry out an aerial census of the Icelandic harbour seal in order to update the available information on population estimates, trends and current status (Þorbjörnsson, 2017).

~~Seabird surveys are carried out by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, as well as through ad hoc scientific studies~~. MFRI updated statistics on interactions with marine mammals ~~and seabirds~~, published in March 2018, found no interactions related to bottom trawl, nephrops trawl and Danish seine. The e-log system for reporting catches of marine mammals, birds and others was updated 2 years ago, to include a location on the logbook for including this detail – rather than the separate paper logbook. Improvements have been seen in reporting since then (MII, pers. comm.). Logging interaction with marine mammals ~~and birds~~ has become more prominent in recent years with DF and MII working together with the industry to improve logging and species identification. Species identification is good, with fishermen aware of their surroundings and the marine ecosystem (DF, pers. comm.).

Quantitative information on bycatch rates of main secondary species (out-of-scope marine mammal ~~and seabird~~ species in the present assessment) is thus available, and adequate to assess the impact of the UoA on main secondary species. SG 80 is met. Data from e-log on out-of-scope ~~and ETP species~~ was not available to the team, however MFRI, MII and the vessel skipper interviewed corroborated that incidents were very rare and considered negligible. Data from the observer program was made available to the team and is presented within the report (see Table 3-13 and Table 3-14). This data corroborates the negligible nature of interaction with out-of-scope species considered within the assessment. However, this observer data has been raised to estimate interaction across the fleets. The data does not allow a high degree of certainty to be achieved and SG100 is not met. A recommendation (Recommendation 1) has been raised to ensure that electronic logbook records of out-of-scope secondary species are correctly filled and submitted by fishers in future (if any), and that such records are adequately monitored by the MFRI through ad hoc onboard observations and annual analysis of available data.

PI 2.2.3	Information on the nature and amount of secondary species taken is adequate to determine the risk posed by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage secondary species

With respect **SG60 and 80 are met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl and UoA 3 Danish seine** and their associated main secondary species estimates of both population and estimated removals of each species by UoA are available, with both data sources being quantitative. In combination these data are adequate to assess the impact of the gillnet UoA on relevant main secondary species with respect to status such that **SG60 and 80 are met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl and UoA 3 Danish seine.**

While bycatch data are available, they come with significant uncertainty attached. Additionally, population estimates are similarly uncertain. With this in mind, adequate quantitative information is not available to reach the high degree of certainty required at SG100 such that **SG100 is not met for SG60 and 80 are met for UoA 1 Demersal trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl and UoA 3 Danish seine.**

b	**Information adequacy for assessment of impacts on minor secondary species**				
	Guide post			Some quantitative information is adequate to estimate the impact of the UoA on minor secondary species with respect to status.	
	Met?			UoA 1 Bottom trawl UoA 2 Nephrops trawl UoA 3 Danish seine	Yes Yes Yes

Rationale

All gears: Information on fishing impacts on minor in-scope secondary species is available from the same data sources as for primary species (including both fisheries dependent and fisheries independent data), except that they may be somewhat less well studied since such species are not the focus of scientific sampling programmes and research projects.

The Icelandic Fisheries Management Act requires that all catches shall be landed. Discarding is thus illegal, and landings of all in-scope species, are routinely recorded. All catches landed in Iceland must be weighed using specially authorized scales and the landing data is instantly transmitted to the database of Directorate of Fisheries (DF). There are strict requirements for the keeping of log books on-board all fishing vessels, containing information on fishing practices such as location, dates, gear and catch quantity. Log books must be made available to inspectors from the DF and to MFRI for scientific purposes. A team of inspectors from DF monitors landing and weighing practices and inspectors may board fishing vessels to monitor catch composition, handling methods and fishing equipment.

Following a random investigation, inspectors can join the vessel crew to the same fishing ground the vessel visited during the previous fishing trip, to examine their fishing practices. Also, the system of instant recordings of landings allows for the use of DF database to trace the origin and date of catch and to compare catches by an individual vessel to other vessels fishing at the same location and date. Discrepancies in catch proportion can lead to further inspections. Species are also monitored through the scientific surveys, even if this information is not used. The closer monitoring of Atlantic halibut has been initiated because management has intervened to reduce mortality, and information is sufficient to evaluate the effect of this intervention. SG100 is met.

c	**Information adequacy for management strategy**				
	Guide post	Information is adequate to support **measures** to manage **main** secondary species.	Information is adequate to support a **partial strategy** to manage **main** secondary species.	Information is adequate to support a **strategy** to manage **all** secondary species, and **evaluate** with a **high degree of certainty** whether the strategy is **achieving its objective**.	
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No	

Rationale

PI 2.2.3	Information on the nature and amount of secondary species taken is adequate to determine the risk posed by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage secondary species

All gears Information is collected on spatial and temporal fishing patterns through the use of VMS, and the presence/absence of bycatch of vulnerable species on the fishing grounds is evaluated through the use of onboard observers, scientific research at sea, and sampling of landed catches. There is thus a recurrent monitoring and scientific survey system in place to estimate the trend and relative quantities of secondary species, which is necessary prerequisite to the implementation of bycatch management measures. The team considers that the information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species. SG 80 is met.

The information available at present would however not be adequate to evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether the strategy is achieving its objective. In particular satisfactory information to support a strategy to manage out-of-scope species is lacking. SG 100 is not met.

References

Gardarsson and Jónsson 2014; NAMMCO 2016; Þorbjörnsson 2017.

Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Population estimate, trends and current status of the Icelandic harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) population in 2018. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-36: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/hv2019-361145062.pdf.

Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Aerial census of the Icelandic grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) population in 2017: Pup production, population estimate, trends and current status. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-02: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/1549015805-hv2019-02.pdf.

MFRI, 2019. Bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals - Lumpsucker gillnets (*in Icelandic*):
https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/medafli-fugla-og-spendyra-i-grasleppuveidum1158397.pdf

MFRI Advice 2019:

- Harbour seal: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/landselur_191145061.pdf.
- Grey seal: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/utselur_20191125514.pdf.

Pálsson Ó. K., Gunnlaugsson Þ., and Ólafsdóttir D. (2015). By-catch of seabirds and marine mammals in Icelandic Fisheries. Marine Research no 178. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/fjolrit-178.pdf

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)			Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)			SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	Harbour seal	3 of 3	3 of 3	1 of 3	**85**
		Grey seal	3 of 3	3 of 3	1 of 3	**85**
		~~Northern gannet~~				**85**
2	Nephrops trawl	Harbour seal	3 of 3	3 of 3	1 of 3	**85**
		Grey seal	3 of 3	3 of 3	1 of 3	**85**
		~~Northern gannet~~				**85**
3	Danish seine	None	NA	NA	1 of 1	**85**

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**85**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	**85**
3	Danish seine	NA	NA	0 of 1	**85**
Condition number (if relevant)		All UoAs			**NA**

5.2.1.4 PI 2.3.1 – ETP species outcome

PI 2.3.1		The UoA meets national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species The UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Effects of the UoA on population/stock within national or international limits, where applicable**			
	Guide post	Where national and/or international requirements set limits for ETP species, the **effects of the UoA** on the population/ stock are known and **likely** to be within these limits.	Where national and/or international requirements set limits for ETP species, the **combined effects of the MSC UoAs** on the population /stock are known and **highly likely** to be within these limits.	Where national and/or international requirements set limits for ETP species, there is a **high degree of certainty** that the **combined effects of the MSC UoAs** are within these limits.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl NA UoA 2 Nephrops trawl NA UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl NA UoA 2 Nephrops trawl NA UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl NA UoA 2 Nephrops trawl NA UoA 3 Danish seine NA
Rationale				
This SI is not scored as there are no national or international requirements that set limits for ETP species for Icelandic fisheries				
b	**Direct effects**			
	Guide post	Known direct effects of the UoA are likely to not **hinder recovery** of ETP species.	Direct effects of the UoA are **highly likely** to not **hinder recovery** of ETP species.	There is a **high degree of confidence** that there are no **significant detrimental direct effects** of the UoA on ETP species.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No
Rationale				

As described in Section 3.4.7.3 of the main report, consideration of the scale of impact of gears under assessment on ETP species is required for 8 species of whale (sei whale, blue whale, fin whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, common minke whale, humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale), the hooded seal and the remaining 2 species of marine birds (black guillemot and Atlantic puffin). Further after second surveillance audit and due to harmonisation activities through ISF Iceland fisheries, Northern gannet has been moved from secondary main species to ETPs (see section 6.4 for more details). Therefore, this seabird will be also considered in ETPs PIs and when applicable the rationale has been modified to include the species in the overall score.

The direct effects of interaction between whales with bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine is considered to be negligible. According to observer reports from MFRI and personal communication with MFRI staff there has been no registration of whale interaction with the gears of commercial vessels or by MFRI during their spring and fall bottom trawl surveys in the last 5 years. Direct mortality from these fishing gears is therefore considered negligible. The bycatch of black guillemot and Atlantic puffin in bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine is considered to be negligible. According to observer reports from MFRI and personal communication with MFRI staff there has been no registration of black guillemot and Atlantic puffin bycatch by commercial vessels or by MFRI during their spring and fall bottom trawl surveys in the last 5 years. In the last report of bycatch from 2020 presented by MFRI, the information reported from 2016 to 2019 has showed 3 northern gannet in the four years, all of them reported in 2019. Furthermore, in the last ICES WGBYC 2020, Norther gannet in Icelandic ecoregion showed a bycatch rate of 0.0075% and basically were reported by nets.

Direct mortality from these fishing gears is therefore considered negligible. Interaction of hooded seal with these fishing gears is rare because of the nature of the fishing. According to observer reports from MFRI and personal communication with MFRI staff there has been no registration of hooded seal bycatch by bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl or Danish seine vessels, nor by MFRI during their spring and fall bottom trawl surveys in the last 5 years. Discussions with MFRI have indicated that the original

PI 2.3.1	The UoA meets national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species The UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species

conclusion of negligible bycatch in these gears remains unchanged (MFRI Pers. Comm.). However, during the site visit anecdotal information from the Captain and skipper of a bottom trawler indicated the capture of a hooded seal within a haul in the past. While this is understood to be a rare occurrence, the identification of interaction with hooded seals, together with the recorded interaction with harbour seals and grey seals, warrants the inclusion of hooded seal as an ETP species for bottom trawl and Nephrops trawl fisheries.

It is concluded that the potential for interaction with Danish seine is negligible due to the nature of fishing practises, specifically that nets are closed before hauling, reducing the likelihood of any potential for interaction with seals.

Bottom trawl and nephrops trawl. Hooded seals are not listed within the observer data produced by MFRI as interacting with bottom trawl gears. However, during the bottom trawler vessel visit undertaken as part of the site visit, the skipper indicated an instance of having caught a hooded seal. In accordance with the precautionary principle, hooded seals are included as an ETP species for assessment within the bottom trawl and nephrops trawl UoAs.

Hooded seals are found at high latitudes in the North Atlantic, and seasonally they extend their range north into the Arctic Ocean. They breed on pack-ice and are associated with it much of the year, though they can spend significant periods of time in the pelagic realm (Lavigne and Kovacs 1988, Folkow and Blix 1999, Folkow et al. 2010). Four distinct populations can be found on pack ice: (i) near Jan Mayen Island, (ii) off Labrador and northeastern Newfoundland, (iii) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and (iv) in the Davis Strait. The total hooded seal population is currently estimated to be 650,000, including 400,000 individuals in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, and 250,000 in the Jan Mayen population (MarineBio.org). The Icelandic population has been estimated at between 67,104 and 98,573 (table 3-16). With changing sea ice conditions reducing the pack ice habitat needed by all hooded seals, there is good reason to believe that numbers in all stocks might be declining.

For instance, hooded seals in the Greenland 'West Ice' area continue to show a declining trend. Comparing pup production estimates for 1997 and 2012 indicates a population decrease of 3.7% per year and a reduction in population size of 43% in 15 years (Kovacs, 2016). The most recent estimate of the total size of this population is 82,830 (SE=8,028) and models suggest a continued decline of approximately 7% per year in the coming decade (Øigård et al. 2014). Overall, this stock is less than 10% of its abundance observed some 60 years ago (ICES, 2013). Overhunting was clearly involved in the collapse of this stock as quotas were being set for a population size much larger than it actually was. However, the cause of the significant on-going decline in this population is thought to be related to climate change induced alternation of its sea ice breeding habitat and increased predation by polar bears and killer whales in the pupping areas (Øigard et al., 2014); prey availability might also be an issue. As a result of these population declines this species is currently classified by IUCN as 'Vulnerable' (Kovacs, 2016). Based on the most recent MFRI data available, no hooded seal deaths were recorded by bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl or Danish seine. However, stakeholder consultation indicates they may occur. Taking a precautionary approach, the highest estimate of seal interaction for harbour and grey seals has been taken as a proxy for hooded seal interaction i.e. average annual bycatch of 28 seals. This would account for 0.03-0.04% of the total estimated annual number of hooded seals which visit Icelandic waters to feed. This percentage of bycatch is unlikely to be of concern. SG 80 is met.

Unobserved morality is considered to be very low to negligible. Incidents of gear loss are rare (ISF, per comm), and if it does occur, ghost fishing is understood to be low, especially in comparison to other gear types. The multifilament net material has a larger diameter than gillnet monofilament and is therefore visible or of such a size that it can be sensed by fish or marine mammals (Macfadyen et al., 2009). Surveys have shown lost trawl net gear to be overburdened by silt and therefore more visible. Many of the synthetic twines are buoyant, and sometimes the twine buoyancy is augmented by floats attached to major pieces of trawl webbing. This attracts pelagic marine species, invertebrates such as the attached tunicates and barnacles, and pelagic invertebrates. This webbing may also attract other marine species that can become entangled e.g. Page et al. (2003) found New Zealand fur seals were commonly entangled in loops of packing tape and trawl net fragments suspected to be from rock lobster and trawl fisheries (as cited in Macfadyen et al., 2009). No evidence of such interaction is known in Icelandic waters, and given the low level of gear loss, the risk is considered by the team to be very low to negligible.
SG 100 is not met because based on the available information it cannot be concluded that there is a high degree of confidence that there are no significant detrimental direct effects of the UoAs on this ETP species.

