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# **Irikla Reservoir Perch Gillnet Fishery**

## **No.3 Surveillance Report**

Prepared for  
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D-88045 Friedrichshafen, Germany  
Amtsgericht Ulm, HRB 631854

Certificate No: MSC-F-31234 (MRAG-F-56)

MRAG Americas, Inc.  
17 October 2019

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	MRAG Americas, Inc.
Assessment team	R.C. Wakeford, D. Sendek and J. Bostrom
Fishery client	Followfood GmbH
Assessment Type	Third Surveillance

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# 1 Executive summary

The Irikla Reservoir perch small-mesh gillnet fishery was certified in April 2016, and the first annual surveillance was conducted in October 2017 and subsequently again in May 2018.

This report contains the findings of the third annual surveillance cycle conducted in August 2019 under this assessment. As part of this assessment, two conditions were placed (i) to develop a research plan for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery and (ii) to establish a system such that performance of the fishery-specific management is subject to regular internal and occasional external review. No recommendations were made.

A review of the condition placed on the fishery found that Condition 1 was now 'closed' whereas Condition 2 is 'behind target'. The table showing the re-scoring of PI 3.2.4 shows that the fishery has increased its score from 70 to 80 (see section 3.4). Condition 2 is considered to be behind schedule as the assessment team considered the results from the existing client action plan need to be strengthened.

MRAG Americas confirms that this fishery continues to meet the MSC Fisheries Standard and shall remain certified.

## 2 Report details

### 2.1 Surveillance information

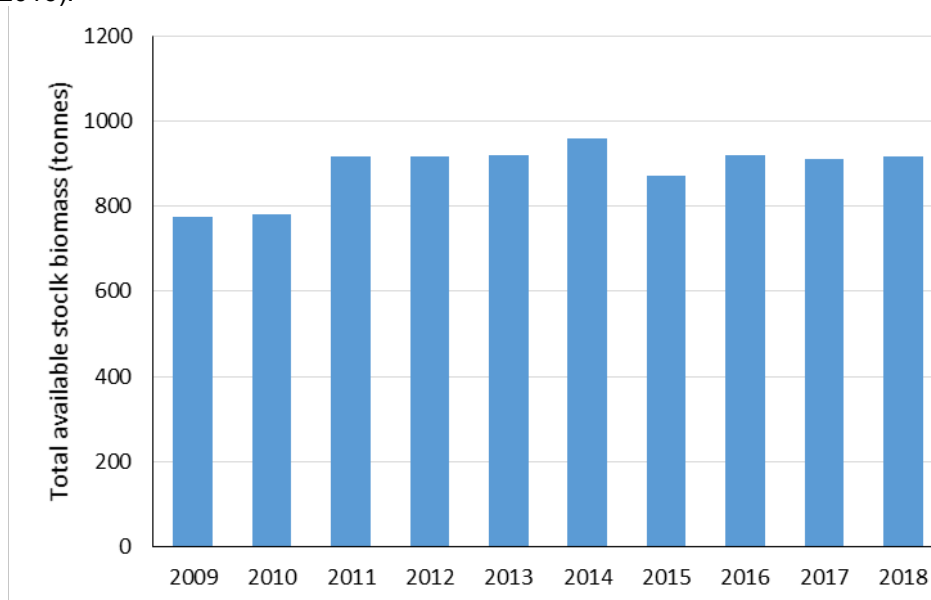
Table 1: Surveillance information

1	Fishery name	
	Irikla Reservoir Perch Gillnet Fishery	
2	Surveillance level and type	
	Surveillance level 5, off-site surveillance audit	
3	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	✓
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc.)	
4	Team leader	
	Jodi Bostrom	
5	Team member	
	Robert Wakeford Dmitry Sendek	
6	Audit/review time and location	
	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	
7	Assessment and review activities	
	The surveillance reviewed changes in science and management and progress in closing out any applicable conditions.	

## 2.2 Background

### 2.2.1 Target stocks update

An assessment of the status of perch (target stock) within the Irikla Reservoir was conducted in 2018 by Saratov Research Institute using existing methodology. The results indicate the current status of perch has remained stable in 2018 at around 900 mt (Figure 1). This level is considered to be at or fluctuating around the proxy target reference point, *Ba* (MRAG, 2016).



**Figure 1: Trends in stock status of perch (tonnes) in Irikla Reservoir between 2009 and 2018.** Data Source: Saratov Research Institute, 2019.

