

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

<i>Name of Fishery</i>	<i>The Poole Harbour Clam and Cockle Fishery</i>
<i>Assessment number</i>	<i>This is the initial assessment.</i>
<i>Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)</i>	<i>No</i>

Statement that the fishery is within scope

MEC confirms that the fishery is within the scope requirements (FCR 7.4). The fishery does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute.

- IPI stocks are not caught in this fishery.
- The certificate is not open to certificate sharing.
- The unit of assessment and certification are clearly defined.
- This fishery is not an enhanced fishery.
- The fishery does not overlap with another MSC certified fisheries.
- The fishery does not include any entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violation against forced labour laws.

One of the target species Manila Clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) is an introduced species. Under FCR 7.4.4 – Introduced Species Based Fisheries. *R. philippinarum* in Poole Harbour meets the listed criteria in the following ways.

Criterion	Poole Harbour
A. Irreversibility of the introduction	
The introduced species has a large population size.	The population size of Manila clam is comparable to that of cockles as well as other ecologically-similar species in Poole harbour (native clams and cockles). These populations are sufficiently large to support a commercial fishery.
The species has spread to a range beyond that of its initial introduction in the new location.	Manila clams were introduced into 19 sites around the UK, including 15 estuaries in S. and SE England (plus one site in NW England, one in N. Wales and two in W. Scotland). By 2010 the species had naturalised in at least eleven estuaries in southern England. These included estuaries with no history of licensed introduction (Humphreys et al. 2015). Manila clams have spread successfully throughout the intertidal zone of Poole Harbour since introduction in 1988 (Jensen et al. 2004).
There is evidence to demonstrate that the species cannot be eradicated from the location by known mechanisms without serious ecological, economic and/or social consequences.	The arrival of Manila clams is not known to have caused any ecological damage in Poole Harbour; it occupies a similar ecological niche to a variety of other co-occurring infaunal suspension-feeding clams, and plays the same role in benthic-pelagic coupling and as a prey species. Humphreys et al. (2015) concluded: ‘...in Britain the species is not aggressively invasive and appears not to present significant risk to indigenous diversity or ecosystem function’, although they note that climate change is likely to facilitate further dispersal further north. If it were eradicated, the ecological consequences are unknown (but logically would not be grave) but there would be severe economic consequences for this fishery. The species ability to survive fishing pressure and its broadcast spawning method of reproduction suggest eradication is unlikely (Sweet & Sewell 2011).
B. History of the introduction	
The species was introduced to the new location prior to 1993; this being the year that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which includes	Manila clams were introduced to Poole harbour in 1988, under licence for aquaculture (Jensen et al. 2004). Studies indicated that Manila clams were unlikely to produce self-sustaining populations in the UK as temperatures would be too low to support successful larval production or recruitment, but by

	<p><i>provisions on introduced species was ratified.</i></p>	<p><i>1994 successful reproduction was evident (Jensen et al. 2004).</i></p>
	<p><i>If the introduction occurred after the CBD was ratified such fisheries shall only potentially be in scope if the introduction was non-deliberate and occurred at least 20 years prior to the date the application is made for assessment against the MSC standard.</i></p>	<p><i>Not Applicable.</i></p>
	<p><i>C. No further introductions</i></p>	
	<p><i>There is no continuing introduction of the introduced species being considered for certification to the location (i.e., the species is now entirely self-sustaining in its new location).</i></p>	<p><i>There are no continuing introductions; the population is self-sustaining (Humphreys et al. 2015).</i></p>
<p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Humphreys, J. et al., 2015. Introduction, dispersal and naturalisation of the Manila clam <i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i> in British estuaries, 1980-2010. <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i>, 151, pp.2255–2270.</i> • <i>Jensen, A.C. et al., 2004. Naturalization of the Manila clam (<i>Tapes philippinarum</i>), an alien species, and establishment of a clam fishery within Poole Harbour, Dorset. <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i>, 84(5), pp.1069–1073.</i> • <i>Sweet, N. & Sewell, J., 2011. GB non-native organism risk assessment for <i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>, www.nonnativespecies.org.</i> 		
<p><i>Certificate sharing statement</i></p>	<p><i>The fishery is not open to certificate sharing.</i></p>	

<p><i>Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline</i></p>	<p><i>Predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification of the fishery awarded is 15th October 2017.</i></p> <p><i>An indicative timetable for the assessment is provided below along with an indication as to the key stakeholder engagement periods during the assessment.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="485 454 1326 1451"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Assessment stage</i></th> <th><i>Date</i></th> <th><i>Stakeholder Consultation Period</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Fishery announcement</i></td> <td><i>7th February 2017</i></td> <td><i>All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Site visit</i></td> <td><i>8-9th March 2017</i></td> <td><i>All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Peer Reviewer Announcement</i></td> <td><i>7th September 2017</i></td> <td><i>Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published</i></td> <td><i>7th November 2017</i></td> <td><i>Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published</i></td> <td><i>7th January 2018</i></td> <td><i>Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Public Certification Report (PCR) published</i></td> <td><i>7th February 2018</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Assessment stage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Stakeholder Consultation Period</i>	<i>Fishery announcement</i>	<i>7th February 2017</i>	<i>All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process</i>	<i>Site visit</i>	<i>8-9th March 2017</i>	<i>All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit.</i>	<i>Peer Reviewer Announcement</i>	<i>7th September 2017</i>	<i>Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment</i>	<i>Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published</i>	<i>7th November 2017</i>	<i>Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment</i>	<i>Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published</i>	<i>7th January 2018</i>	<i>Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination</i>	<i>Public Certification Report (PCR) published</i>	<i>7th February 2018</i>	
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<p><i>Name of proposed Team Leader</i></p>	<p>Dr Hugh Jones will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this assessment. Hugh will also have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 2.</p> <p>He has a broad background in marine research including publications and reports on ecotoxicology, environmental risk assessments and fisheries research. Prior to joining MEC he was employed by the University of Tasmania as a fisheries scientist in the development of an empirical harvest strategy for the commercial abalone fisheries and fisheries stock assessments of estuarine bivalves. This included work on population metrics (recruitment, growth), harvest dynamics (catch rates, market selectivity), and the use of fine scale geo-spatial techniques as performance measures to assess stock sustainability. He is a contributing author to the Status of Australian Fish stocks for Tasmanian abalone and shellfish fisheries. Hugh currently works as the Fisheries Assessment Manager for MEC.</p>																					