Northern gannet: The northern gannet is found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean; breeding sites include northern France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Norway and the eastern tip Quebec (Canada) (del Hoyo et al. 1992). The Icelandic

PI 2.3.1	The UoA meets national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species The UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species

population was estimated to number 31,500 breeding pairs (63,000 in total) in 2005-2008 (Arnthór Garðarsson. 2008a, cited in Birdlife International, 2015). This strictly marine species wanders mostly over continental shelves, feeding on shoaling pelagic fish which are mostly caught by plunge-diving from great heights. It also follows trawlers and will form large congregations where food is plentiful. Breeding is highly seasonal starting between March and April, usually in large colonies on cliffs and offshore islands, but also sometimes on the mainland. Both short and long term population trends for this species have been estimated to be increasing in Iceland, and the species was recently given an IUCN status of 'Least Concern' in Europe (see status on http://www.iucnredlist.org/).

The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the IUCN red list population trend criterion (>30% decline over ten years or three generations). The population size is very large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the IUCN red list population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations) (BirdLife International, 2016). The estimated extent of northern gannet population occurance is 41700000 km2 (BirdLife International, 2016). Global population size is c. 1,500,000-1,800,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International, 2016), of which 31,500 pairs are estimated to breed in Iceland (Arnthór Garðarsson. 2008a, cited in Birdlife International, 2015).

~~According to the most recent bycatch estimates available from the MFRI, demersal otter trawl (including bottom trawl and Nephrops trawl) account for a maximum of 45 northern gannet deaths a year (see Table 3.13~~).
In the last MFRI report showing date from 2016 to 2019, Northern gannet was reported 3 times. In the 2020 ICES report of WGBYC, Norther gannet showed a bycatch rate of 0.0075% (Incs/DaS). Based on the estimated Icelandic population size of 63,000 individuals, an average annual catch of northern gannets caught as bycatch within bottom trawl and nephrops trawl would account for 0.004% of the total estimated Icelandic population per year. Available information suggests that 15 gannets are bycaught in gillnets annually and longline reported 30 in the last report, which combines with bottom and nephrops trawl to account for 0.076% of the population.

Increasing population trends indicate that the species is highly likely to be above biologically based limits, and the limited interaction, both for bottom trawl and Nephrops trawl, together with cumulative impacts from other gears, are highly unlikely to have a significant effect on the population size. SG 80 is met for both bottom trawl and nephrops trawl. ~~SG 100 is not met since based on the available information it cannot be concluded that there is a high degree of certainty that this species is above biologically based limits.~~
With that being said, the level of uncertainty in the currently available estimates, preclude the assessment team from concluding that there is a high degree of confidence that there are no significant detrimental direct effects of the UoAs on Northern gannet; SG100 is not met.

Danish seine. There are no significant interactions recorded between Danish seine fisheries and ETP species. As such, there is a high degree of confidence that there are no significant detrimental direct effects of this UoA on ETP species, and SG60, SG80 and SG100 are met.

c	**Indirect effects**			
	Guide post		Indirect effects have been considered for the UoA and are thought to be **highly likely** to not create unacceptable impacts.	There is a **high degree of confidence** that there are no **significant detrimental indirect effects** of the UoA on ETP species.
	Met?		UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine NA
Rationale				
All gears It is known that some seabird species accompany fishing vessels, forming large aggregations to take advantage of fish waste (e.g. del Hoyo, et al., 1992; Hatch and Nettleship, 1998), and that lost fishing gears are a threat to marine megafauna including seals (e.g. Stelfox et al., 2016). The team however considers that such indirect effects are highly likely to not create unacceptable impacts since there are no apparent indirect effects of any of the UoAs on hooded seal populations known to the team. The removal of lemon sole (the P1 target species) is highly unlikely to reduce its availability as a prey item for hooded seal, or other predator species, or lead to ecosystem level changes. Lemon sole is not considered to be a keystone species				

PI 2.3.1	The UoA meets national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species The UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species

within the ecosystem. Flatfish are important predators in benthic communities, however the range of flatfish species in Icelandic waters, together with the quantity removed by the UoAs (noting that lemon sole is caught as a by-catch in other targeted fisheries), does not pose any risk of effects or changes at an ecosystem level. Studies into the diet of hooded seal have shown squid Gonatus fabricii and polar cod (*Boreogadus saida*), capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), and sand eels (*Ammodytes spp.*) to be important, and to a lesser extent redfish (*Sebastes sp*.) and Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) (Haug et al, 2007)." In addition, in relation to the indirect effect of marine pollution, Iceland is signatory to the MARPOL Convention (The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, MARPOL 73/78). MARPOL is an international marine environmental convention developed by the International Maritime Organization in 1973 (modified in 1978) to minimize pollution of the oceans and seas. Annex I relates to discharge of oil, Annex II & III relate to chemical pollution and harmful substances, Annex IV to control of sewage pollution from ships, Annex V relates to garbage and marine debris and bans the dumping of plastic into the ocean and Annex VI relates to air pollution from vessels. SG 80 is thus met for all gears. There is however insufficient information to concluded that there is a high degree of confidence that there are no significant detrimental indirect effects of the fishery on ETP species; SG 100 is not met.

References

Birdlife International 2000, 2012, 2015; del Hoyo, et al., 1992; Harris and Wanless 2011; Hatch and Nettleship, 1998; Haug et al, 2007; ICES 2013; Kovacs 2016; Macfadyen et al., 2009; Øigård et al. 2014; Stelfox et al., 2016

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)			Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)			SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	Northern gannet	1 of 1	2 of 2	1 of 3	**80**
		Hodded seal	1 of 1	2 of 2	1 of 3	**80**
2	Nephrops trawl	Northern gannet	1 of 1	2 of 2	1 of 3	**80**
		Hodded seal	1 of 1	2 of 2	1 of 3	**80**
3	Danish seine	Northern gannet	NA	NA	0 of 1	**80**
		Hodded seal				

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2	**80**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2	**80**
3	Danish seine	NA	NA	0 of 1	**80**
Condition number (if relevant)		All UoAs			**NA**

5.2.1.5 PI 2.3.2 – ETP species management strategy

PI 2.3.2		The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Management strategy in place (national and international requirements)**			
	Guide post	There are **measures** in place that minimise the UoA-related mortality of ETP species, and are expected to be **highly likely to achieve** national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.	There is a **strategy** in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimise mortality, which is designed to be **highly likely to achieve** national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.	There is a **comprehensive strategy** in place for managing the UoA's impact on ETP species, including measures to minimise mortality, which is designed to **achieve above** national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species.
	Met?	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**
Rationale				
This scoring issues is not scored because there are no requirements for protection or rebuilding provided through national Icelandic ETP legislation or international agreements (see Section 3.4.7).				
b	**Management strategy in place (alternative)**			
	Guide post	There are **measures** in place that are expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.	There is a **strategy** in place that is expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.	There is a **comprehensive strategy** in place for managing ETP species, to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No
Rationale				
ETP elements as described in Section 3.4.7.3 of the main report, ETP elements considered include 8 species of whale (sei whale, blue whale, fin whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, common minke whale, humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale), the hooded seal and ~~2~~ 3 species of seabirds (black guillemot, Northern gannet and Atlantic puffin). Interaction with the whale species and seabirds is considered negligible for all gears. **All gears**: Various measures are taken to ensure the protection of juvenile fish, vulnerable and critical habitats and such measures will serve to reduce bycatch of ETP seabird and marine mammal species. Although not specifically established to protect such species, area closures in particular will also serve to maintain bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds at low levels since bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located. In addition, bottom trawl and nephrops trawl are prohibited from operating within 12 Nm from the coast, which further limits interaction with ETP species. The measures include regulations on the type of fishing gear allowed in different areas, rules on the minimum mesh size and closed areas including permanent closures for habitat protection and temporary closures to protect juvenile fish and spawning/nursery areas (see Figure 3-21 and 3-22). The long-term area closures in place may apply to specific fishing gear, fishing-vessel size or all fishing for certain periods of time. For instance, in order to protect the spawning stock of cod, extensive seasonal closures are in operation during the spawning season (Regulation nr. 30/2005); all cod fisheries are closed within 12 miles along the south and west coast and within 6 miles along the north and east coast in April each year. Additional measures in place to manage bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds in Icelandic fisheries include:			

PI 2.3.2	The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

• Marine mammal and seabird bycatch is monitored by mandatory eLog system, and onboard observers from the DF and the MFRI, which monitor ca. 1-2% of all fishing trips by bottom and nephrops trawl.
• Fishers are not allowed to offer for sale, give away, nor accept as a gift, any bird that has been killed in fishing nets.
• Any birds or mammal caught alive must be released.
These measures are specifically in relation to monitoring interaction between the UoAs under assessment, which is expected to maintain / not hinder recover of ETP species. SG 60 is met. However, these measures are not considered to form a cohesive strategy that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species, nor does it contain mechanisms for the modification fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts; SG 80 and SG 100 are not met.

c	**Management strategy evaluation**			
	Guide post	The measures are **considered likely** to work, based on **plausible argument** (e.g., general experience, theory or comparison with similar fisheries/species).	There is an **objective basis for confidence** that the measures/strategy will work, based on **information** directly about the fishery and/or the species involved.	The strategy/comprehensive strategy is mainly based on information directly about the fishery and/or species involved, and a **quantitative analysis** supports **high confidence** that the strategy will work.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears. The measures which are currently in place (see scoring issue 'a' for a description) although not established to reduce catches of ETP species, can be expected to protect ETP species and to maintain bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds at low levels since bycatch of many sensitive species is highest in inshore areas, which is where the closures are located. SG 60 is thus met.

There are a number of measures that aim to ensure compliance with the law, including monitoring and surveillance which are conducted by the DF and the coast guard to ensure compliance of regulations. This allows objective confidence that these measures will work. SG60 and SG80 are met.

Quantitative evidence exists through observer data that has been analysed and extrapolated to cover fleet wide interactions with ETP species. However, the proportion of fleet observered, together with the lack of analysis of data from the eLog system, does not allow determination of the success of management to be made with high confidence. Furthermore, it is considered that the measures do not combine to form a cohesive, comprehensive strategy specifically addressing impacts on ETP species. SG100 is not met.

d	**Management strategy implementation**			
	Guide post		There is some **evidence** that the measures/strategy is being implemented successfully.	There is **clear evidence** that the strategy/comprehensive strategy is being implemented successfully and **is achieving its objective as set out in scoring issue (a) or (b).**
	Met?		UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears. Control and surveillance information indicates that temporal and permanent fishing ground closures are respected, and restrictions on coastal fishing are likely to have reduced fishing mortality rates of ETP marine mammal and seabird species.

PI 2.3.2	The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

There is thus some evidence that management measures are being implemented successfully; SG 80 is met. Clear evidence that the strategy is being implemented successfully and is achieving its objective of ensuring the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species is lacking, SG100 is not met.

e	**Review of alternative measures to minimize mortality of ETP species**			
	Guide post	There is a review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of ETP species.	There is a **regular** review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of ETP species and they are implemented as appropriate.	There is a **biennial** review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality ETP species, and they are implemented, as appropriate.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears. The review of the onboard observer data by MFRI scientists represents an ongoing review of the effectiveness of current measures to minimise unwanted ETP interactions. The evaluation of the performance of the current measures occurs every two to three years for observer bycatch analysis and reporting, and with review of the effectiveness of the system in the past two years which resulted in improvements in the e-Log recording system. As such the frequency of reviews is considered regular. The effectiveness of measures to minimise UoA related mortality is kept under review by the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) which has met regularly since 2009. The latest WGBYC workshop was held in May 2018, in Reykjavik, Iceland (ICES, 2018). WGBYC reports and reviews progress being made with mitigation measures by EU Member States and ICES Member countries with coastal area in the European Atlantic (e.g. Iceland). The report includes species considered to be ETP species within this assessment i.e. hooded seal. The fishing industry routinely and regularly review gear technology. The ultimate aim of this is to improve efficiency and as part of that aim, reduce the levels of unwanted catch and minimise seabed contact. A workshop on new technology for Nordic fishing fleets was held in Reykjavik in 2013. This reviewed new gear technology in relation to selectiveness of fishing gear, environmental impacts of fishing gear and catch handling. The effectiveness and practicalities of various technologies were discussed at this workshop, which was attended by international experts in this field from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Faroe Islands (Viðarsson et al. 2014). Other fishing gear development workshops with Icelandic participation have been held, including in Hirtshals, Denmark, in 2009. At this workshop funded by SINTEF, international experts from Iceland, Denmark and Norway explored use of seine nets and trawl concepts within a flume tank with the aim of working towards more efficient fishing gear (SINTEF, 2009).

In terms of implementation of measures, the Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for the implementation of laws and regulations regarding fisheries management in Iceland and for monitoring and enforcement regarding the fisheries operation The Iceland Coast Guard, monitors the fisheries of vessels operating in Icelandic waters, as well as monitoring closed areas. Additionally, it inspects the fishing gear, for example the mesh size of the nets."

Bottom trawl, nephrops trawl and Dansish seine are considered lower risk, with negligible ETP interactions (MFRI pers. Comm.) and therefore management response and review frequency is appropriate.

Based on the very low levels of interaction (no hooded seal are recorded within observer data for interactions with demersal trawl or seine gear), it is concluded that alternative measures are not required. SG60 and SG80 are met. However, there is no biennial review of the potential effectiveness of such measures, so SG100 is not met.

References

ICES, 2017, ICES WGBYC, 2018.

