



Stakeholder Notification

The United States Atlantic Fishery for Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthius*)

Scope of the Fisheries Certificate - Change in the point at which fish and fish products may enter a Chain of Custody

In February 2013, the scope of the United States Atlantic fishery for spiny dogfish using trawl, gillnet and longline fisheries was extended. As a result the certification covers the Federal and State waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

The MSC Public Certification Report for the original seven States (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina) stated that the MSC fisheries certification ended at the first point of landing and chain of custody began. This ensured that product being handled and transported to the members of the client group, i.e. those eligible to label and sell MSC certified spiny dogfish, was not mixed with non-certified spiny dogfish.

With the extension of scope of the fisheries certification to cover the five additional States (Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland) the risk of non-certified spiny dogfish entering chain of custody programmes is significantly reduced as all the fisheries on the United States Atlantic seaboard that catch spiny dogfish in commercial quantities are now covered by the certificate.

As a result, the client group for the fisheries certification - Seatrade International Company Inc., Zeus Packing Inc., Marder Trawling Inc., Eastern Fisheries Inc. - has requested that the scope of the certification is reviewed and consideration given to extending it to the point at which the eligible client group members take ownership of the spiny dogfish. This will reduce the financial and administrative burden on off-loaders and transporters and also the client group members who, in some instances, have supported chain of custody certification of these businesses.

Intertek Moody Marine has reviewed this request and, in so doing, considered the existing traceability systems in place within the fishery and from the point of landing of spiny dogfish to the point that client group members take ownership. It is noted that:

- Only licensed vessels can prosecute the fishery;
- The fishery is subject to landing inspections where declared landings are cross-checked with observed landings;
- Landing declarations are cross-checked with buyer reports;
- A vessel monitoring system (VMS) for vessels fishing in federal waters ensures that fishing does not take place outside the unit of certification;

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- Spiny dogfish is not processed at sea;
- To reduce spoiling of other catch spiny dogfish is separated and cannot be easily substituted by other fish;
- Trans-shipping does not take place.

It is concluded that the risk of non-certified product entering the chain of custody is minimal. Therefore the scope of the fisheries certificate can be extended to the point at which the eligible client group members take ownership of the spiny dogfish. Thereafter, chain of custody programmes will commence with the client group members. It should be noted that:

- The client group members are required to have systems in place that will allow chain of custody auditors to trace back the origin of the spiny dogfish, i.e. landing port and vessel.
- Each client group member shall make the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB) that has certified them for chain of custody aware of the change in scope so that when conducting future surveillance and certification audits they check to make sure it is permissible for clients to buy from 'uncertified' offloaders.
- If the unit of certification changes for any reason, then the point at which chain of custody begins will be reviewed to ensure that traceability systems are still adequate.

The fisheries certificates will be amended to take account of this change and posted on the MSC website.

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