

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Year 4 Surveillance Report
FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring
fishery**

On behalf of FROM Nord

**Prepared by
Control Union Pesca Ltd**

May 2019

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Contents

CONTENTS.....	1
1 GENERAL SUMMARY	2
2 BACKGROUND	3
2.1 Principle 1.....	4
2.1.1 Catch and TAC data	4
2.1.2 Stock status	4
2.1.3 Management.....	5
2.1.4 Landing obligation.....	7
2.2 Principle 2.....	8
2.3 Principle 3.....	8
2.4 Traceability.....	9
2.5 Harmonisation	9
3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS	11
4 RESULTS	13
5 CONCLUSION.....	16
6 EVALUATION RESULTS	17
7 REFERENCES.....	19
APPENDICES.....	20
APPENDIX 1. PRINCIPLE 1 RESCORING EVALUATION TABLES	21
Appendix 1.1 Original scoring 1.2.2	21
Appendix 1.2 Revised scoring 1.2.2.....	24
Appendix 1.3 New condition.....	28
APPENDIX 2. TRACEABILITY PROCEDURE FROM NORD	31

1 General summary

Fishery name	FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring fishery		
Unit(s) of assessment	Species: Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) Geographical range of fishery: ICES Divisions 4c and 7d Method of capture: Pelagic trawl Stock: Herring in Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d (North Sea autumn spawners) Client group: FROM Nord member vessels fishing for North Sea herring in ICES Sub-area 4c and Division 7d using pelagic trawl. Other eligible fishers: None		
Date certified	22 April 2015	Date of expiry	21 April 2020
Surveillance level and type	Surveillance level 1, onsite audit. Please note this surveillance level was revised in line with the FCRv2.0 as the standard surveillance level stated in the Public Certification Report conformed to the CRv1.3		
Date of surveillance audit	25 – 27 March 2019 (conducted simultaneously with reassessment site visit)		
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance	x	
	Other (expedited etc)		
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Chrissie Sieben Assessor(s): Pierre Fréon		
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2 Background

This report outlines the process and outcome of the fourth annual surveillance audit for the FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel herring (*Clupea harengus*) pelagic trawl fishery. The certified fishery targets the North Sea autumn spawning herring stock in the southern North Sea (ICES Division 4c) and Eastern Channel (ICES Division 7d) using pelagic trawls (OTM). The fishery starts in October in the southern North Sea and follows the herring through the winter months as they move down through the eastern Channel, ending in February or March when the quota is exhausted.

The fishery is carried out by the FROM Nord member vessels listed in Table 1. The Precurseur and the Ludovic Geoffray were added to the certificate in October 2018.

Table 1. FROM Nord UoC pelagic trawler vessels in 2019

Name	Registration	LOA (m)	Engine power (kW)	Ownership	Main port of landing
Label Normandy	FC 934228	51.44	2160	SARL SPES ARMEMENT (M. Yvon Neveu)	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp, Scheveningen
Glorieuse Immaculée	BL 925605	23.1	419	M. Dominique Ramet	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp
Glorieuse Vierge Marie	BL 925607	32.1	442	M. Pierre Ramet	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp
Tiger's III	DP 933780	24.95	526	M. Jean-Pierre Sagot	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp
Spes	FC 716582	23.5	442	SARL SPES ARMEMENT (M. Yvon Neveu)	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp
Precurseur	BL 899829	22.5	455	HAGNERE Alexis	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp
Ludovic Geoffray	DP 912376	21	350	Mr Jean Roult	Boulogne-sur-Mer, Dieppe, Fécamp

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd (MEP) (now Control Union Pesca Ltd.) certified the fishery on the 22nd April 2015 with no conditions. The assessment team put forward four recommendations that are reviewed in Section 4.

The following sections review changes that have occurred since the initial assessment and 3rd surveillance audit, in relation to the three MSC Principles.

2.1 Principle 1

2.1.1 Catch and TAC data

Detailed figures for the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), TAC-share and catches by the UoC in 2017 and 2018 are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Herring (*Clupea harengus*) Zone IVc, VIId (HER/4CXB7D) TAC and Catch data in tonnes for 2017/18.

TAC	Year	2018	Amount	600,588 t
UoA share of TAC	Year	2018	Amount	6,034 t
UoC share of TAC	Year	2018	Amount	6,034 t
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2018	Amount	5,116 t
	Year (second most recent)	2017	Amount	4,271 t

2.1.2 Stock status

The Principle 1 stock under consideration is herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Subarea 4 and Divisions 3a and 7d, autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). The latest ICES advice for this stock was issued in May 2018, with a Version 2 in October 2018 (ICES, 2018). Since then, there have been substantial changes in relation to the status of stock and even more in relation to its management (see Section 2.1.3).

