



Thursday 6th October 2011

Germany Lower Saxony mussel dredge and mussel culture fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Certification

Certification Body: Food Certification International Ltd

Use of Risk Based Framework

In addition to specified use of the default assessment tree contained within the MSC Fishery Assessment Methodology version 2 (FAM v2), FCI also intends to use elements of the Risk Based Framework in the independent evaluation of this fishery.

A key purpose of the site visit stage of the assessment is to collect information and speak with stakeholders with an interest in the fishery under assessment.

For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC Risk Based Framework (RBF, see <http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework>), we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, this analysis relies heavily on the participation of a suitably broad range of stakeholders with a good balance of knowledge of the fishery. We therefore encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these stakeholder meetings.

Performance Indicators affected & associated justification

Principle 1

1.1.1 – Stock status

Some data on stock status are available, but the status of the population relative to unfished status as well as limit and target reference points is not determined. The RBF may enable this aspect of the fishery to be most appropriately assessed.

Principle 2

2.1.1 – Retained Species

Data are available to describe the species retained in the fishery, but the status of populations of all retained species may not all be fully determined. The RBF may enable this aspect of the fishery to be most appropriately assessed.

2.2.1 – Bycatch (discarded) species

Data are available to describe the species discarded from the fishery, but the status of populations of all discarded species may not all be fully determined. The RBF may enable this aspect of the fishery to be most appropriately assessed.

2.4.1 – Habitats

Generic information is available to describe the effect of the fishing method on benthic habitats, and some data are also available to describe the broad distribution of these habitats relative to fishing grounds. The RBF may enable the assessment team to most appropriately determine the relationship between the fishery and benthic habitats affected by it.

2.5.1 – Ecosystems

Generic information is available to describe the effect of the fishing method on ecosystems. The RBF may enable the assessment team to most appropriately determine the relationship between the fishery and ecosystems affected by it.

All stakeholders are now invited to provide comments on the proposed use of the MSC's Risk Based Framework. **Any such comments must reach us by 17:00 GMT on 5th November 2011.**

Please note: Any claim/s regarding the suitability or otherwise of the proposed use of the Risk Based Framework for this fishery assessment **must** be accompanied by objective evidence in support of the aforementioned claim/s.

Comments should be made as specific as possible to individual Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts, and their potential for scoring this particular fishery against the MSC Sustainable Fisheries standard (the Principles and Criteria).

The MSC provides a set of guidelines and templates to assist in the transfer of information between stakeholders and Certification Bodies. These should be used for any comments you wish to make on this or any other stage of the assessment process and can be found here:

<http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders>

Comments should be sent in the first instance to:

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