

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	North Menai Strait Mussel Fishery
Assessment number	First Re-assessment
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	<p>Yes.</p> <p>MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements and Guidance, Version 2.0 7.24.6</p> <p>A fishery is eligible for reduced reassessment if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The fishery was covered under the previous certification or scope extension; b. The fishery had no conditions remaining after the 3rd surveillance audit, and c. The CAB confirms that all standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by the 3rd surveillance audit. <p>MEC can confirm that this fishery is covered under the previous certification and that there have been no changes in the UoC. At the third annual surveillance audit, all conditions were closed out and all standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed. As such, this fishery will meet the above requirements.</p>
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>MEC confirms that the fishery is within the scope requirements (FCR 7.4).</p> <p>The fishery does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute.</p> <p>The fishery has not failed an assessment since being certified as sustainable on 26th October 2010.</p> <p>IPI stocks are not caught in this fishery.</p> <p>The certificate is not open to certificate sharing.</p> <p>The unit of assessment and certification are clearly defined.</p> <p>This fishery is an 'enhanced' fishery as it harvests and relays mussels in order to increase their survival. MEC confirms that this fishery remains within scope under 7.4.3.</p> <p>The fishery does not overlap with another MSC certified fisheries.</p> <p>The fishery is not based on an introduced species.</p> <p>The fishery does not include any entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violation against forced labour laws.</p>
Certificate sharing statement	N/A

Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	<p>Predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification awarded is the April 2016.</p> <p>An indicative timetable for the assessment is provided below along with an indication as to the key stakeholder engagement periods during the assessment.</p>		
	Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period
	Fishery announcement	30 th June 2015	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process
	Use of Risk Based Framework (RBF) announcement	30 th June 2015	Stakeholders will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Site visit(s)	5 th August 2015	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit
	Peer Reviewer(s) Announcement	30 th October 2015	Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment
	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	28 th February 2016	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	30 th March 2016	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination
	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	26 th April 2016	

Name of proposed Team Leader	<p>It is proposed that Dr Joanna Gascoigne will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this re-assessment. Additionally, she will have responsibility primarily for the assessment of Principle 1 and 3 of the assessment.</p> <p>Dr Joanna Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales and a shellfisheries expert, with over 25 years' experience working in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne is a specific expert in bivalves and has a PhD from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in the USA, which was completed on the Allee effects of the queen conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i>. Between 2003 and 2007 Dr Gascoigne completed postdoctoral research looking at the Menai strait mussel. This work considered all areas mussel culture and specifically looked at the carrying capacity of the system for shellfish culture and effects on stock and reproduction relating to fishing effort. Dr Gascoigne's work also involved detailed study of the management and policies used in the fishery and its implications.</p> <p>Aside from the above experience Dr Gascoigne has also completed a large amount of work looking at bivalve fisheries around the world. This has included policy based analysis of the king scallop and whelk in UK waters. She has also worked on the creation of management plans and policies in countries including Guyana and Oman.</p> <p>Based on the above experience MEC is confident that Dr Gascoigne meets the 5 year competency requirement for P1 and P3 experience.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne's a fully qualified MSC Team Leader and has been involved as expert and lead auditor in over 15 MSC pre- and full assessments.</p> <p>She has also been involved in the use of the RBF on numerous occasions, having completed the required training, and this has also furthered her experience in specific stakeholder interview.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne has recently completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.0 Fisheries Certification Requirements.</p>
Name(s) of proposed assessors	<p>The second member of the team will be Mr Matthew Doggett who will be responsible for Principle 2.</p> <p>Mr Doggett is a PhD marine ecologist with 10 years' experience in understanding the interactions of marine species in both temperate and tropical environments. Mr Doggett has worked specifically in the coastal environment (including the intertidal) where he has led trawl surveys, mammal observations, habitat surveys, intertidal sampling and benthic studies. He is an expert in ecosystem interactions and the effects on anthropogenic inputs upon those interactions.</p> <p>Mr Doggett will bring his expertise in ecological interactions between marine food chains to the Principle 2 scoring in this fishery.</p> <p>Both team members are fluent in English.</p> <p>Full CVs for both team members have been submitted to the MSC separately.</p> <p>MEC can confirm that all members of the proposed team have no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>

Assessment tree to be used	<p>It is proposed that the Default Tree for Enhanced Bivalve Fisheries will be used for the evaluation of this fishery.</p> <p>In addition, the Risk Based Framework (RBF) will be used. Please see the 'MSC Use of the Risk Based Framework (RBF)' document uploaded separately.</p>
Site visit	<p>The site visit is scheduled to take place in Bangor, Wales on the 5th August 2015. MEC welcomes anyone who would like to participate. It is proposed the both team members will attend this site visit.</p>

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

The site visit is scheduled to take place in Bangor, Wales, on the 5th August 2015.

The fishery for Northern Menai Strait mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) received MSC Certification on the 26th October 2010. The re-assessment audit will examine whether Bangor Mussels Producers (BMP) Ltd is satisfactorily addressing any certification conditions and whether any significant changes have occurred either in the physical environment or in the management of the fishery.

A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF, see <http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework>), we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.

All interested stakeholders should contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) or Joanna Gascoigne (j.gascoigne@orange.fr) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team in person, this can be arranged. Remote meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above mentioned email addresses.

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.

Submitted by: Gavin Fitzgerald, MSC Fisheries Officer

Date: 25th/06/2015

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