PI 2.3.2	The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: - meet national and international requirements; - ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)			Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)			SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	Hodded seal	4 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	**75**
		Northern gannet	4 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	**75**
2	Nephrops trawl	Hodded seal	4 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	**75**
		Northern gannet	4 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	**75**
		Northern gannet	4 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	**75**

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**75**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**75**
3	Danish seine	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**75**
Condition number (if relevant)		All UoAs			**1**

5.2.1.6 PI 2.3.3 – ETP species information

PI 2.3.3		Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including: - Information for the development of the management strategy; - Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and - Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	**Information adequacy for assessment of impacts**			
	Guide post	Qualitative information is **adequate to estimate** the UoA related mortality on ETP species. **OR** **If RBF is used to score PI 2.3.1 for the UoA:** Qualitative information is **adequate to estimate productivity and susceptibility** attributes for ETP species.	Some quantitative information is **adequate to assess** the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species. **OR** **If RBF is used to score PI 2.3.1 for the UoA:** Some quantitative information is **adequate to assess productivity and susceptibility attributes** for ETP species.	Quantitative information is available to assess with a high degree of certainty the **magnitude of UoA-related impacts, mortalities and injuries and the consequences for the status** of ETP species.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

ETP elements as described in Section 3.4.7.3 of the main report, ETP elements considered include 8 species of whale (sei whale, blue whale, fin whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, common minke whale, humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale), the hooded seal and ~~2~~ 3 species of marine birds (black guillemot, Northern gannet and Atlantic puffin). Interaction with the whale species and marine birds is considered negligible for all gears. All gear Routine scientific surveys are supplemented by targeted research projects and population counts in Iceland, including for ETP marine mammal and seabirds.

For example during June-August 2015, the MRI participated in a large scale cetacean sightings survey (NASS-2015) conducted in cooperation with the Faroes, Greenland and Norway under coordination of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. The Icelandic part of the survey was conducted from two research vessels and one aircraft (NAMMCO, 2016). Seabird surveys are carried out by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, as well as through ad hoc scientific studies (e.g. Gardarsson and Jónsson (2014). Icelandic regulations require that all bycatch is recorded. Information is collected on spatial and temporal fishing patterns through the use of Vessel Monitoring System, and the presence / absence of bycatch of ETP species on the fishing grounds is evaluated through the use of onboard observers, logbooks (e-Log), scientific research at sea, and sampling of landed catches.

Data from e-log on out-of-scope and ETP species was not available to the team, however MFRI, MII and the vessel skipper interviewed corroborated that incidents were very rare and considered negligible. MFRI observer data is available to quantify the level of interaction with ETP species in these fisheries. Data from the observer program was made available to the team and is presented within the report (see Table 3-13 and Table 3-14). This data corroborates the negligible nature of interaction with out-of-scope species considered within the assessment. This data is recorded on 1-2% of fishing effort and is therefore considered as some quantitative data, meeting SG60 and SG80. The level of observer coverage (1-2%) does not allow a high degree of certainty. SG100 is not met.

PI 2.3.3		Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including: - Information for the development of the management strategy; - Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and - Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species		
b	**Information adequacy for management strategy**			
	Guide post	Information is adequate to support **measures** to manage the impacts on ETP species.	Information is adequate to measure trends and support a **strategy** to manage impacts on ETP species.	Information is adequate to support a **comprehensive strategy** to manage impacts, minimize mortality and injury of ETP species, and evaluate with a **high degree of certainty** whether a strategy is achieving its objectives.
	Met?	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl Yes UoA 2 Nephrops trawl Yes UoA 3 Danish seine Yes	UoA 1 Bottom trawl No UoA 2 Nephrops trawl No UoA 3 Danish seine No

Rationale

All gears Information is collected on spatial and temporal fishing patterns through the use of Vessel Monitoring System, and the presence / absence of bycatch of ETP species on the fishing grounds is evaluated through the use of onboard observers, logbooks, scientific research at sea, and sampling of landed catches. There is thus a recurrent monitoring and scientific survey system in place to estimate the trend and relative quantities of ETP species, which is a necessary prerequisite to the implementation of bycatch management measures and manage fishing impacts on such species. The team considers that the information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species. SG 80 is met. The information available at present would however not be adequate to evaluate with a high degree of certainty whether the strategy is achieving its objective. SG 100 is not met.

A recommendation (Recommendation 2) has been raised to ensure that electronic logbook records of ETP species are correctly filled and submitted by fishers in future (if any), and that such records are adequately monitored by the MFRI through ad hoc onboard observations and annual analysis of available data. This recommendation is in line with Recommendation 1 set for out-of-scope secondary species for PI 2.2.3.

References

Gardarsson and Jónsson 2014; NAMMCO 2016; Þorbjörnsson 2017.

Overall Performance Indicator score

Individual scoring elements (add rows as required; delete if not scoring by elements)		Applicable SGs met per individual scoring element			Scoring element scores
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**85**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**80**
3	Danish seine	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**80**

Overall Performance Indicator score		Applicable SGs/elements met			Overall score
Unit of Assessment (UoA)		SG60	SG80	SG100	
1	Bottom trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**80**
2	Nephrops trawl	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**80**
3	Danish seine	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 2	**80**
Condition number (if relevant)		All UoAs			

PI 2.3.3	Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including: - Information for the development of the management strategy; - Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and - Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species
	NA

5.2.2 Updated Performance Indicator and Principle-level scores

Based on the scores originally awarded during the original assessment and/or scores updated during this assessment, the Performance Indicator (PI) and Principle-level scores are as outlined below; in summary:

- The 3 certified UoAs continue to achieve an overall weighted Principle-level score of ≥80 for each MSC Principle.
- None of the 3 certified UoAs score <60 against any Performance Indicator.

Therefore, all 3 certified UoAs remain in overall compliance and as such are eligible for MSC certification.

With that being said, while the UoAs are in overall compliance, the performance of all UoAs against PI 1.2.2 remains below the established un-conditional pass mark (of meeting all applicable SG80s) and 2 of the three UoAs, UoA 1 Bottom Trawl and UoA 2 Nephrops trawl remain with a condition on PI 2.3.2.(**Table 9**)

Table 9. Updated PI-level scores for each Unit of Certification where; UoC 1 = Bottom Trawl, UoA 2 = Nephrops trawl, UoA 3 =. Scores in bold have been revised during this surveillance assessment.

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator (PI)		UoC 1	UoC 2	UoC 3
One	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status		80	
		1.1.2	Stock rebuilding			
	Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy		80	
		1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools		75	
		1.2.3	Information & monitoring		100	
		1.2.4	Assessment of stock status		80	
Two	Primary species	2.1.1	Outcome	95	95	95
		2.1.2	Management strategy	90	90	90
		2.1.3	Information/Monitoring	100	100	100
	Secondary species	2.2.1	Outcome	80	80	80
		2.2.2	Management strategy	85	85	85
		2.2.3	Information/Monitoring	85	85	85
	ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	80	80	80
		2.3.2	Management strategy	75	75	75
		2.3.3	Information strategy	80	80	80
	Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	80	80	80
		2.4.2	Management strategy	80	80	80
		2.4.3	Information	85	85	85
	Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	100	100	100
		2.5.2	Management	85	85	85
		2.5.3	Information	85	85	85
Three	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal &/or customary framework		100	
		3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities		85	
		3.1.3	Long term objectives		100	
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives		90	
		3.2.2	Decision making processes		85	
		3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement		80	
		3.2.4	Monitoring & management performance evaluation		80	

5.2.2.1 Updated Performance Indicator level scores

Revised scores for each Performance Indicator (for each UoC) following this assessment are shown in **Table 10**; where PIs continue to score <80 previously raised conditions remain in place.

Table 10. Updated Principle-level scores; scores in bold have been revised during this surveillance assessment.

Overall weighted Principle-level scores	UoC 1 Bottom Trawl	UoA 2 Nephrops trawl	UoA 3 Danish trawl
Principle 1 - Target species		**82.5**	
Principle 2 - Ecosystem	**85.7**	**85.7**	**85.7**
Principle 3 - Management		89.4	

5.3 Conditions

5.3.1 Closed Conditions

During the second surveillance audit any of the outstanding conditions were closed. Progress of each condition are detailed in the section below.

5.3.2 Progress against conditions

There are two standing conditions to be assessed during this surveillance audit. The progress against the second-year milestones are detailed in the tables below (Table 11 & Table 12). However, the assessment team want to point out that due to the derogation 6 posted by MSC on February 2021 some milestones are not evaluated at this surveillance audit. As part of this surveillance audit, and as required by MSC Derogation 6, the deadline and associated milestones for this condition have all been extended by 12 months; this effectively means that there are no specific milestones against which to measure progress at this surveillance audit. The new deadline for these conditions is the third surveillance audit.

5.3.2.1 Condition 1

Table 11. Condition 1

Performance Indicator	**PI 1.2.2** There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place	
Score	75	
Justification	The harvest control rule is based on calculating the TAC corresponding to a proxy of FMSY in the latest stock assessment model. At least this part of the harvest control rule is well defined and is clearly consistent with the overall MSY-based harvest strategy. However, to what extent exploitation might be reduced as PRI is approached is not clear. The clear target exploitation levels required and delivered by the harvest control rules, together with the intention to reduce exploitation below the trigger point, meet the SG60. However, the lack of a well-defined response should the stock fall below a trigger reference point prevents the SG80 being met	
Condition	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years.	
Condition start	2019	
Condition deadline	2022	
Milestones	It is recognised that changes to the harvest control rule may require another benchmark assessment. Therefore, timing may need to fit into the MFRI stock assessment cycle. Year 1: Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year ~~2:~~ **3 (Third surveillance audit):** Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year ~~3:~~ **4 (Fourth surveillance audit):** Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. Year ~~4:~~ **5 (Re-assessment):** A new harvest control rule is adopted that reduces exploitation as the limit reference point is approached. Score 80.	
Progress on Condition (Year 2)	Year 1	The client briefed the MII and MFRI on requirements of the MSC conditions and a meeting was carried out between ISF, MII and MFRI (see: minutes in Icelandic). MFRI work on the lemon sole HCR is well underway. During the site visit it was clear that even if an HCR (to reduce exploitation in case the biomass is low) is not outlined in any legislation, MFRI and MII confirmed that the TAC is always set in accordance with the scientific advice. Therefore, this is evidence that a re-assessment of the HCR is already in place and in the case a zero catch is recommended by MFRI the TAC agreed by MII will be zero. An example given is the case of capelin in Icelandic waters (see: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/LodnaHaust20181100274.pdf)
	Year 2	MFRI evidenced that this stock will be further scrutinized with the aim to perform an analytical assessment and estimate biomass reference points that will be integrated in a formal HCR. Therefore, the progress on condition is in line with the milestone at year 2. However, due to the application of derogation 6, all the milestones will be extended by 12 months and that will apply for this milestone too.
Progress status	Extension by 12 months due to COVID -19	
Remedial action	Revised CAP due to extension	
Additional information	MSC Derogation 6 posted on February 24th 2021	

5.3.2.2 Condition 2

Table 12. Condition 2

Performance Indicator	**PI 2.3.2: The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. SI b) There is a strategy in place that is expected to ensure the UoA does not hinder the recovery of ETP species.**
Score	75
Justification	Interaction between bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine with ETP species is expected to be low to negligible. Measures in place including closures, seasonal closures, restrictions on gear operation within inshore waters, some monitoring of bycatch, and requirement to release live birds and mammals. However, these measures are not considered to form a cohesive strategy that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species, nor does it contain any mechanism for the modification fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. This issue was not identified in other ISF fisheries and has therefore not been harmonised with the ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk, ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice, and ISF Greenland halibut fisheries, where there is no condition for this PI.
Condition	By the fourth surveillance audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.
Condition start	2018
Condition deadline	2023
Milestones	**As outlined above, condition milestones have been extended as per MSC Derogation 6** **Year 1:** Develop and propose a strategy that contains mechanism for the modification of fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts and therefore ensures that the bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine fisheries do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of vulnerable ETP marine mammal and seabird species. Score: 75 **Year ~~2:~~ 3 (Third surveillance audit):** Consult with industry and all stakeholders on the proposed strategy and amend accordingly. Score: 75 **Year ~~3:~~ 4 (Fourth surveillance audit):** Formally commit to the new strategy. Score: 75 **Year ~~4:~~ 5 (Re-assessment):** Demonstrate that the management strategy has been fully adopted and associated measures have been implemented as appropriate. Score: 80 Year 1. Actions: ISF will present meeting agendas and meeting minutes from meetings with each of the stakeholders, to shed light on status of strategy and direction it might be taking. Year 2. **3 (Third surveillance audit):** Actions: ISF will be in contact with the ISF certificate sharing fisheries to ask for input and support of a strategy for ETP interaction. ISF will continue working with the Ministry and MFRI, as a central governmental policy would be the most appropriate and widespread course of action, to form and roll out a strategy for ETP interaction of the UoA. Evidence: ISF presents a evidence of a strategy in the making, should the authorities find scientific reasons for forming such a strategy, and meeting agendas, communication with fisheries using the relevant gear. Year 3. **4 (Fourth surveillance audit):** Actions: The strategy for the ETP interaction should be in place and ready to be implemented. The form of the strategy and its implementation is under the auspice of the government and ISF will cooperate with the authorities on rolling out the strategy into action. Evidence: ISF presents a strategy established by the authorities, should it have been set in motion and presents communication with fisheries using the relevant gear to emphasize a quick roll out and effective implementation of an ETP strategy for the UoA. Year 4. **5 (Re-assessment):** Actions: Depending on the need and responses to meet the need, the Ministry and MFRI would have implemented a mechanism. ISF will obtain and present research results, a quantitative and qualitative report with finding and status at the year four surveillance. Evidence: ISF will present information stemming from and relating to a mechanism which is aimed at reducing interaction of gear with ETP´s in the UoA, should the results or conclusions earlier in the process indicate its pertinence.