### 2.2.2 Ecosystem update

There have been no reported changes within the reservoir that are expected to significantly impact the ecosystem structure and function. It was noted, however, within the shallow waters of the Irikla Reservoir around Suunduksky, Uratazysky and Tanalyksky Bays an unusually large fish kill of Crussian carp (*Carassius carassius*) was first reported in May 2019, which may have implications for the status of perch within the reservoir. An unverified volume of fish killed was estimated to be approximately 20% of the entire carp population (60 mt out of a total biomass of 320 mt). The reason for such a large volume of what is considered a very tolerant species to low oxygen levels remains unknown. There are currently two hypotheses: (i) fish were killed due to disease and not a lack of oxygen, as is common with other fish kills and (ii) they were killed by ice having been trapped within an isolated shallow water body of the reservoir. Fish kill of Crussian carp occurred later in the same month, which included almost exclusively carp with a few minor species.

Such as large reduction in carp from the ecosystem is not thought to have any direct impacts on perch but could have indirect impacts such as reduced competition for food with other species such as roach. Research to monitor these changes remains ongoing.

### 2.2.3 Potential or actual changes in the management system

To date, commercial fishing rights continue to be granted to a limited number of companies (Fish-ka and Volna), which in turn grant rights to individual fishermen (see section 4.3). These fishing rights are issued on a 10-year basis, and current agreements are in place for 20 years. This generates a clear incentive for licence holders to practice sustainable fishing practices.

An application was made in May 2018 to extend the current system of fishing opportunities for quota species (i.e., TAC species) for Fish-ka and Volna until 2030. Fish-ka explained this can then be extended for an additional 15 years (up to 2045) (Fish-ka, 15 May 2018). The fishermen are not company employees but are contracted to fish and supply their catch to the company for processing.

To date, only six of the nine parcels have been allocated to the companies (Parcels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) with parcels 1 (northern most), 8 and 9 (southern-most near the dam) not open to commercial fishing. Of these six parcels, three

have been allocated to Volna and three to Fish-ka. This includes Suunduk Bay fishing parcel (No. 7) that has recently been allocated to Volna.

Since 1 January 2019, a Federal Law was introduced for a single fishing parcel in the waterbody. However, this requires subordinate laws at a regional level that have not yet been approved. This includes re-structuring the current system of six individual parcels with individual quotas into a single parcel for the entire reservoir. Commercial fishing will then have access to all areas, with the likely exception of the narrow area immediately adjacent to the Irikla dam. Given that some individual parcel quotas for several species are fully utilised in each season while other quotas in more remote parcels are not, the existing management system acts to constrain the volume of caught and prevents the fishing quotas from being taken. By giving access to fishermen across the entire reservoir it is expected that total catches will increase and enable more of the quotas to be taken in future.

According to official statistics (Table 2), on average commercial fishing for perch accounted for 82.7% of the total reported annual catch in recent years between 2015 and 2018, whereas the recreational represents only 17.2% and research catches negligible (0.1%).

**Table 2: Catch of perch (tonnes) in the Irikla Reservoir for commercial, recreational and research purposes and total quota for 2007-2017 fishing seasons.**

Year	Commercial catch (t)	Recreational catch (t)	Research catch (t)	Total catch (t)	Total quota (t)	Ratio of total catch and total quota
2007	234.52	30.0	0.058	264.578	423.0	62.5%
2008	192.18	-	0.0125	192.1915	257.0	74.8%
2009	221.60	35.3	0	256.901	279.75	91.8%
2010	185.69	17.0	0.343	203.033	195.61	103.8%
2011	246.63	28.0	0.316	274.946	379.28	72.5%
2012	227.39	30.5	0.235	258.125	311.52	82.9%
2013	222.70	22.2	n.a.	246.900	354.85	69.6%
2014	230.45	26.6	n.a.	257.100	320.0	80.3%
2015	74.10	30.0	0.16	104.26	450.0	23.2%
2016	212.90	32.9	0.16	245.96	470.0	52.3%
2017	248.2	36.6	0.16	284.96	435.0	65.5%
2018	280.4	45.4	0.108	325.91	460.0	70.8%

Data source: 2007-2008, Yermolin (2014); 2009-2018, Saratov Research Institute (2019).

## 2.2.4 Changes or additions/deletions to regulations

There have been no changes in the regulations affecting the fishery since the previous surveillance audit.

## 2.2.5 Personnel changes in science, management or industry to evaluate impact on the management of the fishery

There have been no major changes to the management structure of industry. Only minor changes have occurred in the composition of managers within Fish-ka and Volna. Pavel Laptov, former Director of Volna, has now retired and has been replaced by Konstantin Ageev (previously Head of Fishery Department at Fish-ka) and general management and control over the execution of orders of the leaders. The management of the fishing by "Fish-ka" is carried out by Alexander Ageev.

The assessment team was notified that on the basis of the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation No. 322 of July 23, 2018 and the order of the Federal Fisheries Administration No. 537 of August 10, 2018 "On reorganization measures pursuant to the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia of July 23, 2018 No. 322" the Saratov branch of the Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "GosNIORH" had become reorganized into the

Saratov branch of the All-Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography. These changes were expected to increase available resources and to improve fisheries management of the reservoir.

