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UCSL United Certification Systems Limited

Fishery Shipowners Association (FSA)

Western Bering Sea Walleye pollock

MSC Fishery Announcement

June 2021

1 Marine Stewardship Council fishery announcement

Table X – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Fishery Shipowners Association (FSA) Western Bering Sea Walleye pollock	
2	Assessment number	
	Initial assessment	
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)	
	N/A	
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope	
	<p>UCSL United Certification Systems Limited as the Conformity Assessment Body confirms that the KZB-herring JSC Western Bering Sea and East Kamchatka Pacific cod fishery is in scope for MSC assessment through meeting the following scope requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery does not target amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals (7.4.2.1, MSC 2020a). • The fishery does not use poisons or explosives (7.4.2.2, MSC 2020a). • The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement (7.4.2.3, MSC 2020a). • The client or client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced or child labour violation in the last 2 years (7.4.2.4, MSC 2020a). • The client or client group does not include an entity that has been convicted for a violation in law with respect to shark finning (7.4.2.10, MSC 2020a). • There is a mechanism for resolving disputes, and disputes do not overwhelm the fishery (7.4.2.11, MSC 2020a). 	
5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)	
	UoA 1	Description
	Species	Walleye pollock (<i>Gadus chalcogrammus</i> , or <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), also referred to as Alaska pollock
	Stock	Russian Federation, Far Eastern Federal District, Chukotka autonomous district, EEZ of Russian Federation in the West-Bering Sea zone (61.01) of the Bering Sea
	Geographical area	Northwest Pacific (within FAO Major Fishing Area - 61): West Bering Sea zone (61.01) (east of 174 E)
	Fishing gear	Midwater pelagic trawl, 13 large trawl vessels with freezers
	Client group	Fishery Shipowners Association which includes the following companies: LLC "Russian Fishery Company", JSC "INTRAROS", LLC "Vostokrybprom", LLC "Sovgavanryba", JSC "DMP-RM", JSC "RMD-YuVA 1", JSC "TURNIF" and LLC "Russian Pollock"
	Other eligible fishers	Potential Russian fishing enterprises which are not members of the Fishery Shipowners Association (FSA) and have legal quotas for harvesting Walleye pollock in the West-Bering zone (61.01) of the Bering Sea and catch its on their own or contracted vessels with using midwater pelagic trawl.

6	Certificate sharing statement
	Fishery Shipowners Association (FSA) allows certificate sharing for the companies participating in the certification process and new companies willing to join the certificate under the conditions specified in the certificate sharing agreement (attached).
7	Name of proposed team leader
	<p>Dr. Petr Vasilets, Team Leader, P2 expert</p> <p>UCSL confirms that Dr. Petr Vasilets meets the competency criteria for team members as specified in FCP v.2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He holds a PhD in marine Biology; - He has more than 25 years' experience in fisheries; - He has passed MSC Team Leader training, including relevant updates; - He has passed the Traceability and RBF training modules; - He has passed CQI and IRCA approved EMS Lead Auditor Training course. <p>It is also confirmed that Dr. Petr Vasilets has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A full C.V. is available on request.</p>
8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella, P1 expert</p> <p>UCSL confirms that Dr. Guiseppe Scarcella meets the competency criteria for team members as specified in FCP v.2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He holds a PhD in in marine Ecology and Biology and more than 3 years research experience in fisheries; - He has participated in more than 2 MSC fishery assessments in the last 5 years; - He has passed MSC Team Leader training, including relevant updates; - He has more than 3 years' experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques; more than 3 years experience working with the biology and population dynamics different marine species; - He has passed the Traceability and RBF training modules; <p>It is also confirmed that Dr. Guiseppe Scarcella has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A full C.V. is available on request.</p> <p>Dr. Mohamed Samy-Kamal, P3 expert</p> <p>UCSL confirms that Dr. Mohamed Samy-Kamal meets the competency criteria for team members as specified in FCP v.2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He holds an MSc in Economics and Management of Fisheries and a PhD in Marine Science and Applied Biology and more than 3 years' research experience in fisheries - He has passed MSC Team Member training, including relevant updates - He has participated in more than 2 MSC fishery assessments in the last 5 years - He has more than 3 years' experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant - He has passed the Traceability and RBF training modules <p>It is also confirmed that Dr. Mohamed Samy-Kamal has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A full C.V. is available on request.</p>

9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The ACDR published on the MSC website for this assessment is subject to stakeholder comments for a period of 60 days. UCSL invites stakeholders to provide any input or comments on the ACDR till 25th August 2021 17.00 GMT. Notification of this will be additionally sent by email to all stakeholders identified with the client. Written submissions must be made via the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fisheries Assessments v4.0' which can be found on the MSC website by clicking here.</p> <p>UCSL asks stakeholders to contact us at t.pitieva@ucsl.eu if you are on the stakeholder list for this fishery and would like to ensure you are notified of the consultation opportunities and to arrange participation during the site visit.</p> <p>The assessment team is available to meet remotely during the site visit to be held from 26th August 2021 to 1st September 2021.</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The default assessment tree (MSC Fisheries Standard v.2.01) will be used in this assessment.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>The preliminary timeline for this assessment is as follows:</p> <p>ACDR consultations – 24th June 2021 – 25th August 2021 Site visit – 26th August 2021 – 1st September 2021 CPRDR – September 2021 PCDR – October 2021 Final report – November 2021 PCR and certification decision – December 2021</p>

12	Site visit
	<p>In line with the MSC March 2021 Covid-19 derogation, a variation request and risk assessment will be submitted to MSC, requesting approval to hold the site visit remotely given ongoing health and safety concerns regarding Covid-19. P3 expert, and P1 expert are not able to travel to Russia due to the travel restrictions, however Team Leader and P2 expert noted that in order to perform quality work, he needs to participate onsite. To mitigate the risk of the remote activities UCSL will include a description of measures. The site visit is scheduled for 26th August 2021– 1st September 2021.</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC’s Risk- Based Framework (RBF, see msc.org), we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative and semi-quantitative 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 either onsite or remotely.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	N/A
14	Announcement Comment Draft Report stakeholder input deadline
	25th August 2021 17:00 GMT

UCSL would like to invite all interested stakeholders to provide information relevant to this fishery.

If you would like to meet with the team in person please contact UCSL certification manager Tatiana Pitieva via email (t.pitieva@ucsl.eu) or telephone (+7 981 195 1778).

Remote meetings will be arranged via Skype conferences with the team. You are also encouraged to provide written submissions to the above specified email address. The latter shall be made by using the Template for Stakeholders Input into MSC assessments available for downloading [here](#).

UCSL encourages stakeholders not to withhold any information, including concerns and knowledge about the specified fishery. All comments shall be supported by objective evidence. If there is any information which cannot be shared with any other stakeholders, it will not be referenced in the surveillance report and cannot be used in determining conformity of the fishery with the MSC Standard. Information will be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client’s country.

Submitted by: Tatiana Pitieva

Date: 15th June 2021

Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

Dr. Petr Vasilets, Team Leader, P2 expert:

Dr. Petr Vasilets worked for more than 25 years as a fishery scientist in the Kamchatka branch of VNIRO (Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography). He received PhD in biology in 2000 with a thesis on the "The smelts in the coastal waters of Kamchatka". He has over 50 scientific publications on various aspects of fisheries. In 2020-2021, he successfully completed MSC online training, including MSC Risk Based Framework (RBF), for role "Fishery Team Leader". Petr has participated in six assessments conducted by CAB Marine Certification LLC (now — UCSSL), as a trainee for team member and team leader and as a team member (expert on Principle 1 and Principle 2).

Petr has passed the Traceability and RBF training modules. Petr has also taken CQI and IRCA Certified EMS Lead Auditor Training course.

Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella, P1 expert:

Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otolith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management.

During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF). He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the MSC standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Furthermore, Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM).