Table 12. Condition 2		
Progress on Condition	Below progress against condition in year 1 and year 2 are summarised:	
	Year 1	The client is working with MFRI and MII to ensure that on-board recording and monitoring of any ETP bycatch is of good quality, by improving identification and recording practices. The client provided minutes of meetings between these and fishing industry stakeholders where bycatch management was discussed, which is the evidence required for the year 1 milestone. The MFRI focus has been on high risk gears with respect to seal-ETP management, such as in the lumpfish fishery (Client information, site visit Oct 2019). Nevertheless, since 2016 MFRI have been publishing bycatch rates of seabirds and marine mammals in annual reports of the ICES working group on bycatch of protected, endangered or threatened species (The 2019 report 4 can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/y29e4s66). This record covers all gears including trawl.
	Year 2	By year 2 there have not been relevant changes done in the measures implemented in the fishery that allow protecting ETPs species. However, some new closed areas have been defined for lumpfish fishery that could also help the ETPs impacted by this fishery, there is no further measures defined to specifically protect ETPs. As MSC guidance states strategy shall include voluntary or customary arrangements, agreements or practices aimed at ensuring that the UoAs do not hinder the recovery of ETP species. During the site visit, the assessment team was informed of a project between Birdlife and MSC in Icelandic waters that even is still in development, it will be led to improve the interactions with seabirds. Effort to manage marine mammals are better defined than in seabirds. There are already works done to improve data collection, surveys and observer programmes to obtain accurate results that help to implement measures directedly defined to protect these species. However, due to COVID-19 and the current world situation, the team was not able to gather the enough information required to evaluate the progress of this condition in year 2. The derogation 6 posted by MSC on February 24th, 2021 has been applied to this condition. The condition on PI 2.3.2 complies with the eligibility of the derogation requirement as the PIs is listed in the 'table 1: Eligible performance indicators' (Please see derogation 6 text included as appendix 1). Therefore, the CAB has revised the milestones for this condition by extending the deadline by 12 months. The revised CAP is included in this report.
Progress status	Extension by 12 months due to COVID -19	
Remedial action	Revised CAP due to extension	
Additional information	MSC Derogation 6 posted on February 24th 2021	

5.4 Revised Client Action Plans

5.4.1 Condition 1

Table 13. Condition 1 – Revised Client Action Plan

Performance Indicator	**PI 1.2.2** There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place
Score	75
Justification	The harvest control rule is based on calculating the TAC corresponding to a proxy of FMSY in the latest stock assessment model. At least this part of the harvest control rule is well defined and is clearly consistent with the overall MSY-based harvest strategy. However, to what extent exploitation might be reduced as PRI is approached is not clear. The clear target exploitation levels required and delivered by the harvest control rules, together with the intention to reduce exploitation below the trigger point, meet the SG60. However, the lack of a well-defined response should the stock fall below a trigger reference point prevents the SG80 being met
Condition	A well-defined harvest control rule should be put in place that is consistent with the harvest strategy and defines how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. Evidence should be provided that the HCR is precautionary within 4 years.
Condition start	2018
Condition deadline	2023 (extended by 12 months per MSC Derogation 6; Year 5 Re-assessment audit)
Milestones	It is recognised that changes to the harvest control rule may require another benchmark assessment. Therefore, timing may need to fit into the MFRI stock assessment cycle. **Year 1:** Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. **Year 3 (Third surveillance audit):** Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. **Year 4 (Fourth surveillance audit):** Evidence is available indicating reassessment of the harvest control rule. Score 75. **Year 5 (Re-assessment):** A new harvest control rule is adopted that reduces exploitation as the limit reference point is approached. Score 80.
Revised Client Action Plan	**<u>Year 1 – 3 actions</u>** Engage with MFRI and MII for establishing a harvest control rule (HCR) including how the exploitation rate will be reduced as the stock approaches the limit reference point. The client group shall engage with the MFRI and outline an approach to meeting the conditions imposed by the MSC Certification Requirements. The client group aims to establish a basis for developing improved strategies for the sustainable management of resources utilized by ISF vessels. ISF will record the process and maintain a log of all interactions where the action plan is being discussed and carried out in cooperation with all parties, e.g. MFRI, MII, and Directorate of Fisheries, Universities, independent consultants and ISF members. ***Means of verification:*** Correspondence and meeting minutes between ISF and authorities, regarding the establishment of an HCR for Icelandic lemon sole. **<u>Year 4 action</u>** Follow up on results of engagement in year 1 – 3 regarding a harvest control rule. The client group promotes the necessity for a harvest control rule, ensuring reduced exploitation rates as the stock approaches a limit reference point. The client will conduct an evaluation of a harvest control rule, either through MFRI or internal options as set out above. The actions in year 4 are dependent on outcomes in previous years. If a clear and precautionary HCR is implemented by the MII in previous years, there is no need for further actions. If not, ISF will seek support within the client group to further look for alternatives

Table 13. Condition 1 – Revised Client Action Plan	
	to develop and adopt a precautionary HCR. ISF will record the process and maintain a log of all interactions where the action plan is being discussed and carried out in cooperation with all parties, e.g. MFRI, MII, and Directorate of Fisheries, Universities, independent consultants and ISF members. ***Means of verification:*** ISF provides evidence showing the progress of the HCR's development, communication, meeting minutes showing that the HCR is in process, and likely to be adopted during year 4. **Year 5 action** Implement measures developed and evaluated in year. This may need to fit into MFRI assessment cycle. ISF will record the process and maintain a log of all interactions where the action plan is being discussed and carried out in cooperation with all parties, e.g. MFRI, MII, and Directorate of Fisheries, Universities, independent consultants and ISF members. ***Means of verification:*** A published HCR by MII.

5.4.2 Condition 2

Table 14. Condition 2 – Revised Client Action Plan

Performance Indicator	2.3.2
Score	Bottom trawl: 75; Nephrops trawl: 75; Danish seine: 75
Justification	Interaction between bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine with ETP species is expected to be low to negligible. Measures in place including closures, seasonal closures, restrictions on gear operation within inshore waters, some monitoring of bycatch, and requirement to release live birds and mammals. However, these measures are not considered to form a cohesive strategy that has been specifically designed to manage interaction with ETP species, nor does it contain any mechanism for the modification fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. This issue was not identified in other ISF fisheries and has therefore not been harmonised with the ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod, ISF Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk, ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolfish and plaice, and ISF Greenland halibut fisheries, where there is no condition for this PI.
Condition	By the fourth surveillance audit a management strategy shall be developed, and fully adopted, that is expected to ensure that the UoAs do not hinder recovery of ETP species.
Condition start	This condition was raised during full-assessment audit in 2019.
Condition deadline	Having applied the 12-month extension allowed for by MSC Derogation 6, the deadline for this condition, provided the fishery is re-certified, is re-assessment of the next certification cycle.
Milestones	**Year 1:** Develop and propose a strategy that contains mechanism for the modification of fishing practices in the light of the identification of unacceptable impacts and therefore ensures that the bottom trawl, Nephrops trawl and Danish seine fisheries do not hinder recovery and rebuilding of vulnerable ETP marine mammal and seabird species. Score: 75 **Year 3:** Consult with industry and all stakeholders on the proposed strategy and amend accordingly. Score: 75 **Year 4:** Formally commit to the new strategy. Score: 75 **Year 5:** Demonstrate that the management strategy has been fully adopted and associated measures have been implemented as appropriate. Score: 80
Revised Client Action Plan	**Year 4 Action and Means of Verification:** ***Improve on board logging:*** Prepare a written report (or commission such a report) during Year 4 on the reliability of logbook recordings and monitoring. ***Evaluate need for partial strategy:*** Present a draft plan for addressing impacts on marine mammals and seabirds species as bycatch, if necessary depending on research results. ***Evaluate impacts:*** Present evidence of ongoing consultation with relevant parties to address problems and areas for further action. **Year 5 Action and Means of Verification:** Measures established in year 4 shall be in implementation by year 5, if necessary. ISF will meet with MFRI to evaluate the progress, meet with the DF to follow up on MFRI findings and discuss progress and the commitment to the implemented strategies. In year 5, ISF is monitoring the effectiveness of plans, actions and strategies implemented in first 4 years, and base further actions on results from previous years, to fulfil the condition.

6 Appendices

6.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

6.1.1 Site visits

Consultation meetings were held remotely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
The objectives of the consultation meetings were:

- to collect information of any change in the fishery management system or regulations
- to evaluate any progress against the standing conditions for this second surveillance audit
- to evaluate any change in the client group or CoC

The consultation meetings were designed to be inclusive of all organizations and representatives of the fishery. The agenda followed during the meetings is detailed in the section below. As the remote site visit covered a combined surveillance audit for all the ISF Iceland fishery meetings could cover issues not related to this concrete fishery.

Note that, due to their not being available during the specified period, the Icelandic Coastguard provided a written update to the assessment team in lieu of meeting with them which was considered as part of this assessment. Also note the presence of an ASI auditor throughout the site visit portion of this assessment.

An itinerary of remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals consulted, is presented in Table 15 below.

Table 15. Itinerary of remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals consulted (Times are in GMT).

Meeting	Day, Date, Time (GMT)	Purpose	Meeting participants		
			Organisation	Name	Position/role
1.	Wednesday 27 January 2021, 14:00 hrs	Client Opening Meeting	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor
			Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson	Project Manager
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor
2.	Thursday 28 January 2021, 10:00 hrs	Ministry of Industries and Innovation	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor
			Ministry of Industries and Innovation	Þorsteinn Sigurðsson	Senior Advisor
				Sigurgeir Þorgeirsson	
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor
3.	Thursday 28 January 2021, 11:00 hrs	Fiskistofa (Fisheries Directorate):	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor

Table 15. Itinerary of remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals consulted (Times are in GMT).

Meeting	Day, Date, Time (GMT)	Purpose	Meeting participants		
			Organisation	Name	Position/role
			Directorate of Fisheries (Fiskistofa)	Sævar Guðmundsson	Head of Department
				Þorsteinn Hilmarsson	
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor
4.	Thursday 28 January 2021, 14:00 hrs	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor
			Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)	Guðjón Már Sigurðsson	
				Bjarki Elvarsson	
				Steinunn Hilma Ólafsdóttir	
			Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson	Project Manager
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor
5.	Friday 29 January 2021, 10:00 hrs	Stakeholder Meeting, Birds	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor
			Birdlife International/RSPB	Rory Crawford	Bycatch programme manager
				Yann Rouxel	
			Fuglavernd (Birdlife Partner in Iceland)	Hólmfríður Arnardóttir	CEO
			Náttúrustofa Suðurlands	Erpur Snær Hansen	
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor
6.	Friday 29 January 2021, 12:00 hrs	Client Closing Meeting	Global Trust assessment team	Sam Dignan	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Virginia Polonio	Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability
				Giuseppe Scarcella	P1 Assessor
				Geir Hønneland	P3 Assessor
			Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson	Project Manager
			Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas	ASI auditor

6.1.2 Stakeholder participation

Included in this section is a description of stakeholder engagement strategy and opportunities available. No contact with regional MSC representatives took place as part of this assessment.

MSC requires justification be provided for how public announcements were developed. In this respect, in addition to Global Trust's posting information on the MSC webpage for this fishery and MSC email announcements, stakeholders were additionally made aware of the assessment process, and of opportunities for them to contribute/comment, via direct emails from Global Trust.

Where additional stakeholders were identified these were added to the list of registered stakeholders for this fishery. Instances where the progress of the assessment was communicated to stakeholders, including through public announcements, are outlined in Table 16 along with specific stakeholder consultation periods.

Table 16. Stakeholder consultation process.

Date(s)	Purpose	Media
22 December 2020	▪ Surveillance audit announcement including: – Confirmation of Assessment Team. – Site Visit schedule.	Publication on MSC website. Direct email to identified stakeholders.
22 December 2020	START – 30-day stakeholder comment period	
22 January 2021	END – 30-day stakeholder comment period	
27 – 29 January 2021	▪ Remote site visit	Direct consultation with assessment team.
16 April 2021	▪ Variation Request 1 submitted to MSC	
05 May 2021	▪ Variation Request 1 and MSC response	Published on MSC website.
06 May 2021	▪ Stakeholder notification fulfilling conditions specified by MSC in respect of Variation Request 1	Publication on MSC website. Direct email to identified stakeholders.
30th May 2021	▪ Publication of Surveillance Report	Publication on MSC website. Direct email to identified stakeholders.

Stakeholder input received during this assessment is reported below and, where appropriate, incorporated in the rationales presented in the Performance Indicator scoring tables.

6.2 Stakeholder input

No written stakeholder input was received during the stakeholder input opportunities (i.e. the 30-day stakeholder comment period and the Surveillance Audit itself). A summary of verbal stakeholder input received during the surveillance audit activities is provided in Table 17 below. The summary is presented in a similar format to the itinerary of meetings previously included in Table 15 above.

Please note that this summary is limited to the substantive issues discussed and this section is not intended to represent a *verbatim* account of stakeholder meetings. Additionally, only summaries of issues discussed with stakeholders other than management and client group entities (i.e. external stakeholders) are included. The assessment team has not responded directly to the verbal stakeholder input, but the issues raised have been considered as part of this assessment.

