

Marine Stewardship Council – Expedited Assessment Audit Announcement

Name of Fishery	SFSAG North Sea haddock fishery										
Expedited Audit and UoA	<p>ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would like to announce the intent to conduct an expedited assessment for an extension of scope to the North Sea haddock fishery (MEP-F-034 - Valid from 13 May 2016 to 12 May 2021).</p> <p>The aim of the expedited audit is to assess the addition of four new target stocks, as well as a new fishing area. The proposed UoAs are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="448 622 1401 1966"> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 622 667 1205">Species / stock</td> <td data-bbox="667 622 1401 1205"> <p>UoA 1: (original): Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak)</p> <p>UoA 2: Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)</p> <p>(Note that the SFSAG North Sea saithe fishery is currently already certified. This scope extension will thus merge both certificates)</p> <p>UoA 3: Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 3.a.20 (Skagerrak)</p> <p>UoA 4: Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in subareas 4, 6, and 7 and divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)</p> <p>UoA 5: Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1205 667 1290">Geographical range</td> <td data-bbox="667 1205 1401 1290">Original range: North Sea (ICES Divisions IVa & IVb) Proposed scope extension: ICES divisions IIa, IIIa and VIa</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1290 667 1518">Method of capture</td> <td data-bbox="667 1290 1401 1518">Single <i>Nephrops</i> (TR2) trawl Twin <i>Nephrops</i> (TR2) trawl Demersal TR1 trawl Twin demersal TR1 trawl Danish seine (TR1) Pair seine–trawl (TR1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1518 667 1742">Management System/s</td> <td data-bbox="667 1518 1401 1742">Legal: EC Common Fisheries Policy; EU-Norway Agreement; National legislation Enforcement: ‘Marine Scotland Compliance’ & Royal Navy, and ‘Norwegian authorities’ with ‘Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and Norwegian Coast Guard’. Science: Marine Scotland Science/ ICES</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1742 667 1966">Client group</td> <td data-bbox="667 1742 1401 1966">Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) Ltd member vessels targeting haddock (UoA1), saithe (UoA 2), plaice (UoA 3), hake (UoA 4) and whiting (UoA 5) in ICES Divisions IIa, IIIa, IVa, IVb and VIa with single <i>Nephrops</i> trawl, twin <i>Nephrops</i> trawl, demersal trawl, twin demersal trawl, Danish seine and pair seine–trawl</td> </tr> </table>	Species / stock	<p>UoA 1: (original): Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak)</p> <p>UoA 2: Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)</p> <p>(Note that the SFSAG North Sea saithe fishery is currently already certified. This scope extension will thus merge both certificates)</p> <p>UoA 3: Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 3.a.20 (Skagerrak)</p> <p>UoA 4: Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in subareas 4, 6, and 7 and divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)</p> <p>UoA 5: Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)</p>	Geographical range	Original range: North Sea (ICES Divisions IVa & IVb) Proposed scope extension: ICES divisions IIa, IIIa and VIa	Method of capture	Single <i>Nephrops</i> (TR2) trawl Twin <i>Nephrops</i> (TR2) trawl Demersal TR1 trawl Twin demersal TR1 trawl Danish seine (TR1) Pair seine–trawl (TR1)	Management System/s	Legal: EC Common Fisheries Policy; EU-Norway Agreement; National legislation Enforcement: ‘Marine Scotland Compliance’ & Royal Navy, and ‘Norwegian authorities’ with ‘Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and Norwegian Coast Guard’. Science: Marine Scotland Science/ ICES	Client group	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) Ltd member vessels targeting haddock (UoA1), saithe (UoA 2), plaice (UoA 3), hake (UoA 4) and whiting (UoA 5) in ICES Divisions IIa, IIIa, IVa, IVb and VIa with single <i>Nephrops</i> trawl, twin <i>Nephrops</i> trawl, demersal trawl, twin demersal trawl, Danish seine and pair seine–trawl
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Surveillance number (tick one)	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	x
Proposed Team Leader	<p>Dr. Jo Gascoigne</p> <p>Dr. Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales. She is an expert on fisheries science and management, with nearly 15 years' experience as a consultant, working mainly on MSC pre-assessments and full assessments, as well as FIP scoping, planning and implementation. Jo has been involved as expert and lead auditor in the majority of MEP's and MEC's full MSC assessments and numerous pre-assessments. She regularly participates in the MSC training sessions and workshops, the most recent of which was the MSC scoring calibration workshop for the new fisheries standard. Jo is currently undergoing one of the first new assessments against the MSC Version 2 requirements. She is also currently a team member for the SFSAG Haddock fishery and so has gained an excellent understanding of the fishery in question through her P2 work for this fishery.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne will act as Team Leader for this assessment and will have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 2. She will also be responsible for ensuring that the Version 2 Certification Requirements are being met at every stage of the assessment process.</p>	
Proposed team members	<p>Dr Robin Cook</p> <p>Robin Cook studied zoology at Durham University followed by a PhD in population dynamics from Oxford University. He worked for many years at the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen and was Director there from 2002-2011. He worked mainly in the field of demersal fish stock assessments and assessment methodology. During the 1990s he was chair of the ICES North Sea demersal assessment working group and served on the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) and the EU Scientific, Economic and Technical Committee on Fisheries (STECF). Currently he is a Senior Research Fellow at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, focusing on bio-economic modelling of grey seal predation on demersal fish and the assessment of data-poor stocks. He has published over 80 scientific papers including a number dealing with the status of North Sea cod.</p> <p>It is proposed that Dr Cook would have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1.</p> <p>Geir Hønneland</p> <p>Geir Hønneland is Research Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and adjunct professor at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oslo and mainly studies fisheries management and international relations in the European North. Among his books are Making Fishery Agreements Work: Post-Agreement Bargaining in the Barents Sea (Edward Elgar, 2012) and Coercive and Discursive Compliance</p>	