As part of the changes, the Saratov fish stocks research sector has been renamed and expanded. To date, the Ichthyology Laboratory has 13 people (Table 3). In the near future, a slight increase in the staff of the ichthyology laboratory is planned.

**Table 3: Employees of the Laboratory of Ichthyology**

	Position	Name
1	Head of laboratory	Белянин И.А.
2	Lead researcher	Ермолин В.П.
3	Lead researcher	Мосияш С.С.
4	Chief specialist	Руденко-Травин В.Б.
5	Lead researcher	Бобров С.М.
6	Senior specialist	Тен В.С.
7	Specialist	Иванников Ю.Н.
8	Junior specialist	Левенков Е.В.
9	Leading ichthyologist	Шинкевич М.Ю.
10	Laboratory assistant	Струбагин П.В.
11	Laboratory assistant	Янголенко А.П.
12	Laboratory assistant	Гашников М.П.
13	Laboratory assistant	Александров Я.В.

### 2.2.6 Potential changes to the scientific base of information, including stock assessments

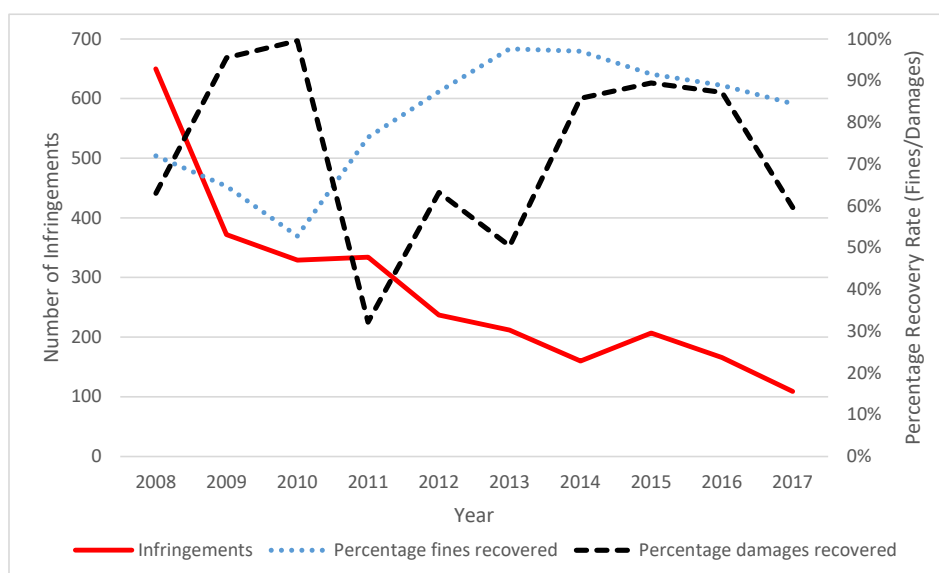
With exception to perch stock status (see above), there have been no changes to the scientific base of information that are likely to impact scores in the Irikla Reservoir perch small mesh gillnet fishery.

### 2.2.7 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Update

It was noted during discussions with the local inspectors of the Territorial Branch of the Federal Fisheries Administration, who are responsible for fisheries inspections in Russia, that the commercial, recreational, and sports fisheries were strictly monitored and regulated with very low levels of illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing.

According to the Head of the Department of state control, supervision and protection of aquatic biological resources of the Orenburg province, only six illegal gillnets have been confiscated from the reservoir in 2018 (Alexander Zobkov, 15 May 2018). However, by re-structuring the current system of seven individual parcels with individual quotas into a single parcel for the entire reservoir and by giving access to fishermen across the entire reservoir, it is expected that internal control of companies over the situation in the reservoir may get worse. Currently there are three inspectors allocated to monitor the activities on the reservoir, (Alexander Zobkov, 17 October 2018) with the inspectors being active every day during the fishing season (with a further five in the wider administrative region), this is much lower than the number of inspectors before the breakup of the USSR when 35 inspectors were present in the region. It was indicated that an additional inspector was in the process of being recruited for the reservoir to bring the total to four (and 10 within the region). The enforcement capacity, however, is extended during critical phases (e.g., spawning periods) when the inspectors cooperate with the local police enabling them to double or treble the number of people enforcing the closed periods.

About 500 cases of violations per year are recorded through the mediation of voluntary assistants or through information coming from the Internet (Alexander Zobkov, 17 October 2018). Major incidents are nearly all related to illegal fishing with gillnets. Currently, the highest incidence of IUU fishing events on the reservoir is the absence of fishing permits for recreational fishers. A summary of the number of infringements and rates of fine and damages recovered are shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: Reported infringements and rates of recovery of fines and damages, Irikla Reservoir (2008-2013).**

Data Source: Росрыболовство, (2019).