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
Wed 27 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability) Virginia Polonio (Lead Assessor, P2 and Traceability)	▪ Scope and objectives of audit. ▪ Recent significant changes. Role of chief of MFRI has been advertised and they are recruiting. No changes within ISF except more cert sharers (62 with full access and 4 with lesser access). Lesser access can be	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
		Giuseppe Scarcella (P1 Assessor)	shared by parent companies with their subsidiaries for half-fee. Johann Gudmundson and Sigurdur have both left Ministry. Directorate of Fisheries has a new Director. ▪ No changes that would affect traceability and ability to segregate MSC and non-MSC products. Trying to reduce risk by adding allowable gears and stakeholders. ▪ Usage time of all gears is declining (no. of hours). Gear manufacturers work to make gears more efficient increasing CPUE. Good idea to book a meeting with a gear manufacturer. Idea to certify gear as environmentally friendly. Also stocks have generally increased so helps CPUE. Heat maps show decrease in spatial distribution. Longline (quality of fish) and jigging have increased. ▪ Angling tournaments are given licences (10/12 places get to hold 2 tournaments each annually, generally 2 days each). Profits are to cover costs of organisation. Quantities are small (<200 mt annually) but are accounted for in management. ▪ Captain lost his licence for Covid-related offenses where didn't return to shore immediately as required.	
		Geir Hønneland (P3 Assessor)		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		
Thurs 28 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan	▪ Recent significant changes to regulations and personnel. ▪ No major changes. All quotas are in line with advice. Structural changes within the Ministry, Fisheries and Agriculture have now been separated but personnel are same aside from a new Head of Division. ▪ Changes in consultation processes? No changes. ▪ Recent changes to the harvest strategy and harvest control rules for the P1 Target stock. ▪ Adherence to recommended TACs in recent fishing seasons. Reasons for under/overshoots (if any). ▪ Changes in recording of catch and effort information and landings. ▪ Sampling programmes/level of sampling and surveys including inspector and other observer programmes. ▪ Impacts of Covid-19 on science/management. ▪ Recent significant changes to P2 stocks of concern.	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Virginia Polonio		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Geir Hønneland		
	Ministry of Industries and Innovation	Þorsteinn Sigurðsson		
		Sigurgeir Þorgeirsson		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
			▪ Sampling programmes/level of sampling and surveys of non-target catches including inspector and other observer programmes. % coverage (historic and aspirational future, impacts of Covid-19 in 2020/2021). ▪ Levels of compliance with reporting requirements for non-target species. ▪ Early indications of the use of new mobile app for reporting catches. ▪ Fishery interactions with other ETP species. ▪ Changes in permanent spatial closures, impacts of fishery on habitats, information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), monitoring programmes, closed areas etc. ▪ Impacts of fishery on wider ecosystem.	
Thurs 28 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan	▪ Recent significant changes to regulations, personnel etc. Few regulation changes e.g. new app. Must send logbook at-sea before landing. Previously, recorded daily but reported monthly. Allows Directorate to send Inspector and allows comparison of weighed landings Vs reported catch. ▪ Increasing traceability of catches. Part of logbook is ID which continues into database for processing and exporting of fish and catch certificate systems. App is working well with some minor issues. There is functionality within the app to allow reporting of out of scope species. ▪ Change of short-term closures from MFRI to Directorate is structural. Also resulted in a change in limits that trigger short term closures. 11 real time last years. Reason for changing limit was advice by MFRI. ▪ Changes to gear. Re-orientated mesh to allow for better flow of fish through the net. Resolution of gear reporting does not allow for identification of prevalence of modifications within the fleet (e.g. pelagic doors, larger meshes etc.). ▪ No changes in data flow to stock assessment scientists. ▪ Structural changes in IT personnel and databases Directorate responsible for collecting logbook data and the database which was previously done by MFRI. MFRI can request collection of data. ▪ Auditor General report followed by Committee who made recommendations. But no major changes as a result.	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Virginia Polonio		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Geir Hønneland		
	Directorate of Fisheries (Fiskistofa)	Sævar Guðmundsson		
		Þorsteinn Hilmarsson		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
			▪ Impacts of Covid-19 on management. Major reduction in Inspectors due to Covid. Reduced presence in plants and on vessels but maintained visibility at landing sites. Will look at companies pre- versus during Covid. Had planned inspector drive in lumpfish fishery for whole country but only managed Bredifjordur area where achieved 10% coverage. ▪ New regulation regarding final re-weighing at harbour to account for superchilled vessels that don't use ice. No reweighing from these vessels. 0.6% reduction from drip. Also have 2 different types of ice—7% for slurry ice and 12% for regular ice. ▪ Started using drones for surveillance on land and at sea. Focus on inshore fisheries. ▪ Recent changes to the harvest strategy and harvest control rule. Adherence to recommended TACs in recent fishing seasons. Reasons for under/overshoots. ▪ Early indications of the use of new mobile app for reporting catches. ▪ European eel is specifically protected in Iceland. ▪ No new permanent spatial closures. Working on project to make info more open new data portal. Consolidation exercise. Goal was to get rid of marks and placenames and use GPS instead. ▪ Regulation to release viable spotted wolffish. ▪ Publish data on when Inspector Vs when no Inspector (e.g. species composition, size distribution). Part of increasing risk analysis as a means of targeting enforcement efforts. ▪ Closed areas for lumpfish to protect seals. ▪ No changes on management to reduce impacts on seabirds. Have been projects to scare mammals and birds. Provision to allow for use of experimental gears. ▪ 01 January 2021, new regulation requiring marking of gears. ▪ MFRI have sent out ID guides for fishermen. ▪ Trackwell logbook has provision for reporting sponges, corals etc. but there are not regulations requiring them to do so. ▪ Specific similarities and differences between management of angling (sjóstöng) and other Icelandic fisheries.	

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
			▪ Regulation on angling tournaments. Have to plan and apply annually. Is a defined quota for this sector. ▪ Have to indicate boats that are to be used. Landing process and reporting takes place as normal (certified weighers etc.). ▪ Clubs have to provide a financial report showing that is non-profit. ▪ Fishing competition catches and TACs are registered against dummy vessels. ▪ Is provision that allows vessels to have passengers fish and ▪ Annual regulation 200 mt for competitions + 400 mt for other angling (tour) boats.	
Thurs 28 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan	▪ Recent changes to the surveys, stock assessment, harvest strategy and harvest control rules for the species under assessment. ▪ Adherence to recommended TACs in recent fishing seasons. Reasons for under/overshoots (if any). ▪ Changes in observed fishing pattern (e.g. by area, no. vessels, temporal changes) ▪ Changes in recording of catch, effort and landings information. ▪ Sampling programmes/level of sampling and surveys including inspector and other observer programmes. ▪ Recent changes to scientific information (e.g. stock structure, biological parameters etc.). ICES benchmarks of Atlantic wolffish in 2021 and Greenland halibut in 2022. Plaice will go through ICES in 2021. Are developing analytical assessment of lemon sole but data limitations exist. Exploratory model last year. Will work on it more this year. Exploratory assessment for blue ling that will be presented this year. Some tagging of Atlantic wolffish. Site fidelity. ▪ Impacts of Covid-19 on science/management. ▪ Recent significant changes to catch composition (if any). ▪ Harbour seal census went ahead in Summer 2020, no report yet. ▪ ID guide to go out ahead of lumpsucker season in 2021. ▪ 2019 regular habitat mapping survey. No closure as a result. ▪ Vessels do not report bycatches of habitat species.	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Virginia Polonio		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Geir Hønneland		
	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)	Guðjón Már Sigurðsson		
		Bjarki Elvarsson		
		Steinunn Hilma Ólafsdóttir		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		

Table 17. Summary of verbal information provided during remote meetings including names of organisations and individuals involved.

Day, Date	Meeting participants		Summary of substantive 'within scope' issues discussed	CAB response to stakeholder input
	Organisation	Name, Role		
			▪ Sampling programmes/level of sampling and surveys of non-target catches including inspector and other observer programmes. % coverage (historic and aspirational future). ▪ Changes (if any) in observed fishing pattern in recent seasons (e.g. by area, number of vessels, temporal changes etc.). ▪ Levels of compliance with reporting requirements for non-target species. ▪ Fishery interactions with other ETP species. ▪ Impacts of fishery on habitats, information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), monitoring programmes, closed areas etc.	
Fri 29 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan	▪ Recent changes to fisheries and their management (focus on seabirds). ▪	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Virginia Polonio		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Geir Hønneland		
	Birdlife International/RSPB	Rory Crawford		
		Yann Rouxel		
	Fuglavernd (Birdlife Partner in Iceland)	Hólmfríður Arnardóttir		
	Náttúrustofa Suðurlands	Erpur Snær Hansen		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		
Fri 29 Jan 2021	Assessment team (Global Trust)	Sam Dignan	▪ Summary of site visit ▪ Review preliminary findings, and any other appropriate information collected during the assessment. ▪ Discussion of preliminary findings so that ISF is aware of potential issues identified. ▪ Agreed timeframes for ISF to present further evidence. ▪ Discuss assessment follow-up and next steps prior. ▪ Questions from ISF in relation to assessment/process.	Issues discussed were considered as part of this assessment.
		Virginia Polonio		
		Giuseppe Scarcella		
		Geir Hønneland		
	Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf. (ISF)	Kristinn Hjálmarsson		
	Assurance Services International (ASI)	Antonio Hervas		

6.3 Revised surveillance programme

The surveillance programme for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the Public Certification Report for this fishery apart from the fact that this assessment was being conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As such the most up-to-date fishery surveillance programme may be viewed in the Public Certification Report.

6.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

In MSC, harmonisation is required in cases where assessments overlap, or new assessments overlap with pre-existing fisheries. Where harmonisation occurs, CABs are required to describe processes, activities, and specific outcomes of efforts to harmonise fishery assessments and identify the fisheries and Performance Indicators subject to harmonisation.

The surveillance audit process to which this report entails, involved the combined surveillance audits of several MSC-certified fisheries that together represent the 'demersal block' of certified Icelandic fisheries all of which were transferred to Global Trust in mid- to late-2019.

During these audits it became apparent that there was a lack of harmonisation between fisheries with respect to whether certain P2 scoring elements (i.e. species) appear in the Secondary species or ETP species component. With species appearing in different components in different fisheries there were then knock on impacts on the harmonisation (or lack thereof) of conditions. Based on the above, it was determined to conduct a P2 harmonisation exercise, focussed on PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3, as part of these surveillance audits to ensure relevant fisheries are appropriately harmonised going forward.

As an example of how these 'mismatches' have arisen, the 'out of scope' Principle 2 species in the cod fishery were assigned at the re-assessment in 2017 based on information from 2015 (Pálsson *et al.*, 2015) whereas the 'out of scope' Principle 2 species in the most recently certified fishery with which the cod fishery seeks to harmonised (ISF multi-species demersal) were based on 2017 data. In the case of lemon sole the main change was to review seabirds classification.

Any other fisheries requiring further harmonisation but for which there is not currently an ongoing assessment will be harmonised as appropriate at their next audit.

6.4.1 Overlapping fisheries

The following fisheries represent overlapping of relevance to the fishery under assessment here (Table 18).

Table 18. Overlapping fisheries.

Fishery		Certification status and date			Performance Indicators to harmonise
Cert code	Fishery name	Cert status	Date certified	Certificate expires	
MSC-F-31299	ISF Iceland capelin	Certified	18/04/2017	17/10/2022	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31301	ISF Iceland Cod	Certified	24/04/2017	23/10/2022	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31302	ISF Iceland haddock	Certified	24/04/2017	23/10/2022	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31331	ISF Iceland mackerel	Suspended	10/10/2017	09/04/2023	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31336	ISF Greenland halibut	Certified	19/10/2017	18/04/2023	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31346	ISF Iceland North East Atlantic blue whiting	Suspended	11/01/2018	10/07/2023	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31350	ISF Iceland anglerfish	Certified	25/01/2018	24/07/2023	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31403	ISF Iceland northern shrimp - inshore and offshore	Certified	30/10/2018	29/04/2024	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31413	ISF Iceland lemon sole	Certified	03/01/2019	02/07/2024	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31436	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	Certified	10/09/2019	09/03/2025	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31464	ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine (Icelandic Summer-spawning herring component)	Certified	13/11/2020	12/05/2026	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-30021	ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine (Norwegian Spring-spawning herring component)	In assessment			PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3
MSC-F-31489	ISF Iceland lumpfish	Certified	17/11/2020	16/11/2025	PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3

6.4.1.1 Units of Assessment/Certification within each fishery

Prior to further harmonisation, it is necessary to identify overlapping Units of Assessment/Certification within the above overlapping fisheries. While UoAs may be further defined by areas or fleets, the main determining

factor when it comes to P2 harmonisation is the fishing gear used. Table 19 below identifies the fishing gears within each MSC-certified fishery in Iceland. In theory, regardless of where they occur UoAs using the same gear should consider the same species assemblages and be scored consistently. Following on from consistent species assemblages and scoring, any conditions arising should then be naturally harmonised.

Table 19. Units of Assessment/Certification within each of the identified overlapping fisheries.

Fishery	Fishing gear (largely analogous to UoA/UoC)										
	Bottom trawl	Nephrops Trawl	Shrimp trawl	Pelagic trawl	Gillnet	Anglerfish gillnet	Lumpfish gillnet	Danish Seine	Handline	Longline	Purse seine
Demersal/groundfish fisheries											
ISF Greenland halibut	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	
ISF Iceland anglerfish	✓	✓			✓	✓	*	✓		✓	
ISF Iceland Cod	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
ISF Iceland haddock	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
ISF Iceland lemon sole	✓	✓						✓			
ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
Pelagic fisheries											
ISF Iceland capelin				✓							✓
ISF Iceland mackerel	✓			✓					✓		✓
ISF Iceland North East Atlantic blue whiting	✓			✓							✓
ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine				✓							✓
Other fisheries											
ISF Iceland northern shrimp - inshore and offshore			✓								
ISF Iceland lumpfish							✓				

*** A lumpfish gillnet UoA was included in but failed the initial assessment.**

6.4.2 Harmonisation activities

All the above fisheries are certified by/in assessment with Global Trust; therefore, harmonisation was conducted in-house between the respective assessment teams. As required, harmonisation activities are outlined in Table 20 below and in further detail in the subsequent sections.

Table 20. Overlapping fisheries – Harmonisation activities.

Supporting information	
As described above, numerous scoring elements (i.e. species) were inconsistently considered in the overlapping fisheries under assessment here by virtue of their appearing in differing components. The harmonisation activities, processes and outcomes are described in detail below.	
Was either FCP v2.2 Annex PB1.3.3.4 or PB1.3.4.5 applied when harmonising?	No
Date of harmonisation meeting	11 March 2021
If applicable, describe the meeting outcome	
In a meeting on 11 March 2021, the two P2 and Lead Assessors of relevance to these assessments (Virginia Polonio and Sam Dignan) and Global Trust Certification's Fishery team Leader (Géraldine Criquet) agreed in Principle that the marine mammals under consideration should appear consistently in the secondary species component while all seabirds would be considered as ETP species. In a subsequent meeting on 14 May 2021, the scores for all applicable scoring elements were agreed. The ultimate outcome was agreement was found among teams so reverting to the lowest score was not necessary in any instance.	

6.4.2.1 Intent of the P2 harmonisation exercise

The intent of the P2 harmonisation exercise is that all certified groundfish fisheries are scored consistently with respect to PIs 2.2.1 – 2.3.3, including having harmonised (i.e. the same) species composition for the various fishing gears within each certified fishery, and thereafter to ensure that any applicable conditions are fully harmonised in intent and timelines. As an example, after this harmonisation exercise, wherever gillnets appear as a certified gear in a fishery (not including lumpfish gillnets), they should appear consistently.

The Primary species, Habitats and Ecosystem components were deemed to be appropriately harmonised such that they were not considered again during this harmonisation exercise.

6.4.2.2 Identification of current scoring elements and where they occur

Initially, the relevant P2 assessors worked to identify the secondary and ETP species scoring elements that currently occur in the overlapping fisheries under assessment, and thereafter to figure out where in each fishery they occur (i.e. secondary species or ETP species). Note. Scoring elements from Units of Assessment that failed assessment are not included.

Table 21. Secondary and ETP species scoring elements that currently occur in the overlapping fisheries under assessment and the component under which they currently occur (i.e. Secondary species or ETP species).

Scoring element	Fishery	Unit(s) of Assessment/Certification (i.e. fishing gear)	Component
Birds			
Atlantic puffin	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Black guillemot	ISF anglerfish	Longline	ETP species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet, Longline, Demersal trawl, Shrimp trawl, Pelagic trawl	ETP species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Brünnich's guillemot	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Common eider	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Common guillemot	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet, Anglerfish gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet, Longline	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Common loon	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	ETP species
Cormorants/Shags	ISF anglerfish	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet, longline	Secondary species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet, Longline	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet, longline	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Longline	Secondary species
Great black-backed gull	ISF anglerfish	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Longline	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Longline	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Longline	ETP species
Lesser black-backed gull	ISF multi-species	Longline	Secondary species
Northern fulmar	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet, Anglerfish gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet, Longline	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet, Longline	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet, Longline	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet, Longline	ETP species
Northern gannet	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet, Longline	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Longline	Secondary species
	ISF lemon sole	Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	Secondary species

Table 21. Secondary and ETP species scoring elements that currently occur in the overlapping fisheries under assessment and the component under which they currently occur (i.e. Secondary species or ETP species).

Scoring element	Fishery	Unit(s) of Assessment/Certification (i.e. fishing gear)	Component
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet, Longline, Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	ETP species
Razorbill	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species
Marine mammals			
Grey seal	ISF lemon sole	Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet, Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	ETP species
Harbour porpoise	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet, Anglerfish gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species
Harbour seal	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet, Anglerfish gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF lemon sole	Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet, Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	ETP species
Harp seal	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species
Hooded Seal	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF cod	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF Greenland halibut	Gillnet, Longline, Demersal trawl, Shrimp trawl, Pelagic trawl	ETP species
	ISF haddock	Gillnet	ETP species
	ISF lemon sole	Demersal trawl, Nephrops trawl	ETP species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species
Ringed seal	ISF anglerfish	Gillnet	Secondary species
	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species
White-beaked dolphin	ISF multi-species	Gillnet	Secondary species

After the above analysis and given the level of dis-harmony between fisheries, it was determined that the correct assemblage of scoring elements per fishing gear should first be identified based on the most up-to-date information available.

6.4.2.3 Identification of 'correct' scoring elements

The most recently available information on interactions of the most impactful fishing gears with respect to marine mammal and seabirds is MFRI 2017 which presents estimated annual bycatches of identified species for the period 2014 – 2017 for gillnets, longlines and trawls; these data are summarised below. As can be seen in Table 22, the MFRI reports bycatch data for gillnet, longline and bottom trawls. Despite MFRI having inspectors on all vessel types, no bycatch data are reported for other gear as would be expected if there were significant interactions; therefore, this analysis assumes these (and anglerfish gillnets and pelagic trawls, see below) are the only UoAs concerned by interactions with out-of-scope species.

'Out of scope' scoring elements for anglerfish gillnets are based on species identified by stakeholders during the site visit for the anglerfish fishery (Northern fulmar and Common guillemot) or recorded during onboard observations by the MFRI (Harbour porpoise and harbour seal). No ETP species were recorded during onboard observations of anglerfish gillnets and or identified as occurring in anglerfish gillnets taking during stakeholder interviews such that anglerfish gillnets are assumed to impact no ETP species.

The ISF mackerel fishery identifies white-beaked dolphin as an 'out of scope' species impacted by pelagic trawls on the basis of Directorate of Fisheries records in the period 2013 – 2016 indicating 2 vessels had interaction with the species resulting in catch levels of <441kg over 4 year period. Information gathered from Directorate of Fisheries catch data and conversations with fishers, independent groups, MFRI representatives, and Coastguard officers did not identify any ETP species of relevance to pelagic trawls.

Table 22. Estimates of fishing gear interaction with marine mammal and seabirds, raised to the level of the fleet and averaged across years 2014 – 2017. Also included are logbook reported catches (Source: MFRI, 2017).

Species	Estimated total annual bycatch (average 2014 – 2017)			Bycatch observations (2014 – 2016)			Logbook reported (average 2014 – 2016)		
	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl	Gillnet	Longline	Trawl
Birds									
Atlantic puffin	10.5	0	0	1			1		
Black guillemot	0	0	0				13		
Brünnich's guillemot	0	0	0				1		
Common eider	79	0	0	2			18		
Common guillemot	470	0	0	44			41		
Common loon	46	0	0	3			1		
Cormorant	0	36	0		2		20		
Great black-backed gull	0	52	0		2		1	8	
Lesser black-backed gull	0	114	0						
Northern fulmar	1,436	1,148	0	17	48			76	
Northern gannet	141	354	36	12		2			
Razorbill	21	0	0	2			1		
Marine mammals									
Grey seal	0	0	15.5			1	11		
Harbour porpoise	1,353	0	0	64			29		
Harbour seal	11.5	0	21.5	1		1	34		
Harp seal*	112	0	0	9			6		
Hooded seal*	11.5	0	0				1		
Ringed seal*	24.5	0	0	1					
White-beaked dolphin	0	0	0				1		

*** According to NAMMCO Working Group on By-Catch (BYCWG), these are likely to be from misidentification of harbour and grey seals.**

Based on the above, the following are identified as the 'out of scope' species applicable to each of the gears contained within the overlapping fisheries subject to this harmonisation exercise.

Table 23. 'Out of scope' species identified as being applicable to each of the gears contained within the overlapping fisheries subject to this harmonisation exercise.

	Bottom trawl	Nephrops trawl	Shrimp trawl	Pelagic trawl	Gillnet	Anglerfish gillnet	Danish Seine	Longline	Handline
Birds									
Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*; ISL: Lundi)					Yes				
Black guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*; ISL: Teista)					Yes				
Brünnich's guillemot (*Uria lomvia*; ISL: Stuttnefja)					Yes				
Common eider (*Somateria mollissima*; ISL: Æðarfugl)					Yes				
Common guillemot (*Uria aalge*; ISL: Langvía)					Yes	Yes			
Common loon (*Gavia immer*; ISL: Himbrimi)					Yes				
Cormorant/shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*/*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*; ISL: Dílaskarfur/Toppskarfur)								Yes	
Great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*; ISL: Svartbakur)					Yes			Yes	
Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*; ISL: Sílamáfur)								Yes	
Northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*; ISL: Fýll)					Yes	Yes		Yes	

Table 23. 'Out of scope' species identified as being applicable to each of the gears contained within the overlapping fisheries subject to this harmonisation exercise.

	Bottom trawl	Nephrops trawl	Shrimp trawl	Pelagic trawl	Gillnet	Anglerfish gillnet	Danish Seine	Longline	Handline
Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*; ISL: Súla)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes	
Razorbill (*Alca torda*; ISL: Álka)					Yes				
Marine mammals									
Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus; ISL: Útselur)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes				
Harbour porpoise (Phocoena; ISL: Hnísa)					Yes	Yes			
Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina; ISL: Landselur)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes			
Harp seal (Pagophilus groenlandicus; ISL: Vöðuselur)					Yes				
Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*; ISL: Blöðruselur)					Yes				
Ringed seal (Pusa hispida; ISL: Hringanóri)					Yes				
White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*; ISL: Hnýðingur)				Yes	Yes				

With the correct 'out of scope' scoring elements (i.e. species) now identified, the P2 assessors next focussed on precisely where each scoring element should be assessed—secondary species or ETP species.

6.4.2.4 Consideration of components under which scoring elements are best assessed

6.4.2.4.1 MSC process for assigning P2 species to components

As part of the MSC process, a fishery's impacts on each non-target species are considered under one of three components (Primary species, Secondary species or ETP species); definitions of Secondary and ETP species are presented in Table 24 below. Each P2 species may only be considered within one of these components.

Table 24. Definitions of Secondary and ETP Species.

Component	Outcome PI	Definition
Secondary species	PI 2.2.1	**Within scope species** not covered under P1 where management tools and measures intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in either limit or target reference points are **not in place**. **Out of scope species** that are not ETP species.
ETP species	PI 2.3.1	ETP (Endangered, Threatened or Protected) species are: ▪ Species that are recognised by national ETP legislation; ▪ Species listed in the binding international agreements given below: – Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), unless it can be shown that the particular stock of the CITES listed species impacted by the UoA under assessment is not endangered. – Binding agreements concluded under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), including: i. Annex 1 of the Agreement on Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP); ii. Table 1 Column A of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); iii. Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS); iv. Annex 1, Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); v. Wadden Sea Seals Agreement; vi. Any other binding agreements that list relevant ETP species concluded under this Convention. ▪ Out of scope species that are listed in the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE).**

Some recent MSC assessments have considered species listed in the Icelandic Redlist, a National Redlist developed and published by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History to be ETP species; however, in this case the assessment teams determined that the MSC definition of ETP species is clear in that it does not specify consideration of National Redlists such that listing on the Icelandic Redlist does not make a species an ETP species. Ultimately, only species list as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE) on the IUCN Redlist-proper have been considered as ETP species.

Secondary species must also be further divided into 'main' and 'minor' species; however, being either birds or mammals, all species under consideration are 'out of scope' and as such are automatically considered 'main'.

There follows an examination of available information for the species identified in Table 23 as to whether they should be considered under the secondary or ETP species component and a determination as to which of those components they should be further assessed under.

6.4.2.4.2 Marine mammals

6.4.2.4.2.1 Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*; ISL: Útselur)

As with harbour seals, grey seals do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species by virtue of their not being protected by national legislation, listed in CITES Appendix 1, listed in the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE) and while they are listed in the CMS, this listing applies only to Baltic Sea populations and hence does not apply. Grey seals are therefore an out-of-scope non-ETP species and as such represent a secondary species and, as out of scope species are always considered 'main' regardless of their total catch volume, they represent a **main secondary species** for the purpose of MSC assessments. Grey seals are relevant to bottom trawl UoAs (including Nephrops and shrimp trawls) and gillnets.

6.4.2.4.2.2 Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena*; ISL: Hnísa)

With respect to national ETP species legislation, harbour porpoises are not specifically protected in Iceland. Additionally, with respect to relevant binding international agreements, harbour porpoises are listed in Appendix II (i.e. not Appendix I) of CITES, in Annex II of the CMS (but these listing only apply to Western North Atlantic, Black Sea, Northwest African and Baltic and North Sea populations) and on the IUCN Redlist as Least Concern (i.e. vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE)). Therefore, harbour porpoises do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species meaning that by rule, as an out-of-scope non-ETP species, they represent a **main secondary species** for the purpose of MSC assessments. Harbour porpoises are relevant to gillnet UoAs.

6.4.2.4.2.3 Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*; ISL: Landselur)

Harbour seals do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species as they are not protected by national legislation, listed in CITES Appendix I or listed by the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE) and while they are listed in the CMS, this listing applies only to Baltic Sea populations and hence does not apply. Harbour seals are therefore an out-of-scope non-ETP species and as such represent a secondary species and, as out of scope species are always considered 'main' regardless of their total catch volume, they represent a **main secondary species** for the purpose of MSC assessments. Harbour seals are relevant to bottom trawl (including Nephrops and shrimp trawls) and gillnet UoAs (including anglerfish gillnets).

6.4.2.4.2.4 Harp seal (Pagophilus groenlandicus; ISL: Vöðuselur)

While they occasionally occur in the area, harp seals are not resident in Iceland. As with harbour and grey seals, harp seals do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species by virtue of their not being protected by national legislation or listed in CITES Appendix 1, the CMS or the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE). Harp seals are therefore an 'out of scope' non-ETP species which by rule represent a **main secondary species** relevant to gillnet UoAs.

6.4.2.4.2.5 Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*; ISL: Blöðruselur)

While they occasionally recorded in Icelandic waters, hooded seals are not resident in Iceland and do not breed there. In contrast to other seal species, and while not protected by national legislation or listed in CITES Appendix 1 or the CMS, hooded seals meet the MSC definition of an ETP species by virtue of their being listed on the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU). They therefore represent an **ETP species** relevant to gillnet UoAs.

