

Full Gap Analysis

Gap Analysis for the New Proposed Unit of Assessment of **Estonia NEA cold water prawn and cod** (cert: MSC-F-31405) valid from 07.11.2013 to 07.05.2024).

To support DNV GL's proposal for a scope extension of addition of the Latvian vessel Laima, the gap analysis below has been completed.

Process	MSC-FCP-v2.1: clause 7.27.1-5 & G7.27.1b
Assessment tree	The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements, version 2.0, was used for the initial assessment.

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BACKGROUND

The clients, Reyktal Ltd. and Reval Seafood Ltd., UAB Marlinas and P/R Ocean Tiger, have requested an extension of the scope to cover the Latvian vessel Auseklis (LVR 0851) and Laima (LVR 0853) owned by the Latvian company Arctic Trawlers Ltd. and SIA North Star respectively, both with gear bottom trawl. Arctic Trawlers and North Star are under the same ownership.

The target species remains the same as in the current certificate: Cold water prawn (*Pandalus Borealis*) fished in ICES areas Ia,b and I Ib and cod (*Gadus morhua*) retained as by-catch in in ICES area Ia.

Gap analysis for both vessels was done in February/March 2020 but only the vessel Auseklis was included in the Gap analysis report that was published 26 March 2020. The reason for why Laima was not included was postponement of reflagging formalities due to COVID 19 situation. Now the formalities are clarified and Laima got the fishing license for catching cold water prawn from Latvian authorities 5 May 2020. This report only includes the addition of Laima and is based on client information from the skype meeting of 26 February 2020, and client information received after the vessel got the fishing license.

In February 2020 a Latvian vessel, Dorado 2 owned by SIA Batterfisa, was added to the certificate after a full scope extension. Before that no Latvian vessels were included on the certificate. The vessels Auseklis and Laima have been added by conducting GAP analysis showing that there is full overlap with the already certified fishery.

Units of Assessments

UoA 1	Description
Species	Cold water prawn, Northern shrimp, Pink shrimp, deep water prawn, deep-sea prawn, great northern prawn and crevette nordique (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>)
Stock	Barents Sea stock (ICES Division I and II) / FAO 27
Geographical area	Barents Sea, Svalbard, in FAO statistical area 27, ICES Ia,b and IIb
Harvest method / gear	Bottom trawl
Client group	<p>Reyktal Ltd. and Reval Seafood Ltd represented by the following vessels: Steffano, Merike (owned by Reyktal Ltd), Reval Viking (owned by Reval Seafood Ltd) Danish company P/R Ocean Tiger represented by the vessel: Ocean Tiger R38. Lithuanian company UAB Marlinas represented by the vessels: Taurus and Lokys UK company Onward Fishing Company represented by: Norma Mary Polish company Arctic Navigations represented by the vessel: Polonus Latvian company SIA Batterfisa represented by the vessel: Dorado 2 Latvian company Arctic Trawlers Ltd. represented by the vessel: Auseklis (Gap analysis 26 March 2020)</p> <p>Extension: Latvian company SIA North Star represented by the vessel: Laima</p>
Other eligible fishers	<p>For the Estonian shrimp fishery there are currently no other identified eligible fishers, as there are no other vessels fishing for cold water prawns (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) licensed under Estonian fisheries management in the Unit of Certification. If at a later date more Estonian vessels are added to the Estonian shrimp fishery in the Barents Sea, their eligibility to share the certificate will be considered upon the application. New vessels owned by the Estonian client will automatically (subject to full compliance with MSC requirements) be part of the certification and the vessel list updated accordingly.</p>