### 2.2.8 Traceability Update

In 2018, the perch small mesh (30-36 mm) gillnet fishery underwent a scope extension to include the pikeperch large mesh (50-70 mm) gillnet fishery. If the pikeperch fishery were to become certified in 2019, both perch and pikeperch will be placed in blue fish boxes at the point of first capture and transported directly to Fish-ka and Volna processing facilities. All other non-certified species will be placed in yellow fish boxes.

Due to the seasonal nature of the pikeperch fishery and selectivity of larger mesh size gillnets, it is obvious whether perch have been retained from large mesh size gillnets used to target pikeperch. Further to this, the current market for perch requires fish of size and quality retained by small mesh size gillnets only. In conclusion, the existing traceability system in place for the perch fishery is sufficient and does not require updating.

## 2.3 Version details

**Table 4: Fisheries program documents versions**

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	<b>Version 2.1</b>
MSC Fisheries Standard	<b>Version 1.3</b>
MSC General Certification Requirements	<b>Version 2.3</b>
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	<b>Version 2.01</b>



## 3 Results

### 3.1 Surveillance results overview

#### 3.1.1 Summary of conditions

A summary of the status current conditions is outlined in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Summary of conditions**

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	A research plan should be prepared and implemented for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery that is designed to provide the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.	3.2.4	Closed	70	80
2	There should be a system of external monitoring and evaluating the performance of the fishery-specific management system against its objectives. There is effective and timely review of the fishery-specific management system.	3.2.5	Behind target	70	Not revised

#### 3.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

Similar to previous years, it is noted that the total quota has not been fully utilised. In 2018, the proportion of the total removals (325.9 t) had slightly increased on the previous year and around 70% of the allocated quota (460.0 t). A summary of the TAC and associated landings for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery is shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Catch data for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery**

TAC	Year	2018	Amount	460.0 tonnes
UoA share of TAC	Year	2018	Amount	Unallocated share of commercial RAC <sup>†</sup>
UoA share of total TAC	Year	2018	Amount	Unallocated share of commercial RAC
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2018	Amount	280.4 tonnes
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	2017	Amount	248.2 tonnes

<sup>†</sup> Recommended allocated catch (RAC). The commercial fishery gets a quota managed in-season, and the recreational and research get quotas managed post-season.

### 3.2 Conditions

The following table contains information on the agreed client action plan, milestones set, and progress against the fishery's conditions. There were two conditions of certification, summarised in Tables 7 and 8. Following the second annual surveillance audit, the Client Action Plan for Condition 2 has been slightly modified to take into account new information about an external review processes of the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery.

**Table 7: Condition 1**

Performance Indicator	3.2.4
Score	70
Justification	A research plan provides the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.
Condition	A research plan should be prepared and implemented for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery that is designed to provide the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.
Milestones	Develop and implement a research plan and meet the SG80 milestone by end of year 3. Resulting score: 80
Consultation on condition	In order to develop a research plan for improving performance indicator 3.2.4, regular consultations were held on fulfilling the conditions between the client and the organization performing scientific research at the Irikla Reservoir - Saratov branch of VNIRO. The plan provides justifications for the existing aspects of certification requiring improvement and suggests ways to solve these problems.
Progress on Condition (Year 1)	Progress with this condition is on target. To date, two key information gaps have been identified: improved non-commercial (recreational and IUU) catch statistics and continue to reduce poaching within the Irikla Reservoir.
Progress on Condition (Year 2)	Preliminary results from research plan into review of catches from recreational fisheries sector were presented with recommendations to improve ongoing MCS activities. Progress with this condition is on target.
Progress on Condition (Year 3)	A range of documents were presented to the assessment team for review related to the development of a research plan. The final research plan has been prepared for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery. It includes an analysis of activities to study the status of the target species (perch), as well as a number of ecosystem components (non-target species, protected species, biota elements) that are currently being carried out as part of State monitoring of fishery water bodies. In order to better meet the State monitoring work with the certification requirements according to MSC standards, the research plan offers a description of the improved methods that have already become part of everyday practice (for example, assessing methods of fishery removals from the target population - commercial, illegal, amateur), as well as expanding the analysis to assess the interaction of fishery with ecosystem components (for example, study of macrophytes will be held since 2020 in addition to the annual monitoring of phytoplankton, zooplankton and zoobenthos). The document does not contain schedules and obligations for the implementation of the plan in order to improve indicators for Principles 1 and 2 of the MSC, however, the organizations responsible for the implementation of individual points of the plan are defined. Thus, the research plan is being implemented for the Irikla Reservoir perch fishery.
Status	Closed. The Performance Indicator has been re-scored as shown in section 3.4.
Additional information	None