6.4.2.4.2.6 Ringed seal (*Pusa hispida*; ISL: Hringanóri)

While they occasionally occur in the area, ringed seals are not resident in Iceland. As with harbour and grey seals, they do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species by virtue of their not being protected by national legislation or listed in CITES Appendix 1, the CMS or the IUCN Redlist as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE). Ringed seals are therefore an 'out of scope' non-ETP species which by rule represent a **main secondary species** relevant to gillnet UoAs.

6.4.2.4.2.7 White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*; ISL: Hnýðingur)

As with harbour porpoises, with respect to national ETP species legislation, white-beaked dolphins are not specifically protected in Iceland. Additionally, with respect to relevant binding international agreements, white-beaked dolphins are listed in Appendix II (i.e. not Appendix I) of CITES, in Annex II of the CMS (but this listing only applies to Baltic and North Sea populations) and on the IUCN Redlist as Least Concern (i.e. vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE)). Therefore, white beaked dolphins do not meet the MSC definition of an ETP species meaning that, as an out-of-scope non-ETP species, they are assessed by rule as a **main secondary species**. White beak dolphins are relevant to gillnet and pelagic trawl UoAs.

6.4.2.4.3 Seabirds

The foundation of current legislation governing the protection, conservation and hunting of wild animals in Iceland (excluding seals, cetaceans, pets and livestock) is Act 61/1994[14], Article 6 of which protects all wild animals, including residents and non-residents, unless otherwise stated in the Act. While hunting or the collection of chicks and/or eggs of certain species is thereafter permitted, the inclusion of seabirds in this foundational act on the protection of species qualifies all seabirds for consideration as ETP species in MSC assessments via the 'species that are recognised by national ETP legislation' criterion.

Of the seabird species identified in Table 23, some also qualify for ETP species status on the basis of other criteria such as being listed in relevant binding international agreements or as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CE) on the IUCN Redlist. Table 25 below provides a synopsis of the various ETP criteria for each applicable species.

Table 25. Criteria requiring species to be considered under the ETP species component as they apply to each seabird species bycaught in the lumpfish fishery. Cells in red require the species to be considered an ETP species.

Species		Icelandic legislation	CMS (Appendix)	AEWA (Tab, Col)	CITES	IUCN
English	Latin					
Atlantic puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	Act 61/1994		1, A		EN
Black guillemot	Cepphus grylle	Act 61/1994		1, A		LC
Brünnich's guillemot	*Uria lomvia*	Act 61/1994		1, B		NT
Common eider	Somateria mollissima	Act 61/1994	II	*		VU
Common guillemot	*Uria aalge*	Act 61/1994		1, B		LC
Common loon	Gavia immer	Act 61/1994	II	1, A		VU
Cormorant/shag	*Phalacrocorax carbo/P. aristotelis*	Act 61/1994		1, C		LC/LC
Great black-backed gull	*Larus marinus*	Act 61/1994		1, C		LC
Lesser black-backed gull	*Larus fuscus*	Act 61/1994		1, A		LC
Northern fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	Act 61/1994				LC
Northern gannet	*Morus bassanus*	Act 61/1994		1, C		LC

[14] Act No. 61/1994 (*in Icelandic*): http://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1994064.html

Table 25. Criteria requiring species to be considered under the ETP species component as they apply to each seabird species bycaught in the lumpfish fishery. Cells in red require the species to be considered an ETP species.

Species		Icelandic legislation	CMS (Appendix)	AEWA (Tab, Col)	CITES	IUCN
English	Latin					
Razorbill	*Alca torda*	Act 61/1994		1, A		NT

CMS = the Convention on Migratory Species; AEWA = the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds; CITES = the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; IUCN = International Union for Conservation of Nature.
*** Listing not applicable to Iceland.**

6.4.2.5 Actions taken in respect of relevant P2 scoring elements

The relevant P2 scoring elements were applied to each of the fisheries subject to this harmonisation exercise as appropriate based on the rationale outlined above and the various gears contained within each fishery. Where applicable this variously resulted in the addition or removal of scoring elements entirely or the moving of scoring elements from the Secondary species to the ETP species component or vice versa resulting in the re-scoring of applicable PIs, and subsequent amendment, closure or opening of new conditions. The consequences for the fishery under assessment here resulting from this harmonisation exercise are outlined below.

6.4.2.5.1 Consequences for fishery under assessment resulting from this harmonisation exercise

Following this harmonisation exercise, and based on the gears contained within it, the following 'out of scope' components apply to the fishery under assessment.

Table 26. 'Out of scope' species identified as being applicable to this fishery following this harmonisation exercise including the component and, if applicable the category with that component, under which they are now assessed.

Scoring element (species)	UoA 1. Demersal trawl	UoA 2. *Nephrops* trawl	UoA3. Danish seine	Component and category	
				Current	Previous
Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*; ISL: Lundi)				Not present	Not present
Black guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*; ISL: Teista)				Not present	Not present
Brünnich's guillemot (*Uria lomvia*; ISL: Stuttnefja)				Not present	Not present
Common eider (*Somateria mollissima*; ISL: Æðarfugl)				Not present	Not present
Common guillemot (*Uria aalge*; ISL: Langvía)				Not present	Not present
Common loon (*Gavia immer*; ISL: Himbrimi)				Not present	Not present
Cormorant/shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*/*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*; ISL: Dílaskarfur/Toppskarfur)				Not present	Not present
Great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*; ISL: Svartbakur)				Not present	Not present
Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*; ISL: Sílamáfur)				ETP species	Not present
Northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*; ISL: Fell)				ETP species	ETP species
Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*; ISL: Súla)	✔	✔	✔	ETP species	Main secondary
Razorbill (*Alca torda*; ISL: Álka)				ETP species	Not present
Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*; ISL: Útselur)	✔	✔		Main secondary	Not present
Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena*; ISL: Hnísa)				Not present	Not present
Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*; ISL: Landselur)	✔		✔	Main secondary	ETP species
Harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*; ISL: Vöðuselur)				Not present	Not present
Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*; ISL: Blöðruselur)	✔		✔	ETP species	ETP species
Ringed seal (*Pusa hispida*; ISL: Hringanóri)				Not present	Not present
White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*; ISL: Hnýðingur)				Not present	Not present

✔ = No change.
✔ = Additional scoring element.
✔ = Move from Secondary species to ETP species.
✔ = Move from ETP species to Secondary species.

Table 27. Actions taken in respect of relevant P2 scoring elements identified as being inconsistently considered under either the Secondary or ETP species component and thus requiring additional harmonisation.

Scoring element name	Fishery	Component	Action
Birds			
Atlantic puffin	ISF multi-species	ETP species	Consistent, no action
	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	
Black Guillemot	ISF cod	ETP species	Consistent, no action
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	ETP species	
Black-legged kittiwake	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	Consistent, no action
Brünnich's guillemot	ISF multi-species	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to ETP species for ISF anglerfish
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
Common eider	ISF multi-species	ETP species	Consistent, no action
	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	
Common guillemot	ISF cod	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to ETP species for ISF anglerfish and Greenland halibut
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Common loon	ISF multi-species	ETP species	Consistent, no action
	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	
Cormorants/Shags	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	Move to ETP species to align with ISF lumpfish
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF cod	Secondary species	
	ISF haddock	Secondary species	
Fulmar	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	Move to ETP species to align with ISF lumpfish
Great black-backed gull	ISF cod	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to ETP species for ISF anglerfish and Greenland halibut
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Lesser black-backed gull	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	Move to ETP species to align with ISF lumpfish
Long-tailed duck	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to ETP species for ISF anglerfish
Northern fulmar	ISF cod	ETP species	
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
Northern gannet	ISF cod	Secondary species	Move to ETP species to align with ISF muli-species and ISF lumpfish
	ISF haddock	Secondary species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF lemon sole	Secondary species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Razorbill	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	Move to ETP species to align with ISF lumpfish
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
Marine mammals			
Grey seal	ISF multi-species	ETP species	

Table 27. Actions taken in respect of relevant P2 scoring elements identified as being inconsistently considered under either the Secondary or ETP species component and thus requiring additional harmonisation.

Scoring element name	Fishery	Component	Action
	ISF lemon sole	Secondary species	Inconsistent, move to Secondary species for ISF multi-species
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
Harbour porpoise	ISF cod	Secondary species	Consistent, no action
	ISF haddock	Secondary species	
	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Harbour seal	ISF cod	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to Secondary species for ISF cod, haddock and multi-species
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	ETP species	
	ISF lemon sole	Secondary species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Harp seal	ISF cod	Secondary species	Consistent, no action
	ISF haddock	Secondary species	
	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Secondary species	
Hooded Seal	ISF cod	ETP species	Inconsistent, move to Secondary species for ISF cod, haddock, lemon sole, anglerfish and Greenland halibut
	ISF haddock	ETP species	
	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	
	ISF lemon sole	ETP species	
	ISF anglerfish	ETP species	
	ISF Greenland halibut	ETP species	
Ringed seal	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	Consistent, no action
	ISF anglerfish	Secondary species	
White-beaked dolphin	ISF multi-species	Secondary species	Consistent, no action

Based on the above, relevant Performance Indicator tables in the respective surveillance reports have been amended as appropriate; where this impacts one or more conditions, these too have been amended.

A table specifying scoring differences between the overlapping fisheries under consideration here is not presented. While scoring differences may arise, they do so due to differences in the scoring elements (i.e. species) assessed in each fishery. Scoring elements (i.e. species) are now scored consistently across all the fisheries considered such that a table specifying scoring differences is no longer required.

Table 28. Overlapping fisheries – Rationale for scoring differences.
If applicable, explain and justify any difference in scoring and rationale for the relevant Performance Indicators (FCP v2.2 Annex PB1.3.6)
As above, any scoring differences result from differences in the scoring elements (i.e. species) assessed with individual scoring elements (i.e. species) now being scored consistently.
If exceptional circumstances apply, outline the situation and whether there is agreement between or among teams on this determination
Exceptional circumstances do not apply.

6.5 Relevant Variation Requests

To aid clarity, Global Trust has included in full in this section relevant Variation Requests and corresponding MSC responses. Variation Requests are a mechanism by which CABs may ask the MSC to be allowed vary in some way from a particular MSC clause or requirement.

6.5.1 Global Trust Variation Request 1

Marine Stewardship Council assessments

Global Trust Certification

ISF Greenland halibut
ISF Iceland anglerfish
ISF Iceland Cod
ISF Iceland haddock
ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1. Variation request.

1	Date submitted to MSC	
	16 April 2021	
2	CAB	
	Global Trust Certification Limited	
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number	
	Fishery name	Certificate number
	ISF Greenland halibut	MSC-F-31336
	ISF Iceland anglerfish	MSC-F-31350
	ISF Iceland Cod	MSC-F-31301
	ISF Iceland haddock	MSC-F-31302
	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	MSC-F-31436
4	Lead auditor or program manager	
	Fishery name	Lead Auditor
	ISF Greenland halibut	Virginia Polonio
	ISF Iceland anglerfish	Virginia Polonio
	ISF Iceland Cod	Sam Dignan
	ISF Iceland haddock	Sam Dignan
	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	Virginia Polonio
5	Request prepared by	
	Sam Dignan	
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	
	This variation is requested in 2 parts from the following scheme requirements: 1. **MSC Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension** 2.1 Eligibility 2.1.1 The CAB shall only apply the derogation to conditions that are set against a Performance Indicator listed in Table 1.	

Form 12n Issue 3 March 2021 Page 1 of 6

Table 1. Variation request.

	In addition, 'to aid consistency' MSC requires variation requests that seek extension to condition deadlines to include the following scheme requirements: **a.** **MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.1b** 7.28.16.1 The team shall audit conformity with, and progress and performance against, certification conditions. a. (…) b. The CAB shall document whether progress is 'on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target', as well as its justification for such a judgement. i. If progress against the measurable outcomes, expected results or (interim) milestones specified when setting the condition is judged to be behind target the CAB may specify remedial action, and any revised milestones, that are required to bring progress back on target within 12 months to achieve the original condition by the original deadline. **b.** **MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.2** 7.28.16.2 If the CAB determines that progress against a condition is not back 'on target' within 12 months of falling 'behind target', the CAB shall: a. Consider progress as inadequate. b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal). c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit of Certification(s), or any entity in the Unit(s) of Certification, into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed. **c.** **MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.4** 7.28.16.4 If a condition is not closed by its deadline, the CAB shall: a. Consider progress as inadequate. b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal). c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit(s) of Certification, or any entity in the Unit of Certification(s), into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed. 2. **MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2 §7.28.23.1** If the client has revised the Client Action Plan following surveillance, the CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 90 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	A variation for this requirement been not previously been accepted for any of these fisheries.

Table 2. Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	This proposed variation consists of 2 distinct parts: 1. Global Trust proposes to apply the MSC Derogation 6 to a Performance Indicator (PI 2.3.1) not listed as eligible in Table 1 of that Derogation; this will extend existing condition deadlines for PI 2.3.1 conditions in the relevant fisheries by 12 months and add 12 months to the associated interim milestones. 2. Global Trust proposes to upload the relevant Surveillance Reports including revised Client Action Plans to the MSC database for publication on the MSC website within **120 days** of completing the audit (i.e. an additional 30 days over and above the relevant requirement).	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	1. Precise nature and condition deadlines for PI 2.3.1 conditions vary by fishery: a. ISF Greenland halibut – No PI 2.3.1 conditions. b. ISF Iceland anglerfish – No PI 2.3.1 conditions.