	For the Danish, Lithuanian, UK, Polish and Latvian shrimp fishery there are currently no vessels other than Ocean Tiger, Taurus, Lokys, Norma Mary, Polonus, Dorado 2, Auseklis and Laima . If at a later date the client group add more vessels to their fleet that fish in the Barents Sea for cold water shrimp under their respective countries` regulation, they will automatically (subject to full compliance with MSC requirements) be part of the certification and the vessel list updated accordingly. Vessels outside the client group are not eligible to share the MSC certificate.
UoA 2	Description
Species	Atlantic cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	North East Arctic cod
Geographical area	Barents Sea, Svalbard, in FAO statistical area 27, ICES Ia
Harvest method / gear	Bottom trawl
Client group	<p>Reyktal Ltd. and Reval Seafood Ltd represented by the following vessels: Steffano, Merike (owned by Reyktal Ltd), Reval Viking (owned by Reval Seafood Ltd) Lithuanian company UAB Marlinas represented by the vessels Taurus and Lokys UK company Onward Fishing Company represented by: Norma Mary Polish company Arctic Navigations represented by the vessel: Polonus Latvian company SIA Batterfisa represented by the vessel: Dorado 2 Latvian company Arctic Trawlers Ltd. represented by the vessel: Auseklis</p> <p>Extension: Latvian company SIA North Star represented by the vessel: Laima</p>
Other eligible fishers	For the Estonian shrimp fishery there are currently no other eligible fishers, as there are no other vessels fishing for cold water prawns (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) licensed under Estonian fisheries management in the Unit of Certification retaining cod as a by-catch. If at a later date more Estonian vessels are added to the Estonian shrimp fishery in the Barents Sea and retaining cod, their eligibility to share the certificate will be

considered upon the application. New vessels owned by the Estonian client will automatically (subject to full compliance with MSC requirements) be part of the certification and the vessel list updated accordingly.

For the Lithuanian and UK fisheries there are currently no vessels other than Taurus, Lokys, Norma Mary, Polonus, Dorado 2, Auseklis and Laima included in the certification of cod. If at a later date the Lithuanian, UK, Polish or Latvian client adds more vessels to their fleet that fish in the Barents Sea for cold water shrimp and will be retaining cod under the Lithuanian or UK regulations, they will automatically (subject to full compliance with MSC requirements) be part of the certification and the vessel list updated accordingly. Vessels outside the client group are not eligible to share the MSC certificate.

Client information

The Latvian company SIA North Star bought in May 2020 the fishing vessel Laima that fish in northern waters. The vessel operates under Latvian flag and jurisdiction. Laima was formerly fishing under Russian flag targeting cod, and also some cold water prawn.

Laima will start shrimp fishing for cold water prawn in June 2020.

Stock information

The additional Latvian vessel will target cold water prawn and cod in the Barents Sea. The main target species is cold water prawn and cod is retained as by-catch. Other bycatch species are Greenland halibut, wolffish, redfish, American plaice, haddock among others. Barents Sea cod catches are also MSC certified therefore this species is assessed as a target species. In the main assessment of this fishery the status, management and information concerning target and bycatch species have been assessed. For cod it was concluded that performance indicators scored over the 80 passmark. Concerning cold water prawn this was also the case for Outcome status. However the harvest strategy and harvest control rules in place have not met the 80 passmark and conditions were formulated (see below). The conditions apply to the wider aspects of cold water prawn stock management in the international framework as managed by Norway, NEAFC and the EU. The conditions apply to the whole UoA and the addition of the new Latvian vessel to the UoA does not affect the scores for the relevant PI's since there is a complete overlap on all aspects of the main assessment and this scope extension. For all other species caught in the fishery the same applies.

Environmental impacts

The additional Latvian vessel will target the same stocks in the same fishing areas as the current UoA. The fishing gear used will be identical. The vessel will be manned with fishing crew that is experienced in the cold water prawn fishery in the Barents Sea. Generally

the fishing captains fishing the Barents Sea are in regular contact with each other when active in the fishing areas and will follow each other and fish at the same fishing spots that have showed good catches in the past. Since the captains are well known in the area they also know which areas have to be avoided to prevent damage to fishing gear (stony areas) or fouling of the catch with benthos. Consequently the fishing practices of the additional Latvian vessel will be identical to the fishing practices of vessels that are already in the client fleet and as such also the impacts on habitat, ETP species or ecosystem will be identical.

As described below in the main assessment two Conditions have been formulated concerning the Habitat Component. These conditions apply to the habitat impact and habitat management performance indicators of the entire UoA. The addition of the new vessel to the UoA does not affect the scoring of these performance indicators since there is a complete overlap between the scope of the previous assessment and this scope extension. The conditions have to be fulfilled by the entire UoA.