<p>Name(s) of proposed assessors</p>	<p>Dr Julian Addison - Dr Julian Addison is an independent fisheries consultant with 30 years' experience of stock assessment and provision of management advice on shellfish fisheries, and a background of scientific research on shellfish biology and population dynamics and inshore fisheries. Until December 2010 he worked at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in Lowestoft, England where he was Senior Shellfish Advisor to Government policy makers, which involved working closely with marine managers, legislators and stakeholders, Government Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations and environmental NGOs. He has also worked as a visiting scientist at DFO in Halifax, Nova Scotia and at NMFS in Woods Hole, Massachusetts where he experienced shellfish management approaches in North America. For four years he was a member of the Scientific Committee and the UK delegation to the International Whaling Commission providing scientific advice to the UK Commissioner. He has worked extensively with ICES and most recently was Chair of the Working Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs, a member of the Working Group on Crangon Fisheries and Life History and a member of the Steering Group on Ecosystems Function. He has extensive experience of the MSC certification process primarily as a P1 team member but also as a P2 team member and team leader, undertaking MSC full assessments for the Newfoundland and Labrador snow crab fishery, the Ireland and Northern Ireland bottom grown mussel fisheries, both the Estonia and Faroe Islands Barents Sea cold water prawn fisheries, the Nephrops fishery in the Skagerrak and Kattegat, separate assessments for the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian Skagerrak and Norwegian Deep cold water prawn fishery, the Eastern Canada offshore lobster fishery, the Limfjord mussel and cockle fisheries, Chilean crustacean fisheries and North Sea brown shrimp fisheries. He has also undertaken MSC pre-assessments, numerous annual surveillance audits and has carried out peer reviews of MSC assessments in both Europe and North America of lobster, cold water prawn, razorfish, cockle, scallop and slipper limpet fisheries. Other recent work includes a review of the stock assessment model for blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay, USA, and an assessment of three Alaskan crab fisheries under the FAO-based Responsible Fisheries Management scheme. Dr Addison will be responsible for Principle 1</p> <p>Dr Hugh Jones – Hugh Jones operated as a fisheries scientist for 5 years in the development of an empirical harvest strategy for the commercial abalone fisheries and fisheries stock assessments of estuarine bivalves. This work included work on population metrics (recruitment, growth), harvest dynamics (catch rates, market selectivity), and the use of fine scale geo-spatial techniques as performance measures to assess stock sustainability. He is a contributing author to the Status of Australian Fish stocks for Tasmanian abalone and shellfish fisheries. He has extensive experience in assessing fisheries impacts on the environment with particular reference to molluscan fisheries. Dr Jones will be responsible for Principle 2.</p> <p>Dr Robert Blythe Skyrme - Rob started his professional career in finfish mariculture in 1996, before switching to a focus on the science, management and policy of wild fisheries. Following his PhD, which considered biological and socio-economic aspects of an inshore shellfish fishery, he worked as the Senior Environment Officer and then Deputy Chief Fishery Officer at the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the largest regional fisheries management organization in England. Rob then became Natural England's senior advisor to the UK Government on marine fisheries and environmental issues, leading a team dealing with fisheries policy, science and nationally significant fisheries casework. Since the end of 2008, Rob has run Ichthys Marine Ecological Consulting Ltd., a consultancy providing marine fisheries and environmental advice to a variety of governmental and industry clients. Rob has undertaken all facets of MSC work as a Lead Assessor, expert team member and peer reviewer, across varied fisheries including those for Alaska</p>
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	<i>pollock, Pacific cod, Atlantic cod, Pacific salmon, albacore tuna, yellowtail flounder, Arctic surfclam, American lobster, pink shrimp, Japanese scallop, sea scallop and blue mussels. Dr Blythe Skyrme will be responsible for Principle 3.</i>
<i>Assessment tree to be used</i>	<i>Risk Based Framework will be used to score Principle 1 of this assessment due to the lack of a quantitative stock assessment.</i>
<i>Site visit</i>	<p><i>The site visit is scheduled to take place on the 8th-9th March 2017. The exact time and location will be announced shortly. MEC welcomes anyone who would like to participate. It is proposed that Hugh Jones, Julian Addison and Robert Blyth Skyrme attend the site visit.</i></p> <p><i>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative 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.</i></p> <p><i>[FCR 7.8.4 & sub-clauses; PF 2.3.2]</i></p>
<i>Tree modifications & stakeholder consultation</i>	<i>Only complete if modifications are to be suggested to the default tree – otherwise delete row. Explain reasons for making modifications to the default tree and what the draft tree proposed will contain. Attach the draft modified tree in Appendix 3. [FCR 7.8.5 & sub-clauses]</i>

Submitted by: Hugh Jones
Date: 07/02/2017