	<p>Mechanisms in the Management of Natural Resources: A Case Study from the Barents Sea (Springer, 2000). He has also published extensively in peer reviewed journals. Before embarking on his academic career, Geir worked for several years as a fishery inspector for the Norwegian Coast Guard.</p> <p>Geir has gained a broad experience from evaluations and consultancies in the fisheries sector, e.g. for the FAO relating to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. He was a member of the team that performed the first MSC assessment of a Russian Barents Sea fishery in 2010, and has subsequently participated in further assessments of cod and haddock fisheries, and herring assessments in the Norwegian and North Seas. His experience includes MSC pre-assessments, surveillance audits and as a MSC peer reviewer.</p> <p>For this full assessment, it is proposed that Geir would be responsible primarily for Principle 3.</p>
Audit/review time and location	The on-site visit for the expedited assessment will be carried out on the 28 th February and 1 st and 2 nd March 2017 in Aberdeen, Scotland, simultaneously with the site visits for the SFSAG Rockall haddock assessment, SFSAG North Sea haddock and North Sea saithe surveillance audits.
Assessment/ review activities	A gap analysis was conducted to identify the assessment components which are the same for the new proposed UoAs and the certified fishery. The results of the gap analysis are shown in the Appendix.

MEC would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the site visit. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) or Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) 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.

The deadline for consultation is **17:00 GMT on the 24th February 2017**.

Submitted by: Gavin Fitzgerald, MSC Fisheries Officer
Date: 26/01/2017

Appendix: Gap analysis for scope extension

Component	UoA 1 (original)	UoA 2	UoA 3	UoA 5	UoA 6
	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak)	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 3.a.20 (Skagerrak)	Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in subareas 4, 6, and 7 and divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)
P1 Outcome	These are different stocks and a full evaluation of the P1 outcome component will be carried out.				
P1 Harvest strategy	Harvest strategies will differ between stocks and a full evaluation of the P1 harvest strategy component will be carried out				
P2 Retained species	The removal of saithe, plaice, hake and whiting as P2 retained species will lead to scoring changes. The addition of new fishing areas may equally lead to interactions with previously unassessed retained stocks. This component will be rescored.				
P2 Bycatch species	The addition of new fishing areas may lead to interactions with previously unassessed discarded stocks. This component will be rescored.				
P2 ETP species	The addition of new fishing areas may lead to interactions with previously unassessed ETP species/populations. This component will be rescored.				
P2 habitats	The addition of new fishing areas may lead to interactions with previously unassessed habitats. This				

		component will be rescored.
P2 ecosystem		The SFSAG North Sea haddock assessment of this component currently focuses on the North Sea ecosystem from a Scottish perspective. The addition of new areas to the scope will require a larger-scale assessment. This component will be rescored.
P3 Governance and policy	3.1.1	This PI may require rescoring if stock-specific management structure differs from North Sea haddock management.
	3.1.2	The European and Scottish systems of fisheries management have clearly identified organisations and consultation processes in place regardless the stock under consideration. No re-scoring is proposed.
	3.1.3	Re-scoring of this PI is required to take into account long-term stock-specific objectives, if different from those identified for North Sea haddock fishery.
	3.1.4	The system of economic and social incentives is unlikely to be influenced by the target stock – no re-scoring proposed.
P3 Fishery-specific management system	3.2.1	Re-scoring may be required where fishery-specific objectives are thought be different from North Sea haddock fishery.
	3.2.2	Re-scoring may be required where decision-making processes and approach to disputes are thought be different from North Sea haddock fishery.
	3.2.3	MCS system and non-compliance will be updated to include new target stocks. This PI will be re-scored.
	3.2.4	Scoring on research plan to be updated to take into consideration new target stocks. This PI will be re-scored.
	3.2.5	This PI will be updated to take into consideration new target stocks. This PI will be re-scored.