**Table 8: Condition 2**

Performance Indicator	3.2.5
Score	70

Justification	There is a system of monitoring and evaluating the performance of the fishery-specific management system against its objectives. There is effective and timely review of the fishery-specific management system.
Condition	Establish a system such that performance of the fishery-specific management is subject to regular internal and occasional external review.
Milestones	External review of the stock assessment introduced to meet the SG80 milestone by end of year 3. Resulting score: 80  <i>Updated in Third Surveillance Audit:</i> External review of the stock assessment introduced to meet the SG80 milestone by end of year 4. Resulting score: 80
Consultation on condition	Evidence should be provided to verify the external review process for the perch fishery. This might include recommendations to help improve management of the fishery.
Progress on Condition (Year 1)	The client has made sufficient progress and started to draft a manuscript describing the perch fishery. The condition is on target.
Progress on Condition (Year 2)	A draft manuscript has been prepared and presented to the assessment team. A review of progress indicated that the manuscript was available to be submitted in a government agency journal. The condition is on target.
Progress on Condition (Year 3)	The assessment team discussed the proposed peer review process required to publish the manuscript describing the MSC certification of the perch fishery. It became evident that while a description of the MSC certification would be externally reviewed through the journal's peer review system, the process would only review the quality of the manuscript and its findings and not necessarily provide feedback and recommendations how to improve management of the fishery. The condition has therefore been extended to year 4 to enable an external review to be conducted on the fishery.
Status	Due to the unforeseen modification to this condition, it was recommended that the external audit be undertaken within the next 12 months to ensure the original condition placed on the fishery is met by the end of year 4. The condition is currently behind target.
Additional information	None

### 3.3 Client Action Plan

Condition 1 is now closed. Due to required changes under Condition 2, the client action plan has been updated to reflect these requirements. This has been revised (Table 9).

**Table 9: Condition 2 Client Action Plan**

<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>Unless significant changes occur to the management system within the 5-year certification period, a single fishery-specific management performance review is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of the year 1, the Client will prepare the manuscript describing the perch fishery in the Irikla Reservoir with a focus on sustainability of that fishery, i.e. addressing three MSC principles, and will start yearly publishing current available information on the fishery.</li> <li>By the end of year 2, the Client will produce a report on progress to demonstrate sufficient progress has been made during the first 2 years</li> <li>By the end of year 3, the Client will offer published information on the fishery to independent experts seeking for their review.</li> <li>By end of year 4, fishery arrange an independent third-party audit to review the fishery in addition to publication of the manuscript.</li> </ul>
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### 3.4 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Condition 1 is now closed, and the scoring rationale has now been updated for PI 3.2.4 below.

PI 3.2.4		The fishery has a research plan that addresses the information needs of management		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Research is undertaken, as required, to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.	A research plan provides the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.	A comprehensive research plan provides the management system with a coherent and strategic approach to research across P1, P2 and P3, and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	A comprehensive set of research is conducted on the fisheries and other related environmental aspects of the reservoir to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2. In common with other freshwater fisheries in the Russian Federation there was no single research plan for this particular fishery until the last time, but there was a coherent plan for research handled by the relevant responsible bodies within the Russian Federation that covers a wider basis than just the perch fisheries and covers the entire reservoir and all fisheries within it. This system, although not in a single management plan, provided the management system with a strategic approach to research and reliable and timely information sufficient to achieve the objectives consistent with MSC's Principles 1 and 2. As a result of fulfilling the certification condition to increase the assessment of this performance indicator, a specific research plan for the fishing of perch in the Irikla Reservoir was developed. The plan provides justifications for the existing aspects of certification requiring improvement and suggests ways to solve these problems. The document does not contain schedules and obligations for the implementation of the plan, however, the organizations responsible for the implementation of individual points of the plan are defined. Therefore the SG60 and SG80 guideposts are met, but SG100 guidepost cannot be shown to be met.		
b	Guidepost	Research results are available to interested parties.	Research results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion.	Research plan and results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion and are widely and publicly available.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	Research results from all research organisations are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion and the researchers working on the reservoir are willing to share their research data with other scientists where this is relevant and reduces duplication. Data and research material were very willingly shared with the team. All research data material is made available in timely fashion to those individuals charged with performing the stock assessment. Data on fish catches are collected and publicly available for external monitoring, fish survey and regular environmental data are collected and are available on request from the relevant bodies although		

PI 3.2.4		The fishery has a research plan that addresses the information needs of management
		detailed survey results are not published in the public domain. At this time although the results are disseminated to all interested parties in a timely fashion through publications and via the Fisheries Council or other means therefore a score of 80 can be given at this time but as no research plan exists, the SG100 is not met.
References		<p>Alexander Zobkov: Head of Department of State Control, supervision and protection of aquatic biological resources, Orenburg region of the Middle Territorial Administration of the Federal Agency for Fisheries. Interview date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.</p> <p>Andrey Yermolaev, Orenburg Region, Federal Agency for Fisheries. Interview date: 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.</p> <p>Dmitry Lajus &amp; Ilia Belianin (2019). Research Plan to Support Certification to Standards of the Marine Stewardship Council for the Perch of the Irikla Reservoir, 25 p [In Russian].</p>
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE: All scoring issues at SG60 and 1 out of 2 met at SG80.		80
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):		NA

