

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification****Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery**

Client:

**The Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative (CBAIT)***And***Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)****Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement**

<b>Name of Fishery</b>	Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery
<b>Assessment number</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> re-assessment
<b>Reduced re-assessment?</b>	No
<b>Statement that the fishery is within scope</b>	<p>SAI Global confirms that the fishery entering re-assessment is within the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The target species is not an amphibian, a reptile, a bird or a mammal;</li><li>▪ Fishing operations are not conducting using destructive fishing practices such as fishing with poisons or explosives</li><li>▪ The fishery does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement and is not overwhelmed by dispute;</li><li>▪ The proposed UoA and UoC have been confirmed;</li><li>▪ The fishery has not failed an assessment within the last two years;</li><li>▪ The client is willing to share the certificate with fishers not initially part of the client group;</li><li>▪ There are no catches of non-target stocks (Principle 2) that are inseparable or practicably inseparable (IPI) from the target stock (Principle 1);</li><li>▪ The fishery is not based on an introduced species, blue mussel being a native species of the Irish/ Northern Irish Coastal waters; and</li><li>▪ The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.</li></ul>
<b>Certificate sharing statement</b>	<p>There are other eligible fishers who are not members of the client group and who fish for the target species using the same fishing gear under the same management system. These other eligible fishers include all professional fishermen entitled to fish mussels with dredges in the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland who are not part of the client group.</p> <p>In accordance with FCR 7.8.3.3 and FCR 7.4.12.2 the client has prepared and published a statement of their understanding and willingness for reasonable certificate sharing arrangements (see Appendix 1) and has informed other eligible fishers of the above to the extent practicable.</p>

<b>Estimated Length of Full Assessment &amp; Timeline</b>	<p>Barring any unforeseen delays, the full assessment is expected to take approx. 10 months. The Public Comment Draft Report should be published in March 2018. The expected date of publication of the Public Certification Report is June 2018. The eligibility date will be the date of the publication of the Public Certification Report. Following FCR 7.8.3.2 an indicative assessment timeline has been uploaded to the MSC website.</p>
<b>Name of proposed Team Leader</b>	<p><b>Sam Dignan (Lead Assessor) – Primary responsibility for Principle 1 and RBF</b></p> <p>It is proposed that Sam Dignan, a member of SAI Global’s internal staff will lead the Assessment Team. Sam meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years’ experience in the fisheries sector</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team leader training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ Undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years</li> <li>▪ Has undertaken well in excess of MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s Traceability training module in the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ Experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques.</li> </ul> <p>Sam is also an ISO approved lead auditor.</p> <p>Sam will be in charge of coordinating the other Assessment Team members, participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures.</p> <p>In addition to leading the Assessment Team Sam will be the team’s expert on Principle 1. As there is no stock assessment in place for this fishery the requirement to have either 5 years or more experience applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment or primary authorship of two peer reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment is not relevant in this instance. The RBF will instead be used to assess the target species outcome PI. Sam has passed the MSC’s RBF training course within the last three years and will also be responsible for primarily responsible for the application of the RBF.</p> <p>Sam does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a short biography is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
<b>Name(s) of proposed assessors</b>	<p><b>Deirdre Hoare (Assessor) – Primary responsibility for Principle 2</b></p> <p>Deirdre meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years’ fisheries experience</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team member training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ 5 years or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems.</li> <li>▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders</li> </ul>

	<p>Deirdre does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a short biography is provided in Appendix 2.</p> <p><b>Fergal Guilfoyle (Assessor) – Primary responsibility for Principle 3</b>  Fergal meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years' fisheries experience</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ 5 years or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst.</li> <li>▪ Two assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years</li> </ul> <p>Fergal does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a short biography is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
<b>Assessment tree to be used</b>	<p>The default enhanced bivalve tree for catch and grow fisheries (MSC CR v1.3). The fishery involves translocation so P1 will be scored.</p>
<b>Site visit</b>	<p>The site visit will take place the week commencing the 27<sup>th</sup> November in BIM in Dun Laoghaire.</p> <p>Stakeholders with an interest in this fishery are invited to make written comment or provide information relevant to the assessment process. Stakeholders are also invited to meet with the Assessment Team in person and/or remotely. For further details on Stakeholder input into the MSC Assessment Process see <a href="#">Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessment Statement</a> below.</p> <p>The Risk Based Framework (RBF) will likely be used to score PI 1.1.1 Stock Status and may possibly be used to score PI 2.1.1 Retained species outcome and 2.2.1 Bycatch species outcome.</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see <a href="http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework">http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework</a>.</p> <p>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>
<b>Tree modifications &amp; stakeholder consultation</b>	<p>Not Applicable. There are no proposed modifications to the relevant default tree.</p>



## Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessment

The above fishery will now enter an information gathering phase prior to assessment site visits. A key purpose of this stage is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies.

SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery to make written comment or provide information relevant to the assessment process. To assist in contributing relevant information and to ensure that any contributions have maximum impact stakeholders should use the [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments](#) template alongside the [Stakeholder's Guide to the Marine Stewardship Council](#) when providing input.

We expect to carry out most meetings over the period specified in the Site Visit Section of the above Table during which the Assessment Team will be available for direct stakeholder meetings.

**If you would like to talk to the assessors, please advise us of your interest by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 giving the following details:**

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)

If you not wish to be interviewed you may still submit written information to the Assessment Team by completing the aforementioned [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments template](#).

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>.

Stakeholders should be aware that any information that they submit will be made public through the reporting process as required by the MSC FCR v2.0. Any information that is not made available to all stakeholders may not be used in determining the assessment outcome or as the basis for an objection to a certification.

**Comments/responses should be sent to:**

**Ruth O'Connell**

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**Submitted by: Ruth O'Connell**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement**

**Statement of the Aquaculture Initiatives Policy on Certificate Sharing Arrangements for the  
Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery.**

The Aquaculture Initiative EEIG confirms its willingness to share the certificate for MSC certification of the Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery, including any further potential extension of the scope of that certificate.

Mussels will be eligible for marketing with reference to the certificate, provided the mussels are supplied and/or sold by members of the client grouping and/or authenticated certificate sharers.

Any holders of Bottom Grown Mussel licenced sites and/or seed mussel allocations and /or processors and/or traders of this species derived from the above fishery are invited to apply to BIM for the sharing of the certificate.

Applicants will be eligible to enter into certificate sharing agreement with BIM on the basis of;

1. Reciprocal access to other certificates
2. Equitable sharing of internal and external costs incurred due to the assessment processes and
3. Full compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standards and Certification Requirements, including any conditions and recommendations set for the certification and any subsequent programs of corrective actions to address such conditions and recommendations

On behalf of the Aquaculture Initiative

 04/09/17

Joanne Gaffney



## **Appendix 2: Short biographies of Assessment Team**

### **Sam Dignan: Surveillance Assessment Team Leader, P1 and RBF**

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a B.Sc. in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and a M.Sc. in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2016 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions. Sam is an ISO approved lead auditor.

### **Fergal Guilfoyle: Surveillance Assessment Team Member, P3**

Fergal has a degree in Marine Biology from Trinity College Dublin, a Masters in Fisheries and Marine Science from Aberdeen University and a postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management from the University of Ulster. Fergal is currently managing director of Treanbeg Shellfish Ltd, a small oyster farming business based in Mayo. Treanbeg Shellfish also trades as Treanbeg Marine Consulting which is a business focusing on Environmental Impact Assessment for finfish farms. Fergal is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, and he is an invited member of the National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF) which advises IFI and the minister in matters relating to inland fisheries resources in Ireland. Fergal has worked as a research scientist in Ireland for BIM and the Marine Institute. As an Aquaculture Development / Quality Officer in Co Mayo Fergal has gained a thorough understanding of all aspects of the aquaculture industry in Ireland. Since 2009 Fergal has been working extensively with the Aquaculture Industry as a shellfish producer and as a consultant working on EIA projects in the finfish sector.

### **Deirdre Hoare: Surveillance Assessment Team Member, P2**

Deirdre Hoare is an independent fisheries consultant with more than 10 years of experience working in a wide range of projects associated with marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of living aquatic resources. Her principal area of expertise is in relation to stock assessment and ecosystem impacts of both artisanal and commercial fisheries. Her work currently involves evaluation and verification of fisheries management and sustainability against international standards. She also performs fish stock assessments, evaluates data and outlines the limitations. She previously worked as a Fisheries Assessment Analyst and as a Scientific and Technical Officer for the Marine Institute in Ireland. This work involved fisheries research and stock assessment for ICES working groups. The work also involved coordination and management of a Fisher Self sampling program in the Irish Sea, with particular emphasis on spatial and temporal discard measurement tools. As well as having worked as a researcher, she completed many trips on commercial fishing vessels in the capacity of scientific observer in the NAFO area, North West Atlantic and Irish Coast. She has also experience on finfish and shellfish aquaculture that she gained working in Scotland. She also works as an assessor for SAI Global in FAO Responsible Fisheries Management and Marine Stewardship Council assessments in both Iceland, Alaska and Ireland.