Management

The cold water prawn and cod fishery in the Barents Sea are managed in an international context. The fishery in the Svalbard fishery protection zone is managed by Norway. The fishery in the Loophole is managed by NEAFC. Monitoring and Control at sea in the Loophole is done by Norway and Russia. In the Svalbard fishery protection zone inspection at sea is carried out by Norway. In order to manage the impact on the cold water prawn stock Norway has allocated fishing days in the Svalbard FPZ. A total of 73 fishing days have been allocated to Latvia and the fishing companies operating Auseklis and Laima has acquired all these days. The uptake of these fishing days will be controlled by the Latvian Fisheries Department and Norway. The additional Latvian vessel will also retain cod and other by-catch species like Greenland halibut, wolffish, haddock, saithe and redfish in the Loophole. For species that are managed by TAC NEAFC has allocated quota to the EU. These quota are shared by all EU vessels operating in the Loophole. When quota are fished up further landing of the species concerned is prohibited (Olympic system). In the fishing license that the Latvian authorities issue for the fishery in the Barents Sea it is stated that vessels have to comply with all international regulations concerning this fishery. Since currently a Latvian vessel already form part of the UoA this system and all aspects of the international fisheries management systems have already been assessed in a previous scope extension or the main assessment. Therefore there is a full overlap of the scope of previous assessments and this scope extension concerning management.

Traceability

No non-certified gear is used and the vessel only fish inside the UoC when targeting cold water prawn. The vessel has VMS, ensuring control of their fishing positioning.

The larger shrimps will be cooked and frozen on board and packed in 5 kilo boxes, while the smaller shrimps are frozen and packed in 18-23 kilo sacks. All the packaging is labelled with product, date, fishing area, etc.

First point of landing will be Båtsfjord and Tromsø in Norway where the products will go to freezer terminal. In some cases the industrial shrimps can be landed in Iceland (Hafnafjordur and Akureyri). Ownership will change after landing and during freezer storage. There will be no repacking or re-labelling between landing and sale so the risk for mixing of certified with non-certified products.

There is no transshipment.

CONDITIONS in the existing certificate:

Nr.	PI	Condition
1	1.2.1	Regulations limiting fishing effort in international waters (ICES Ia and Ib), that are responsive to the state of the stock, should be implemented to demonstrate that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives for the Barents Sea shrimp stock as a whole.
2	1.2.2	Well defined harvest control rules shall be implemented for the shrimp stock as a whole to ensure that the exploitation rates are reduced as limit reference points are approached, the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties, and that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.
3	2.4.1	Demonstrate that the UoA is highly unlikely to reduce structure and function of the VME habitats located in the different fishing grounds, to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.
4	2.4.2	Provide evidence that the management measures (designed to ensure that the UoA does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to the habitats) are successfully implemented and working effectively, based on information directly about the UoA and/or habitats involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS in the existing certificate

Nr.	PI	Recommendation
1	2.3.3	Systems are put in place to ensure that all interactions with ETP species are recorded on log books irrespective of whether they are landed or discarded and that the captures of all ETP species are mapped.
2	2.4.3	The recording of all interactions between the UoA and VME habitats, regardless of these being inside the established regulated limits.

The table below summarizes the analysis of the degree of overlap between the existing fishery **Estonia NEA cold water prawn and cod** and the scope extension (addition of the Latvian vessel **Laima**).

MAIN CONCLUSION:

	Component	Overlap between PCR dt 27.05.2017 and additional scope (added vessel and gear)	Explanation of the degree of overlap	Is updated assessment needed?	Conclusion of gap analysis:
P1	Target species-Outcome	Complete overlap	The proposed extended fishing operation incorporating additional Latvian vessel in the UoC will target the same cold water prawn and cod stocks in the same geographical area as the current certified fishery. Target species Outcome for the cold water prawn and cod stocks has already been assessed as Component of the UoA.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.
	Target species-Management	Complete overlap	The fishing operation of the additional Latvian vessel is managed under the management system that manages the cold water prawn and cod fisheries in the Svalbard fishery protection zone and the Loophole. The Latvian vessel will be covered by the same fishery management systems of NEAFC, Norway, the EU and Latvia that already have been assessed as a Component of the UoA.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.
P2	Primary	Complete overlap	The new vessel operates with identical fishing gear and mesh size to the previously certified vessels and fish in the same fishing areas as these vessels. The catch of primary species of the Latvian vessel will therefore be similar	No	No assessment needed, score identical.