## 4 Appendices

### 4.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

#### 4.1.1 Site visits

Due to a recent information gathered as part of a scope extension for pikeperch large mesh size gillnet fishery in October 2018, a site visit was not deemed necessary. Notification of this change in surveillance level was published in Appendix 2 of the MSC Surveillance Announcement<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4.1.2 Stakeholder participation

Thirty days prior to the surveillance audit, all stakeholders from the full assessment and previous surveillance audits were informed of the meeting and the opportunity to provide information to the auditors in advance of, or during, the meeting. No requests from outside stakeholders were received to take part in the meeting or provide information remotely.

The following stakeholders participated in the remote site surveillance audit:

Name	Affiliation
Jodi Bostrom	MRAG Americas, assessment team (Lead)
Robert Wakeford	MRAG Ltd., assessment team
Dmitry Sendek	GosNIORKh, assessment team
Elena Ermolova	Fish-ka, Director
Iliia Belianin	Saratov Research Institute, Head Fish Stocks Sector
Dmitry Lajus	Technical support, client

The remote off-site audit was conducted via VoIP conference call between all participants, which occurred on 27 August 2019 between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm (GMT).

### 4.2 Stakeholder input

No written stakeholder inputs were presented to the assessment team for review. Instead, a verbal summary of the current status of the perch fishery was provided by stakeholders during a remote audit on 27 August 2019. This complemented and updated information recently obtained from the pikeperch large mesh-size gillnet fishery during October 2018. In addition, a range of supporting documents were presented by the Saratov Research Institute [in Russian].

The following sections provide a summary of the information provided by stakeholders. A joint meeting was held with representatives from the client, Fish-ka, and the Saratov Research Institute.

#### Fish-ka

Surveillance team members Jodi Bostrom (team leader), Robert Wakeford, and Dmitry Sendek held a remote meeting with Elena Ermolova and Dmitry Lajus at 17:00 hrs on Tuesday 27 August 2019.

The main purpose of the meeting was to (i) describe the purpose of the annual surveillance audit, (ii) discuss progress on the Client Action Plan, and (iii) to re-affirm information provided by Saratov Research Institute during the surveillance audit to meet the two conditions set.

Elena Ermolova confirmed that there have been no major changes to the management structure or industry. Only minor changes have occurred in the composition of managers within Fish-ka and Volna. Pavel Laptov, former Director of Volna, has now retired and has been replaced by Konstantin Ageev (previously Head of Fishery Department at Fish-ka) and general management and control over the execution of orders of the leaders. The management of the fishing by "Fish-ka" is carried out by Alexander Ageev.

<sup>1</sup> <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/irikla-reservoir-perchfishery/@@view>

The perch fishery continues to remain healthy, and while catch limits (RAC quota) have slightly increased over the previous year, the fishery continues to retain less than the annual quota allocation. It was confirmed that commercial fishing rights continue to be granted to a limited number of companies (Fish-ka and Volna), which in turn grant rights to individual fishermen (see section 4.3). These fishing rights are issued on a 10-year basis, and current agreements are in place for 20 years. This continues to generate a clear incentive for licence holders to practice sustainable fishing practices.

Information obtained during the original pikeperch scope assessment site visit in October 2018 remained pertinent to the perch fishery. This highlighted that only six of the nine parcels have been allocated to the companies (Parcels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) with parcels 1 (northern most), 8 and 9 (southern-most near the dam) not open to commercial fishing. Of these six parcels, three have been allocated to Volna and three to Fish-ka. This includes Suunduk Bay fishing parcel (No. 7) that has recently been allocated to Volna. Since 1 January 2019, a Federal Law was introduced for a single fishing parcel in the waterbody. Elena explained, however, that this requires subordinate laws at a regional level that have not yet been approved. This includes re-structuring the current system of six individual parcels with individual quotas into a single parcel for the entire reservoir. Commercial fishing will then have access to all areas, with the likely exception of the narrow area immediately adjacent to the Irikla dam. Given that some individual parcel quotas for several species are fully utilised in each season while other quotas in more remote parcels are not, the existing management system acts to constrain the volume of caught and prevents the fishing quotas from being taken. By giving access to fishermen across the entire reservoir, it is expected that total catches will increase and enable more of the quotas to be taken in the future.

