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Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	U.S. Atlantic Monkfish and Winter Skate-Scope Extension to the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery						
Assessment number	Initial assessment of the U.S. Atlantic monkfish and winter skate to be undertaken by way of expedited scope extension to the certified US spiny dogfish fishery						
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	N. This is an expedited scope extension assessment						
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MRAG Americas confirms that the fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments.						
Certificate sharing statement	The client has stated that the following companies are allowed access to the certificate: Cape Ann Seafood Exchange, Inc., Marder Trawling, Inc., and East Coast Seafood LLC dba Seatrade International						
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	Scope extension of the U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish fishery to include Winter Skate and Monkfish	Month					
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	Announcement of expedited audit, assessor consultation and confirmation, and site visit announcement						
	Site visit						
	Examination of evidence, scoring and report writing						
	Client review						
	Consultation and confirmation of peer reviewer						
	Peer review						
	Public review						
	Final report and determination						
Public Certification Report and certification (if successful)							
Name of proposed Team Leader	<p>Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot is an M.Sc. graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June, 2014 and currently serves as Director of Fisheries Certification. She is currently serving on several assessment teams as team member and team leader. Prior to her work with MRAG Americas, she has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 10 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and</p>						

	<p>assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.</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 (see CV); • She has passed the MSC team leader training; • She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • She 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, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Team Leader assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRAG Americas confirms that Amanda Stern-Piriot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
<p>Name(s) of proposed assessors</p>	<p>Dr. Joseph E. Powers has been involved in fisheries issues for more than 40 years, conducting stock assessments, coordinating international stock assessment research, communicating scientific advice to fishery management councils and commissions and also serving as the senior marine fisheries manager in the southeast US. His background includes: professor of marine resource assessment at Louisiana State University; Senior Stock Assessment Scientist of the US's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) southeast region, Laboratory Director of a NMFS facility; lead US scientist for Atlantic tuna, swordfish and billfish species for the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Chair of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT; Chair of the Stock Assessment Committee for Southern Bluefin Tuna; Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and he has worked on numerous Marine Stewardship Council assessments of tunas, swordfish, hake and other fisheries resources in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Joseph Powers 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 • 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 and Principle 3 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Ms. Erin Wilson. Erin Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. as a Fisheries Consultant in February 2015. She is currently serving as a team member for several MSC assessments and has conducted routine management system and vessel compliance audits for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation since 2015. Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the</p>

	<p>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology (with a marine emphasis) from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Erin Wilson 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 at least 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. • <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>As described above and on team member CVs, the whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	The default assessment tree contained within MSC Certification Requirements version 1.3 will be used for this scope extension assessment for those Performance Indicators not in common with the currently certified spiny dogfish fishery.
Site visit	A site visit will occur July 26-27, 2018 in New Bedford and Gloucester, MA.

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of U.S. Spiny Dogfish scope extension to include monkfish and winter skate has begun. The assessment will evaluate the fishery for compliance with the MSC's Standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. MRAG Americas has determined that the fishery is in scope.

As part of the assessment, MRAG Americas announces that stakeholder meetings and assessment of relevant documentation will be undertaken with a visit to the fishery in July. **The assessment team will meet in New Bedford and Gloucester, MA from July 26-27, 2018.** The purpose of these meetings is for a fishery assessment and stakeholder consultation to receive information from fishery representatives, government management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

MRAG invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant to the expedited assessments of the fishery. 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

Stakeholders may provide input at any time. We ask stakeholders who wish to meet MRAG Americas announcement—US2574 _US Spiny Dogfish Scope Extension

with the team to make the request for a meeting by 5pm UTC on July 19, 2018.

The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders> and a template for stakeholder response available at http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders/template_for_stakeholder_input. You may use the template or provide your response in any other format.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/us-atlantic-spiny-dogfish/@@view>

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

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26 June 2018

Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement

N/A-please see certificate sharing arrangements already in place for this fishery

Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team

CVs provided as separate PDF documents downloadable from the MSC website here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/us-atlantic-spiny-dogfish/@@view>