Giuseppe has passed all relevant MSC and ISO training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available on request.

Dr. Mohamed Samy-Kamal, P3 expert

Dr. Samy-Kamal is a fisheries scientist. He was a scholarship holder of the research institution (IAMZ-CIHEAM) of Zaragoza for his MSc and of the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (MAEC-AECID) of Madrid for his PhD. His research experience focused on the evaluation of management measures applied to fisheries and the evaluation of fisheries policy and governance. His research areas are fisheries management especially multi-species demersal fisheries of Mediterranean Sea, trawl selectivity, Red Sea fisheries and MPAs. Dr. Samy-Kamal has authored a number of scientific articles, regularly participates in international fisheries conferences (e.g. Iberian Symposium of Marine Biology Studies) and used to teach as well as to supervise MSc theses in the international master programme of Sustainable fisheries management organized by University of Alicante and IAMZ-CIHEAM. Dr. Samy-Kamal has also taken numerous technical courses, including on MSC evaluation tools, MSC RBF and MSC Chain of Custody (CoC). During the last 5 years he has been involved in different MSC full-assessments and pre-assessments mainly in Russia and Estonia and has gained experience as MSC certification P3 assessor.

Appendix 2: Client certificate sharing statement



**Ассоциация
судовладельцев
рыбопромыслового
флота**

**Fishery Shipowners
Association**

ул. Трубная 12
г. Москва, Россия, 107045
Тел. 495 787 16 27

02.06.2021 № /2021-

ПОДТВЕРЖДЕНИЕ СОВМЕСТНОГО ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ СЕРТИФИКАТА ЗАПАДНО-БЕРИНГОВОМОРСКОГО РАЗНОГЛУБИННОГО ТРАЛОВОГО ПРОМЫСЛА МИНТАЯ

1. Западно-берингоморский разноглубинный траловый промысел минтая проходит оценку в соответствии со Стандартом оценки промыслов (MSC FS) Морского попечительского совета (MSC).
2. Держателем MSC сертификата является Ассоциация Судовладельцев рыбопромыслового флота (АСРФ)
3. В соответствии с требованиями настоящего Стандарта оценки промыслов АСРФ соглашается рассматривать возможность присоединения к действию сертификата все рыбопромышленные компании с морскими судами, имеющие в соответствии с законодательством РФ право добычи (вылова) водных биологических ресурсов в сертифицированных районах промысла.
4. Для вступления под действие сертификата промысла новые участники должны возместить держателю сертификата часть суммы, затраченной на получение MSC сертификата.
5. Все участники действия MSC сертификата несут равное распределение затрат, связанные с поддержанием сертификата и возможной ресертификацией этого промысла.
6. Новые компании обязаны соблюдать условия Стандарта оценки промыслов (MSC FS), а также условия пользования сертификатом, оговорённые с держателем сертификата.

Президент Ассоциации

А.И. Осинцев

**CONFIRMATION OF JOINT USE OF THE MSC CERTIFICATE ON WEST BERING
SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK MIDWATER TRAWL FISHERY**

1. The West Bering Sea Walleye Pollock midwater trawl fishery assesses in accordance with the MSC FS Standard for Fishery Assessment.
2. The certificate holder is Fishery Shipowners Association (FSA)
3. In accordance with the requirements of the present Fishery Assessment Standard, FSA agrees to consider the possibility of joining to the validity of the certificate all fishing companies with vessels, which in accordance with the Russian Federation legislation have the right to catch Water bio-resources in the certified fishing areas.
4. In order for the certificate of fishing to come into effect, the new participants shall reimburse the certificate holder a part of the amount spent on obtaining the MSC Certificate.
5. All participants of the certificate validity shall bear equal distribution of costs related to the maintenance of the certificate and possible recertification of this fishery.
6. New companies shall fulfill the terms and conditions of MSC FS, as well as the terms and conditions of use of the certificate agreed with the MSC certificate holder.

President FSA

A. Osintsev

Stamp