With respect to the number of fishing violations, minor infringements make up the majority by number with about 40% of these being environmental related infringements by fishers (i.e., not directly related to their fishing activity, such as littering and shoreline damage). Information obtained during the site visit in October 2018 indicated about 500 cases of violations per year are recorded through the mediation of voluntary assistants or through information coming from the Internet. Major incidents are nearly all related to illegal fishing with gillnets. Currently, the highest incidence of IUU fishing events on the reservoir is the absence of fishing permits for recreational fishers. Recreational fishers do not require a permit for hook and line fishing, and this refers to recreational fishers targeting larger species with gillnets, which is not permitted. A summary of the number of infringements and rates of fine and damages recovered was previously described within the pikeperch scope extension report and showed the number of infringements continue to show a year-on-year decline.

## Saratov Research Institute

Iliia Belianin (Head Fish Stocks Sector) explained that the status of perch stock remains healthy. The assessment methodology to monitor the status of fish stocks in the Irikla Reservoir remains unchanged and TAC/RAC quotas calculated on an annual basis. Results from the latest assessment in 2018 show the current status of perch has remained stable at around 900 mt.

From a wider perspective, there have been no reported changes within the reservoir that are expected to significantly impact the ecosystem structure and function. Iliia Belianin noted, however, within the shallow waters of the Irikla Reservoir around Suunduksky, Uratazysky and Tanalyksky Bays an unusually large fish kill of Crussian carp (*Carassius carassius*) was first reported in May 2019, which may have implications for the status of perch within the reservoir. An unverified volume of fish killed was estimated to be approximately 20% of the entire carp population (60 mt out of a total biomass of 320 mt). The reason for such a large volume of what is considered a very tolerant species to low oxygen levels remains unknown. There are currently two hypotheses: (i) fish were killed due to disease and not a lack of oxygen, as is common with other fish kills, and (ii) they were killed by ice having been trapped within an isolated shallow water body of the reservoir. Fish kill of Crussian carp occurred later in the same month, which included almost exclusively carp with a few minor species.

Such as large reduction in carp from the ecosystem is not thought to have any direct impacts on perch but could have indirect impacts such as reduced competition for food with other species such as roach. Research to monitor these changes remains ongoing.

The assessment team was notified that on the basis of the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation No. 322 of July 23, 2018 and the order of the Federal Fisheries Administration No. 537 of August 10, 2018 "On reorganization measures pursuant to the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia of July 23, 2018 No. 322" the Saratov branch of the Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "GosNIORH" had become reorganized into the Saratov branch of the All-Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography. These changes were expected increase resources available and to improve fisheries management of the reservoir.

As part of the changes, the Saratov fish stocks research sector has been renamed and expanded. To date, the Ichthyology Laboratory has 13 people. In the near future, a slight increase in the staff of the ichthyology laboratory is planned. Ilia Belianin explained that a research plan is produced each year in accordance with the State task and until recently, these plans have changed little from year to year. However, in relation with the recent reorganization of the institute, the material and technical equipment of the laboratory will increase, which, given the replenishment of the laboratory with new specialists, will expand research of the reservoir. In particular, in accordance with the new State task and new research plan, traditional scientific work will be supplemented by analysis of the nutrition of a number of fish species, as well as the study of macrophytes of the Irikla Reservoir.



### 4.3 List of fishermen and associated boats included in the unit of certification in 2019

No.	Name	Position	Boat ID	
			Name	Type
Fish-ka Ltd				
	Sofinsky reach			
1	Turta Oleg Anatolyevich - Турта Олег Анатольевич	Brigadier	Stays in one of brigade's boats	
2	Shchukin Aleksei Mikhailovich - Щукин Алексей Михайлович	Fisherman	Irikla-04	Taktika-490 - Тактика-490
3	Davletberdin Zufar Ishbuldeevich- Давлетбердин Зуфар Ишбулдеевич	Fisherman	Irikla-05	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5M2
4	Mukhamedzhanov Bereg Kakimovich- Мухамеджанов Берег Какимович	Fisherman	Irikla-08	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5M2
5	Щукин Андрей Михайлович - Andrei Mikhailovich Schukin	Fisherman	Irikla-10	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
6	Mukhamedzhanov Denis Bulatovich - Мухамеджанов Денис Булатович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
	Tanalyksky Bay			
7	Liskovich Andrey Viktorovich Лискович Андрей Викторович	Brigadier	Irikla-07	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5M2
8	Brylev Alexey Vladimirovich- Брылев Алексей Владимирович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
9	Naumenko Nikolay Vladimirovich - Науменко Николай Владимирович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
10	Demin Vladimir Danilovich - Демин Владимир Данилович	Fisherman	Irikla-06	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
	Suunduksky Bay			
11	Yeskov Vladimir Alekseevich Еськов Владимир Алексеевич	Brigadier	Irikla-17	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5M2
12	Turta Alexander Anatolievich- Турта Александр Анатольевич	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
13	Kishkin Andrey Alexandrovich - Кишкин Андрей Александрович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
14	Sabirov Ruslan Raphaelevich- Сабиров Руслан Рафаэлевич	Fisherman	Irikla-37	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5M3
15	Demidenok Konstantin Alexandrovich- Демиденок Константин Александрович	Fisherman	Irikla-14	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
16	Korchagin Alexander Vladimirovich- Корчагин Александр Владимирович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
17	Yanchistov Vasily Alexandrovich- Янчистов Василий Александрович	Fisherman	Irikla-25	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5M3
18	Akkuratnov Nikolay Viktorovich - Аккуратнов Николай Викторович	Fisherman	Irikla-29	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5M2
	Entire reservoir			
19	Transport boat		Irikla-03	SLK-780 - СЛК-780
20	Transport boat		Irikla-02	SLK-780 - СЛК-780
21	Transport boat		Irikla-01	Saliut-480 - Салют-480
Volna Ltd				
	Chapaevsky reach			

