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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery

MSC Surveillance Announcement

13 August 2021

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Exmouth Gulf prawn managed fishery	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Brown tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>), Western king prawn (<i>P. latisulcatus</i>), Blue endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>) Exmouth Gulf stock, Western Australia Quad rigged otter trawl	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	10 December 2020	09 December 2025
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 1, Review of Information Timing of the surveillance audit has deviated from the certificate anniversary date. See Appendix 1 for details.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance – review of information	XX
	2nd Surveillance	

	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	<p>Richard Banks (Lead assessor and P3) has considerable MSC experience having served as the Lead Assessor on several Australian Full Assessments, including the first assessment of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery. Mr. Banks is an MSC qualified ND ISO 1901 team leader and qualified in the MSC risk-based framework (RBF). Richard has also designed several fishery improvement plans in South East Asia and the Pacific, and has acted as external reviewer to a number of MSC assessments on behalf of WWF. Richard is also co-author of the blueprint for sustainable tropical shrimp trawl fisheries, prepared for WWF. He has over 30-years' experience in fisheries management, research and consultancy covering all regions of the World. Richard currently works as an advisor to PNA and Pacific Island countries as an offshore tuna advisor. He is an economist and fisheries management and policy programming specialist having worked on similar issues for international agencies including FAO, World Bank, ADB, MFAT, DFAT and the European Union in more than 70 countries. Richard has also worked with a number of Australian Commonwealth and State Fisheries. Richard holds a Bachelors degree in Fisheries Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Portsmouth, and Imperial College, London, respectively.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Banks meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than three years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has passed the MSC team leader training; • He has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • He meets ISO 19011 training requirements; • He has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • He has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Banks has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>	
7	Proposed team members	
	<p>Kevin McLoughlin (P1) has over 25 years' experience in fisheries science and currently works as a fisheries consultant. His recent work includes Marine Stewardship Council assessments and pre-assessments in Australia and Fiji. In addition, he has undertaken review of fisheries assessed under the World Wildlife Fund Common Wild Capture Fishery Methodology. Previously, as a Senior Fisheries Scientist with the Bureau of Rural Sciences, he engaged in a wide range of international and domestic fisheries issues with close links to Government policy. Responsibilities included production of BRS Fishery Status Reports—these have had a major influence on the direction of Australia's fisheries management and policy. Mr McLoughlin represented BRS on many committees and groups such as Australian Fishery Management Authority fishery assessment groups (including for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, the Northern Prawn Fishery, the Bass Strait Scallop Fishery, and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery), DAFF's Shark Implementation Group for implementation of the National Plan of Action for Sharks, and others. He represented Australia on scientific issues at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and was Chair of the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch for its first 3 annual meetings. In 2006 he led Australia's delegation during 2 weeks of scientific meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna in Tokyo. His responsibilities with BRS required a high level of interaction with policy and industry clients, and with international organisations.</p>	

	<p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. McLoughlin meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; and • He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Ms. Mihaela Zaharia (P2) has over 20 years experience in marine biology and ecosystem sciences. Her relevant experience includes involvement as a marine science researcher for the National Institute for Marine Research and Development, Romania and for Poseidon Aquatic Resources Management Consultants Ltd. Ms. Zaharia was the P2 Assessor for a number of Australian Commonwealth fishery and South Australian fishery assessments. These include the Spencer Gulf Prawn trawl and Northern Prawn fisheries. Mihaela has also participated as a team member in a number of pre-assessments on clam, tuna, blue swimming crab and tropical prawn assessments and Fisheries Improvement Plans and prepared Risk Based Framework templates for the MSC. In addition to her employment history, Ms. Zaharia has also contributed several publications on fishery biology and science. Ms Zaharia holds a B.Sc (Marine Biology) M.Sc. in Ecosystem Sciences, -"OVIDIUS" Univ. Constanta, 1991-97 and a B Bus (Economics) and B Psych (with Hons), James Cook University 2012-2016.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Zaharia meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored; and • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.</p>
8	<p>Audit/review time and location</p> <p>A remote surveillance audit will be held 13-15 September 2021 and will be held in conjunction with the Shark Bay prawn surveillance audit.</p>
9	<p>Assessment and review activities</p> <p>The surveillance will review any changes in science and management, and changes any other changes within the fishery.</p>
10	<p>Stakeholder opportunities</p> <p>Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet remotely (FCP v2.2 7.28.15.b).</p>

Provide input or comments to the team regarding the Surveillance Audit. Stakeholders must use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Surveillance Audits v1.0 (Ctrl+click to follow link).

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery, to the surveillance and expedited assessments of the fisheries. Unless covered by FCP 4.3.3 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the surveillance audit, used to determine the surveillance audit outcome or used as the basis for an objection to certification. The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template ([MSC template for stakeholder input into a surveillance audit](#)) for stakeholder response available at [MSC program supporting documents](#). Stakeholders are encouraged not to withhold information, including concerns and knowledge about the fishery.

You must use the template to provide your response. All comments and inquiries should be directed to MRAG Americas. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm UTC on 06 September 2021.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/exmouth-gulf-prawns/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: 13 August 2021

Appendix 1: Surveillance frequency

Table 2 – Surveillance level rationale

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
4	There has been no change in surveillance level.		

Table 3 – Timing of surveillance audit

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
1	December 2021	September 2021	The audit will be held earlier than the certificate date to accommodate the schedules of key fishery representatives and fishery management.

Table 4 – Fishery surveillance program

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
There has been no change in the fishery surveillance program.				