			<p>to the catch of primary species of the previously certified vessels. Management regulations concerning the catch of other species than cold water prawn are implemented in the framework of joint Norwegian-Russian management plan, NEAFC or EU. Since the catch of primary species of the additional Latvian vessel will be similar to catches of primary species of the already certified vessels and the impact on stocks of primary species will be controlled by the existing international management system that already has been assessed it can be concluded that scores for outcome and management PI's under the primary species component will be identical. Information requirements of Latvian vessels have already been assessed since a Latvian vessel already form part of the UoA.</p>		
	Secondary	Complete overlap	<p>The new vessel operates with identical fishing gear and mesh size to the previously certified vessels and fish in the same fishing areas as these vessels. The catch of secondary species of the Latvian vessel will therefore be similar to the catch of primary species of the previously certified vessels. Management regulations concerning the catch of other species than cold water prawn are implemented in the framework of joint Norwegian-Russian management plan, NEAFC or EU. Since the catch of secondary species of the additional Latvian vessel will be similar to catches of secondary species of the</p>	No	No assessment needed, score identical.

			already certified vessels and the impact on stocks of primary species will be controlled by the existing international management system that already has been assessed it can be concluded that scores for outcome and management PI's under the secondary species component will be identical. Information requirements of Latvian vessels have already been assessed since Latvian vessels already form part of the UoA.		
	ETP species	Complete overlap	The additional Latvian vessel operates with identical fishing gear and mesh size to the previously certified vessels and fish in the same fishing areas as these vessels. The interactions of this vessel with ETP species will be similar or identical to the interactions of the vessels already included in the UoA.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.
	Habitats	Complete overlap	The additional Latvian vessel operates with identical fishing gear in the same fishing areas as the current client fleet. Habitat impacts will therefore be identical to the impacts of the current client fleet. The strategy in place that is designed to ensure that (Latvian) vessels do not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to habitat types and the availability of information have already been assessed.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.
	Ecosystem	Complete overlap	The additional Latvian vessel operates with identical fishing gear in the same geographical region and target the same stocks as the current client fleet. The ecosystem impact of the additional vessel will be similar or identical with the current client fleet.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.

P3	Governance and policy	Complete overlap	The fishing operation of the fleet extension is managed under the same management system that manages the cold water prawn fishery in the Barents Sea (Norwegian, NEAFC and EU management). The additional Latvian vessel falls under Latvian jurisdiction and also this management system has already been assessed in a previous scope extension adding a Latvian vessel to the UoA.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.
	Fishery specific management system	Complete overlap	The fishing operation of the fleet extension is managed under the same management system that manages the cold water prawn fishery in the Barents Sea (Norwegian and NEAFC management). The additional Latvian vessel falls under Latvian jurisdiction and this management system has already been assessed in a previous scope extension adding Latvian vessels to the UoA.	No	No assessment needed, score identical.

All the assessment components of the new fishery vessel are the same as for the already certified fishery, and therefore this vessel is an other eligible fisher and can be added to the certificate.

References:

Addison Julian, Revenga Lucia, Keus Bert, Bekkevold Sigrun 2018. The re-assessment of Estonia North East Arctic cold water prawn and cod fisheries. Public Certification Report No. 2018-004, 2018-10-18. Certificate code: F-DNV-144850.

Keus Bert, Bekkevold Sigrun 2020. The scope extension of Estonia North East Arctic cold water prawn and cod fisheries with addition of Latvian and Polish vessels. Public Certification Report No. 2019-019, 2020-02-07. Certificate code MSC-F-31405 (F-DNV-144850)