

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification**Affiliation of Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia (ASPANS)**

Scotian Shelf & Gulf of St. Lawrence

Snow Crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) Trap Fishery**2014 Surveillance Assessment**

MSC certification requires annual surveillance assessments of all certified fisheries. This fishery is now entering the 'annual surveillance' stage of the assessment against the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

These annual audits have two principal functions:

1. To review any changes in the management of the fishery, including regulations, key management or scientific staff or stock evaluation
2. To evaluate the progress of the fishery against any Conditions of Certification raised during the Main Assessment

A key purpose of this stage is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies. Should you have any information on this fishery that you feel should be considered in the audit, please advise us. If you not wish to be interviewed you may submit written information to the assessment team. We expect to carry out most meetings over the period 18th to 19th September 2014 inclusive.

The assessment team will be visiting:

18th September: Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**19th September: Moncton, New Brunswick**

If you would like to talk to the assessors, please advise us of your interest by **12th September 2014** giving the following details:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)

Comments should be sent to:

Orla Minogue

Fisheries Administrator

Email: orla.minogue@saiglobal.com

Tel: +353 (0)42 9320912

Fax: +353 (0)42 9386864

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>

To assist with this assessment, SAI Global has assembled an assessment team comprising of members with experience and expertise in the areas of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management appropriate to this fishery. The persons appointed as team members of this fishery assessment team are set out below together with a brief summary of their experience and expertise. They have been appointed on the basis of their experience in the areas of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management. The assessment co-coordinator and lead assessor from SAI Global will be Dr. Ivan Mateo.

Dr. Ivan Mateo - Lead Assessor

Ivan has over 15 years' experience working with natural resources population dynamic modelling. His specialization is in fish and crustacean population dynamics, stock assessment, evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, bioenergetics, ecosystem-based assessment, and ecological statistical analysis. Dr. Mateo received a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with Fisheries specialization from the University of Rhode Island. He has studied population dynamics of economically important species as well as candidate species for endangered species listing from many different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, the Northeast US Coast, Gulf of California and Alaska. He has done research with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Based Fishery Management on bioenergetic modelling for Atlantic cod. He also has been working as environmental consultant in the Caribbean doing field work and looking at the effects of industrialization on essential fish habitats and for the Environmental Defense Fund developing population dynamics models for data poor stocks in the Gulf of California. Recently Dr. Mateo worked as National Research Council postdoc research associate at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on population dynamic modelling of Alaska sablefish.

Mr. Eric Dunne

Eric has over 45 years' experience in the economic, policy and operations analyses and executive management of the full range of fishery management activities and functions. Since 1995, he has been a fishery consultant based in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, specializing in comprehensive analysis of all aspects of fisheries management activities and issues.

With an educational background in the economics of fishing, he had previously held senior positions in the Department's economics and policy development functions. He later gained experience in the area of fisheries innovation and technology development. As well, he has lectured on fisheries management and fisheries economics in the Masters of Marine Studies Program at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Most recently he has become fully versed in the overall MSC assessment process. In this context, he has assessed all aspects of the management systems utilised for a variety of finfish and shellfish fisheries from the sub-Arctic areas of the Northwest Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico.