

Estonia North East Arctic cold water prawn fishery - Expedited audit**Marine Stewardship Council Certification****Certification Body: DNV GL Business Assurance****Notification of Change of Proposed Peer Reviewer**

DNV GL announces John Nichols as the new proposed Peer Reviewer for the expedited audit for including a **Lithuanian vessel** to this fishery. He will review the Peer Review Draft Report as required under the MSC Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

Brief details of the peer reviewer are provided below. All stakeholders (including the applicant fishery) are now given the opportunity to state any objections to the selection of the proposed peer reviewer specifying the basis of any conflicts of interest and accompanied by a statement of objection.

Comments on the suitability of the person listed below should be forwarded, **before 5 PM GMT on 5 February 2017** to Sigrun Bekkevold at DNV GL as follows:

The contact details for DNV are:
Sigrun Bekkevold
Principal Consultant, DNV GL Business Assurance
E-mail: [Sigrun.bekkevold @dnvgl.com](mailto:Sigrun.bekkevold@dnvgl.com)
Phone: +47 977 62 507

Please use the «MSC template for stakeholder input v1» for submission of comments. The template can be downloaded from the MSC website:
<https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/forms-and-templates/template-for-stakeholder-input-into-fishery-assessments-v2.0/view>

Proposed Peer Reviewer:**Mr John Henry Nichols CBiol FSB
Fisheries Biologist: MAFF (DEFRA) –CEFAS (Retired)**

Mr John Nichols has 42 years experience of plankton ecosystem research specialising in the taxonomy of North Atlantic & NW European plankton including phytoplankton, micro and mesoplankton, ichthyoplankton and young fish. Involvement with plankton surveys for stock assessment from 1977 and direct involvement with the assessment of pelagic and western demersal fish stocks from 1994 to 2000.

In 1992 he set up the original CEFAS programme for monitoring phytoplankton in shellfish harvesting areas to protect the public from the potential ill effects of toxic algae. He was responsible for it's compliance with the EU Directive. In that context he had to train staff in the identification of both diatoms and dinoflagellates. Since retiring from CEFAS he has been involved as an expert in the assessment of thirty separate fisheries for Marine Stewardship accreditation and subsequent surveillance visits to accredited fisheries and the peer review process (summary details below).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fisheries management

Fish stock assessment and management of North Sea pelagic species including the North Sea herring and sprat stocks and the Thames Estuary herring stock. I was involved throughout with management advice in relation to the MSC accreditation process for the Thames herring stock.

Assessment and management of western mackerel and horse mackerel and western demersal stocks.

Scientist in charge of numerous research vessel surveys for fish stock assessment including inshore nursery ground surveys and plankton research surveys.

Plankton and young fish sampling expertise.

Participation in sole egg surveys of the southern North Sea and eastern English Channel for stock assessment purposes.

Participation in '0' group surveys of flatfish nursery areas of the eastern English Channel for preparation of recruitment indices.

Provision of advice to senior staff, MAFF HQ staff and other national and international bodies on pelagic fisheries, shelf edge resources, distant water fisheries, deep sea resources.

Established and ran the toxic algae monitoring programme for England and Wales under the requirements of an EU Directive.

In 2014 I successfully completed the four module MSC on line training course, passed the exam and was certified in the role of an MSC Fishery Assessment Team Leader.

MSC Certifications as Principle 1 expert

Marine Stewardship Council assessor for the evaluation of over 25 fisheries for accreditation annual auditing and in many cases re-certification. They cover a total of twelve different species, five pelagic and seven demersal.

Herring:

- Pelagic Freezer Associations North Sea mid-water trawl fishery
- Hasting FO English Channel drift net fishery
- Swedish FPO North Sea and Skagerrak purse seine and pelagic trawl fishery
- Norway North Sea and Skagerrak purse seine and pelagic trawl fishery
- Thames estuary drift net fishery
- Norway Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl fishery
- German Baltic mid water trawl fishery
- Newfoundland NAFO Division 4R purse seine fishery

Mackerel:

- Pelagic Freezer Associations North east Atlantic mid-water trawl fishery
- Hastings English Channel line fishery
- South western UK handline fishery

Sardine:

- Portuguese Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters Purse seine fishery

Bass:

- North East Coast of England beach T net fishery

Pacific Sablefish:

- Canadian Pacific long line and trap fishery

Cod:

- Faroese Arctic trawl fishery
- Russian Arctic trawl fishery
- Newfoundland trawl and line fishery

Haddock:

- Faroese Arctic trawl fishery
- Russian Arctic Trawl fishery

Saithe:

- Faroese North Sea trawl fishery

Sole:

- Ekofisk Netherlands trawl fishery
- Hastings trawl and gill net fishery
- Hastings trammel net fishery

Plaice:

- Ekofisk Netherlands fishery
- Hastings trawl and gill net fishery
- Hastings trammel net fishery
- I have also been a peer reviewer for numerous MSC certification reports by various Certification bodies and has also carried out four MSC pre-assessments.
- I am an approved assessor for the UK Responsible fishing scheme.
- I have acted in an advisory capacity to Global Certification in relation to the MSC assessment of the Bering Sea / Sea of Okhotsk Alaskan Pollock fishery.
- Currently involved in the assessment of a Norwegian fishery on Arctic cod and haddock a Newfoundland cod fishery in region 3PS, and western Baltic spring spawning herring

- ***Areas of Research Interest***

Taxonomy of North –West European zooplankton including ichthyoplankton and young fish. Published ICES identification sheets for eggs and larvae of Pleuronectidae and Soleidae

Design, calibration and operation of plankton sampling systems.

Lobster and crab larvae surveys and lobster larvae field research.

Management of pelagic species including North Sea herring and western mackerel stocks.

North Sea and western area groundfish surveys.

Nursery area surveys of '0' group flatfish.

Identification of potentially toxic algal species.

Phytoplankton species succession

Date: 26 January 2017