Table 2. Variation justification.

		c. ISF Iceland Cod – Surveillance 1 of next cert cycle. d. ISF Iceland haddock – Surveillance 1 of next cert cycle. e. ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery – Surveillance 4 of current cert cycle. 2. 29 April 2021
	Modified deadline date requested	1. Current deadline + 12 months or, in the case of fisheries without PI 2.3.1 conditions, current deadline of existing PI 2.3.1 conditions + 12 months. 2. 29 May 2021 (Original deadline + 30 days)
	Length of additional time requested	1. 12 months (to align with other extended ETP species conditions) 2. 30 days
3	Justification	
	Again, this justification is provided in 2 parts: **1. <u>Justification for extending PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months</u>** All PI 2.3.1 conditions in the relevant fisheries result from a failure to meet SG for scoring issue B 'direct effects'. Derogation 6 allows automatic 12-month extensions to conditions on PIs 2.3.2 (ETP species management) and 2.3.3 (ETP species information) but does not do likewise for conditions on 2.3.1 (ETP species outcome). For PI 2.3.1, the likelihood that a UoA impacts a particular ETP species determines which scoring guidepost is met [likely (>70th %ile) = 60, highly likely (>80th %ile) = 80, high degree of confidence (>90th %ile) = 100]. Given that likelihood levels are defined in a probabilistic context, they are wholly dependent on the available information. As such, in Principle 2, Outcome PIs are inexorably linked to available information or management measures and quite often result when limited information precludes a higher level of confidence in a particular outcome. Furthermore, even where adequate information is available, conditions may be tied to the implementation of management measures. While it varies subtly amongst the relevant fisheries, the substantive nature of the PI 2.3.1 condition applicable to these fisheries is that there must be evidence that the direct effects of the gillnet and longline UoAs are highly likely to not hinder recover of ETP species. The associated annual milestones are variously to develop and propose a strategy, consult with industry and stakeholders on the proposed strategy and amend accordingly, formally commit to the new strategy and commence its implementation and demonstrate that the adopted strategy has been fully adopted and is being implemented in an effective manner such that SG80 is met. As can be seen above, the closure of these ostensibly outcome based conditions requires both the implementation of a new management strategy and for there to be sufficient new information to justify a higher degree of confidence (i.e. to at least the 'highly likely' (>80th %ile) level). The stated objective of MSC Derogation 6 is to provide a reprieve to fishery certificate holders that have the potential to face exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions due to the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries management systems. In this regard the client has faced exceptional difficulties in making progress on these conditions due to Icelandic fisheries management entities being unable to deploy inspectors/observers onboard vessels in 2020 to gather the data required to address these conditions. If conditions on this outcome PI are not extended, and due to programmes gathering information (surveys/observers) having been delayed by Covid-19, the relevant fisheries will in time face suspension by outcome despite their CAP workflows being considered 'on target' for information and management. To avoid the mismatch that will arise when management (PI 2.3.2) and information (PI 2.3.3) conditions are extended it is necessary to also extend the associated outcome conditions which rely on both better management and better information for closure.	

Table 2. Variation justification.

	2. Justification for additional 30 days to publish surveillance reports The level of harmonisation required to fully align all ISF demersal fisheries has been extensive and has required substantial additional time to complete. As a consequence, it was not possible to provide the revised conditions (requiring revised CAPs) to the client in sufficient time so as to allow the client group to respond with revised CAPs in time to publish the reports by the original 90 day deadline.
4	Implications for assessment
	1. Implications for assessment arising from extending PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months There will be no implications for the certificates if the request is accepted. It will affect future assessments by moving the ultimate condition deadline for PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months to align with the related management (PI 2.3.2) and information (PI 2.3.3) conditions. Extending the management and information conditions without the outcome condition Fundamentally extending will have negative implications in that the fisheries may in time fall 'behind target' on the ETP outcome PI and become suspended while remaining 'On target' on the ETP management and information PIs. **2. Implications for assessment from allowing an additional 30 days to publish surveillance reports** There are no implications beyond the reports being published later than would otherwise be the case.
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment
	The above implications do not require mitigation and will be addressed via normal annual surveillance and re-assessment processes.
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?

Fishery name	No. of conditions entering these surveillance audits*	Preliminary expected no. of conditions exiting these surveillance audits*
ISF Greenland halibut	5	5
ISF Iceland anglerfish	6	4
ISF Iceland Cod	6	3
ISF Iceland haddock	6	3
ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	9	6

*** May not be the same conditions.**

Progress on conditions other than those raised against PI 2.3.1 will be unaffected.

Progress against the PI 2.3.1 conditions will occur 12 months later than it would otherwise have but at the same time as the linked PI 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 conditions.

7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	Surveillance reports are in the process of being prepared for all current surveillances.
8	Further comments
	MSC should refer also to the joint letter submitted by MSC Fisheries CABs which foresaw this kind of situation arising and provides additional information as to the truly linked nature of outcome, management and information PIs.
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	At MSC's request the following information is provided/modifications made: **1. Added reference to MSC FCP 7.28.16.1.b, FCP 7.28.16.2, FCP 7.28.16.4 in Table 1 Section 6.** **2. Added condition deadlines for each fishery to Table 2 Section 2.** **3. Removal of fisheries with no PI 2.3.1 conditions:** As it does not involve any UoCs that are/or will be the subject of PI 2.3.1 conditions, the ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery has removed from this request. **4. Clarification of why VR is required for fisheries without PI 2.3.1 conditions:** The point of the harmonisation activities described in this VR is that those fisheries were not harmonised. As the fisheries have been harmonised through this assessment, this has resulted in conditions being applied to fisheries where they were not previously; importantly, **these are not new conditions** but ones that were pre-existing in other overlapping fisheries but had not yet been added to some fisheries where they should have been. In summary, on exiting their current surveillances, and as a result of harmonisation

Table 2. Variation justification.

	with ISF Iceland Cod, ISF Iceland haddock and ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery, ISF Greenland halibut and ISF Iceland anglerfish will have PI 2.3.1 conditions when they come out of these surveillances where they did not previously. **5. Number of conditions on each fishery:** This is somewhat difficult because the surveillance processes are not yet finalised. The number of conditions at the point these fisheries entered the surveillance audits has been included as well as a preliminary expected number of conditions on exiting these surveillance audits. Added the number of open conditions relevant to each fishery to Table 2 Section 6.

2 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

Table 3. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (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

6.5.2 MSC response to Global Trust Variation Request 1

Marine Stewardship Council

Sam Dignan
Global Trust Certification Ltd.

Sent by email

Date: 05/05/2021

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.28.16.1.b, 7.28.16.2, 7.28.16.4, 7.28.23.1 for ISF Greenland halibut, ISF Iceland anglerfish, ISF Iceland cod, Iceland haddock, ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery

Dear Sam Dignan,

I write with reference to your submission on 16/04/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

1. Global Trust proposes to apply the MSC Derogation 6 to a Performance Indicator (PI 2.3.1) not listed as eligible in Table 1 of that Derogation; this will extend existing condition deadlines for PI 2.3.1 conditions in the relevant fisheries by 12 months and add 12 months to the associated interim milestones.
2. Global Trust proposes to upload the relevant Surveillance Reports including revised Client Action Plans to the MSC database for publication on the MSC website within 120 days of completing the audit (i.e. an additional 30 days over and above the relevant requirement).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.28.16.1.b, 7.28.16.2, 7.28.16.4, 7.28.23.1 state:

7.28.16.1.b: The CAB shall document whether progress is 'on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target', as well as its justification for such a judgement.

7.28.16.2: If the CAB determines that progress against a condition is not back 'on target' within 12 months of falling 'behind target', the CAB shall:
a. Consider progress as inadequate.
b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal).
c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit of Certification(s), or any entity in the Unit(s) of Certification, until full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed.

7.28.16.4: If a condition is not closed by its deadline, the CAB shall:
a. Consider progress as inadequate.
b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal).
c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit(s) of Certification, or any entity in the Unit of Certification(s), into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed.

7.28.23.1: If the client has revised the Client Action Plan following surveillance, the CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 90 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

Marine House | 1 Snow Hill | London | EC1A 2DH | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7246 8900 | Fax: + 44 (0)20 7246 8901

• The client has faced exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions due to Icelandic fisheries management entities being unable to deploy inspectors/observers onboard vessels in 2020 to gather the data required to address these conditions.
• To avoid the mismatch that will arise when management (PI 2.3.2) and information (PI 2.3.3) conditions are extended it is necessary to also extend the associated outcome conditions which rely on both better management and better information for closure.
• The level of harmonisation required to fully align all ISF demersal fisheries has been extensive and has required substantial additional time to complete.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

Stakeholders are informed of the deadline extension for PI 2.3.1 conditions and new date of Surveillance Report publication.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International

Note. To comply with the condition as specified by the MSC that stakeholders be informed of the deadline extension for PI 2.3.1 conditions and new date of Surveillance Report publication, Global Trust informed stakeholders via online notifications on the relevant MSC webpages for each fishery as well as a direct notification to registered stakeholders for these fisheries.

6.6 Appendix 1 Derogation 6

Marine Stewardship Council

Title: Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension

Relevant MSC program document(s) and clause reference(s):

- MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2
  - 7.18.1.3
  - 7.18.1.5
  - 7.28.16.1
  - 7.30.5.2

Effective date: 28 March 2021. The derogation applies to any fishery that was certified against v1.3, v2.0 or v2.01 of the Fisheries Standard before 28 March 2021. The derogation also applies to suspended fisheries.

Expiration date: The derogation applies until all eligible conditions have been extended for all applicable fisheries.

Issuing authority and date: Dr Rohan Currey, Chief Science and Standards Officer, 24 February 2021

To: MSC Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies

Cc: Assurance Services International

1 Objective of the derogation

1.1 To extend existing deadlines on eligible conditions by 12 months.

1.2 To provide a reprieve to fishery certificate holders that have the potential to face exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries management systems.

2 Derogation requirements

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 The CAB shall only apply the derogation to conditions that are set against a Performance Indicator listed in Table 1.

2.2 Application of the derogation

2.2.1 For certified fisheries, the CAB shall apply the derogation at publication of the next surveillance audit report after 28 March 2021.

2.2.1.1 If the fishery is in a reassessment, the CAB shall apply the derogation at publication of the Final Draft Report.

2.2.2 For suspended fisheries, the CAB shall apply the derogation prior to reinstating the certificate as per GCR 7.4.5 and 7.4.6.

2.3 Derogation

2.3.1 The CAB shall extend the condition deadline by 12 months.

2.3.1.1 The CAB shall confirm that the condition meets the eligibility criteria in 2.1.1.

2.3.2 The CAB shall revise condition milestones to account for the extended deadline.

2.3.2.1 The CAB shall follow FCP v2.2, 7.18.1.5 a–c.

2.3.2.2 The CAB shall allow the client 30 days to revise the client action plan, where necessary.

2.3.3 The CAB shall clearly report condition eligibility, extended condition deadlines and revised condition milestones in the Surveillance Report (Sections 5.1 and 5.3).

2.3.3.1 The CAB shall reference this derogation.

2.3.3.2 If the fishery is in a reassessment, the CAB shall clearly report condition eligibility, extended condition deadlines and revised condition milestones in the next assessment report (e.g. Public Comment Draft Report) using the MSC Reporting Template (Sections 5.2.3 and 8.5).

Table 1: Eligible performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Description
1.2.1	Harvest strategy (management)
1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools
1.2.3	Information / monitoring
2.1.2	Primary species management
2.1.3	Primary species information
2.2.2	Secondary species management
2.2.3	Secondary species information
2.3.2	ETP management strategy
2.3.3	ETP information
2.4.2	Habitats management
2.4.3	Habitats information
2.5.2	Ecosystem management
2.5.3	Ecosystem information
3.1.1	Legal and/or customary framework
3.1.2	Consultation roles and responsibilities
3.1.3	Long term objectives
3.2.1	Fishery-specific objectives
3.2.2	Decision-making processes
3.2.3	Compliance and enforcement
3.2.4	Monitoring and evaluation

6.7 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Reporting Template v2.1'. Note amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification's corporate identity; however, content and structure follow that of the original template.

Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	08 October 2014	Date of issue
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	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (www.msc.org).

Senior Policy Manager
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

7 References

Bjørge, A., and Øien, N. (1999). Statusrapport for Havforskningsinstituttets overvåkning av kystsel (in Norweigan).

Clucas, 2014. Viðarsson et al., 2014, SINTEF, 2009, ICES WGBYC, 2018

Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Aerial census of the Icelandic grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) population in 2017: Pup production, population estimate, trends and current status. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-02: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/1549015805-hv2019-02.pdf.

Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Population estimate, trends and current status of the Icelandic harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) population in 2018. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-36: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/hv2019-361145062.pdf.

Granquist, S. M., and Hauksson, E. (2019). Population estimate, trends and current status of the Icelandic harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) population in 2018. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Report number: HV 2019-36: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/hv2019-361145062.pdf.

Grey seal: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/utselur_20191125514.pdf.

ICES. 2012. Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM 68.
http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2012/ADHOC/DLS%20Guidance%20Report%202012.pdf

MFRI 2020. Assessment Reports 2020. Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, 16 June 2020.

MFRI Advice 2019: Harbour seal: https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/landselur_191145061.pdf.

MFRI, 2019. Bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals - Lumpsucker gillnets (in Icelandic).

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission and the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. (2019).

Report of Joint IMR/NAMMCO International Workshop on the Status of Harbour Porpoises in the North Atlantic. Tromsø, Norway:
https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/final-report_hpws_2018_rev2020.pdf.

Pálsson Ó. K., Gunnlaugsson Þ., and Ólafsdóttir D. (2015). By-catch of seabirds and marine mammals in Icelandic Fisheries. Marine Research no 178. https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/research/files/fjolrit-178.pdf.

Regulation 165/2020 on lumpfish fishing in 2020 (in Icelandic).

Regulation No. 1100/2019. Regulation on hunting of seals (in Icelandic).
https://www.stjornartidindi.is/Advert.aspx?RecordID=98fc730b-d3a3-40a5-a279-e3ae19c5e6a8

Tun, 2019. ISF Iceland Lemon Sole Fishery Public Certification Report on the 1st full assessment of the fishery.