

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

This fishery is part of a pilot for a revised assessment process. This process aims to simplify the assessment process – reducing complexity and cost whilst improving effectiveness of stakeholder engagement and maintaining credibility.

[Read more about the streamlining pilot process >](#)

Stakeholders can submit comments till the last day of the site visit, as per an amendment in V1.7 of the streamlining process. Comments received before the site visit will be published ahead of the site visit – therefore we stress that the comments would be ideally received before the site visit.

Written stakeholder comments for either period should be submitted using the [Template for Stakeholder Input into MSC Assessments](#), which has been designed for the purpose. Please note that if stakeholders do not comment on a particular topic here or at the site visit, that topic shall not be accepted as a subject for objection later.

Announcement Details

Name of Fishery	Western Australian Sea Cucumber fishery
Assessment Number	Initial assessment
Reduced reassessment	N/A
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>Lloyd's Register have confirmed the West Australian Sea Cucumber fishery is in scope after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the fishery is within scope of the MSC standard, (i.e. it 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); • Reviewing pre-assessment reports and other information; • Confirming the proposed units of assessment and certification;

- Determining if the fishery has failed an assessment within the last two years;
- Determining if the certificate may be shared with fishers not initially part of the client group;
- Determining if IPI stocks are caught;
- Determining if the fishery is enhanced;
- Determining if the fishery overlaps with another MSC certified or applicant fishery;
- Determining if the fishery is based on an introduced species; and
 - Ensuring that the fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.

Unit of Assessment and
Unit(s) of Certification

UoC 1

Species	<i>Holothuria scabra</i> ('sandfish')
Stock	Kimberley stock
Geographical area	North Coast of Western Australia, from 120°E to the Northern Territory border
Harvest method/gear type	Hand collection by diving or wading.
Client group	All six Fishing Boat Licences in the Western Australian sea cucumber fishery currently listed in Schedule 1 of Instrument of Exemption # 2920.
Other Eligible Fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.

UoC 2

Species	<i>Holothuria scabra</i> ('sandfish')
Stock	Pilbara stock
Geographical area	North Coast of Western Australia, from 114° 50'E to 120°E
Harvest method/gear type	Hand collection by diving or wading.
Client group	All six Fishing Boat Licences in the Western Australian Sea cucumber Fishery currently listed in Schedule 1 of Instrument of Exemption # 2920.
Other Eligible Fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.

UoC 3	
Species	<i>Actinopyga echinites</i> ('redfish' or 'deepwater redfish')
Stock	Pilbara stock
Geographical area	North Coast of Western Australia, from 114° 50'E to 120°E
Harvest method/gear type	Hand collection by diving or wading.
Client group	All six Fishing Boat Licences in the Western Australian Sea cucumber Fishery (WASCF) currently listed in Schedule 1 of Instrument of Exemption # 2920.
Other Eligible Fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Certificate sharing statement	N/A
Name of proposed Team Leader	Jim Andrews (P2 & P3)
Names of proposed assessors	Tim Skewes (P1)
Assessment tree to be used	Default V2.0 tree
Harmonisation	N/A
Site Visit	<p>The site visit will take place the week commencing 12th November 2018 in Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. RBF is likely to be used for PI 2.2.1 and 2.5.1. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see http://www.msc.org/about-</p>

	<p>us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative 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</p>
<p>Stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Prior to the Site Visit, stakeholders can submit comments until 5pm GMT on the 16th November 2018, the last day of the site visit (as per the amendment to 1.8.1.5 and 1.9.1 in V1.7 of the streamlining process)..</p> <p>Comments must be made using the Template for Stakeholder Input into MSC Assessments.</p>
<p>Tree modifications</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Submitted by</p>	<p>Polly Burns, LR Fisheries Manager</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>28/09/18</p>

Summary profiles of team leader and assessors

Tim Skewes (P1) - Tim is a marine ecologist with over 30 years' experience in fisheries, coastal ecosystems and climate change research. After a 27-year career working for the CSIRO, Australia's premier research organisation, he now runs his own consulting company, Tim Skewes Consulting. Tim's research career has focused on the assessment and management of coastal fisheries (particularly rock lobsters and sea cucumbers), the valuing and assessment of risks to social-ecological systems from resource extraction and climate change; and the design and implementation of geospatial information systems for natural resource management and integrated coastal planning. The outputs of Tim's fisheries research have formed the basis for management in several Australian State and Commonwealth fisheries and international fisheries throughout the Indo west-Pacific.

Jim Andrews (TL, P2 & 3) Jim Andrews is a marine biologist with over 20 years' experience working in marine fisheries and environmental management. His previous experience includes running the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee as its Chief Executive from 2001 to 2005, previously working as the SFC's Marine Environment Liaison Officer (from 1996-2001), and prior to that working for the English Government's nature conservation advisor, English Nature on wildlife and coastal zone management in northwest England (from 1992-1996). During his time with the SFC he was responsible for the regulation, management and assessment of inshore finfish and shellfish stocks along a 1,500km coastline, as well as assessment and management of fisheries interactions with aquatic ecosystems in this area. He has an extensive practical knowledge of fisheries and environmental management as well as the enforcement and regulation of fisheries under UK and EC legislation. Jim has formal legal training & qualifications, with a special interest in the policy, governance and management of fisheries impacts on marine ecosystems in the UK, EU and globally (this particular subject being the focus of his LLM research over the period 1997-99). He has worked as an assessor and lead assessor on more than 20 MSC certifications within the UK, in Europe and in India since 2007. In 2008 he worked with the MSC and WWF on one of the pilot assessments using the new MSC Risk Based Assessment Framework. Jim has carried out numerous MSC Chain of Custody assessments within the UK. Jim has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Jim has completed the MSC RBF training in the past 3 years. Full CV available upon request.