

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification**ISF Iceland Mackerel Fishery****Client:****Iceland Sustainable Fisheries ehf.****Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement****Stakeholder Notification****Change of Team Member**

SAI Global is currently undertaking the assessment of the above fishery against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. To assist with this assessment, SAI Global announced in December 2016, an assessment team comprising of members with experience and expertise in the areas of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management appropriate to this fishery.

SAI Global wishes to announce a change in the team. Virginia Polonio, who is lead assessor, will be responsible for Principle 2. Virginia Polonio's expertise and experience are provided below.

The final composition of the assessment team is:

- Virginia Polonio (Lead assessor and responsible for P2)
- Hans Lassen (Team member, responsible for P1)
- Ásgeir Daníelsson (Team member, responsible for P3)

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Submitted by: Ruth O'Connell**Date: 28th August 2017**

Dr. Virginia Polonio (Lead assessor and responsible for P2)

She has a degree in Environmental Sciences (B.S.c. University of Cádiz). She has a Master degree (M.Sc. University of Cádiz) in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture. She obtained her PhD in Biodiversity and Natural resources at the University of Oviedo and during her PhD she gained experience in the field of research of fisheries and how protect the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) as coral reefs versus fishing activities. She wrote several articles describing new species of corals under her thesis and she developed skills in the fields of benthic ecology and management of ecosystems.

Before her PhD, she was contracted as technician in the Spanish Oceanographic Institute where she realized work at sea and gained field experience to assess fisheries stocks. She participated in the Spanish National Basic Plan of Data to collect and evaluate the fishing in the ICES and CECAF areas where Spanish fleets realize their activities. During this period, she carried out feeding habit and age/size studies of *Pagellus Bogaraveo* and others commercial species (hake, anchovy, sharks, mackerel, squid, etc.) to describe how the trophic levels and predation could affect the ecosystems and the distribution of the species in the Gulf of Cadiz and the Strait of Gibraltar.

She has worked on several full assessments such as Cantabrian Sardine, North Atlantic Albacore, Squat lobster, Blue sharks and Swordfish, ISF Iceland Capelin, CSHMAC Celtic Sea Herring among others as team member and lead assessor. She has participated in Surveillances acquiring experience in the MSC certification. She also has participated in several pre-assessments.

She is a full-time employee at SAI Global and she will be the lead assessor and responsible for P2 in this assessment.