No.	Name	Position	Boat ID	
			Name	Type
22	Perekhozheva Oksana Alexandrovna - Перехожева Оксана Александровна	Brigadier	-	Stays in one of brigade's boats
23	Shibanov Yury Vladimirovich- Шибанов Юрий Владимирович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
24	Baulin Alexander Anatolyevich - Баулин Александр Анатольевич	Fisherman	Irikla-34	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
25	Zamolotsky Vitaly Anatolievich- Замолецких Виталий Анатольевич	Fisherman	Irikla-18	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
26	Tryapkin Alexander Filippovich - Тряпкин Александр Филиппович	Fisherman	Irikla-21	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5М2
27	Perekhozhev Andrey Petrovich - Перехожев Андрей Петрович	Fisherman	Irikla-23	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
	<b>Orlovsky reach</b>			
28	Duraev Yuri Borisovich – Дураев Юрий Борисович	Brigadier	Stays in one of brigade's boats	
29	Duraev Maxim Yurievich - Дураев Максим Юрьевич	Fisherman	Irikla-16	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
30	Salin Sergey Ivanovich - Салин Сергей Иванович	Fisherman	Irikla-32	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
	<b>Tanalyk-Suunduksky reach</b>			
31	Tsvetkov Ivan Evgenievich - Цветков Иван Евгеньевич	Brigadier	Irikla-22	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5М2
32	Ermolov Mikhail Viktorovich - Ермолов Михаил Викторович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
33	Kiselev Dmitry Valerievich - Киселев Дмитрий Валерьевич	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
34	Zorkov Nikolay Aleksandrovich - Зорков Николай Александрович	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
35	Lykov Sergey Nikolaevich– Лыков Сергей Николаевич	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
36	Pivtsayev Vitaly Ivanovich - Пивцаев Виталий Иванович	Fisherman	Irikla-19	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5М2
37	Alymov Igor Iurievich - Алымов Игорь Юрьевич	Brigadier	Irikla-27	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
38	Chechin Alexey Pavlovich - Чечин Алексей Павлович	Fisherman	Irikla-41	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5М3
39	Yeskin Alexander Vladimirovich (rent) - Еськин Александр Владимирович(аренда)	Fisherman	Irikla-28	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5М3
40	Svyaznin Alexander Mikhailovich - Свяжнин Александр Михайлович	Fisherman	Irikla-20	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
41	Dmitriev Yuri Georgievich - Дмитриев Юрий Георгиевич	Fisherman	Irikla-15	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
42	Nikishin Anatoly Yuryevich - Никишин Анатолий Юрьевич	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
43	Krauyalis Vladimir Zdislavovich (rent) - Крауялис Владимир Здиславович(аренда)	Fisherman	Irikla-30	Kazanka-5M2 - Казанка-5М2
44	Krauyalis Vladimir Zdislavovich (rent) - Крауялис Владимир Здиславович(аренда)	Fisherman	Irikla-31	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
45	Borodulin Vyacheslav Borisovich - Бородулин Вячеслав Борисович	Brigadier	Stays in one of brigade's boats	
46	Gorbunov Alexander Vasilyevich - Горбунов Александр Васильевич	Fisherman	Irikla-13	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
47	Pinyakov Vasily Ivanovich - Пиняков Василий Иванович	Fisherman	Irikla-12	Progress-2M - Прогресс-2М
48	Pudovkin Evgeny Nikolaevich - Пудовкин Евгений Николаевич	Fisherman	Irikla-26	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5М3

No.	Name	Position	Boat ID	
			Name	Type
49	Kurganov Peter Vasilyevich - Курганов Петр Васильевич	Fisherman	-	Rubber boat - Резиновая лодка
50	Radionov Alexander Valerievich - Радионов Александр Валерьевич	Fisherman	Irikla-36	Kazanka-5M3 - Казанка-5М3