According to the latest advice, SSB is on a downward trajectory, shifting from 2,357,200 t in 2016 to 1,886,840 t in 2017 (Figure 1), with predictions for 2018 varying from 1,403,772 t (based on catch constraint) to 1,529,280 t, which are below or just above the MSY $B_{trigger}$ value of 1.5 million t (ICES, 2018). Nonetheless the fishing mortality remained stable with F_{2-6} values at 0.22 in 2016 and 0.21 in 2017, that is slightly below the current F_{mgt} value set by the Joint EU-Norway Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) which is 0.26 according to the SSB_{2016} and SSB_{2017} values. Similarly, the mean F_{0-1} is 0.032, which is below the agreed ceiling or 0.05. Despite this borderline situation, all stock status indicators for fishing pressure and stock size remain in the green (Figure 2).

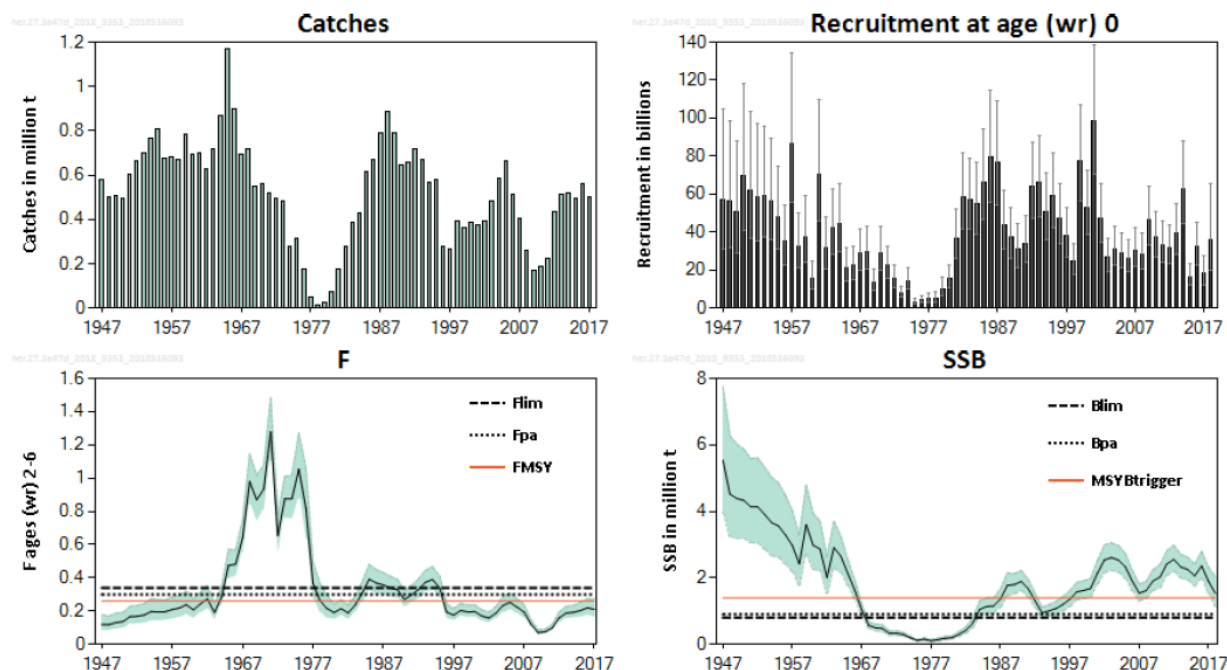


Figure 1. Herring in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners. Summary of the stock assessment (ICES, 2018).

		Fishing pressure				Stock size		
		2015	2016	2017		2015	2016	2017
Maximum Sustainable Yield	F_{MSY}	✓	✓	✓	Appropriate	MSY	✓	✓
Precautionary Approach	$F_{pa'}$	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	$B_{Trigger}$	✓	✓
	F_{lim}	✓	✓	✓		$B_{pa'}$, B_{lim}	✓	✓
Management plan	F_{MGT}	✓	✓	✓	Below	B_{MGT}	✓	✓
								Above trigger
								Full reproductive capacity
								Above

Figure 2. Herring in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points (ICES, 2018).

2.1.3 Management

This stock is managed according to cooperative management between EU member states and Norway ([Joint EU-Norway Long-Term Management Strategy, 2017](#)). This management strategy defines first a B_{lim} value of 800,000 t which is the same as the ICES B_{lim} value, and second a F_{mgt} value which varies according to the SSB current value as described below.

1) "Where the SSB is estimated to be above 1.5 million tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.26 for 2 ringers and older and no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers.

2) Where the SSB is estimated to be below 1.5 million tonnes but above 800,000 tonnes, the Parties agree to set quotas for the direct fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate on 2 ringers and older equal to:

$$0.26 - (0.16 * (1,500,000 - SSB) / 700,000) \text{ for 2 ringers and older, and}$$

no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers

3) Where the SSB is estimated to be below 800,000 tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of less than 0.1 for 2 ringers and older and of less than 0.04 for 0-1 ringers.

4) Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year. However, if the resulting fishing mortality rate would be more than 10% higher or more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC shall be fixed at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality that is respectively 10% higher or 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.

5) Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year. However, if the resulting fishing mortality rate would be more than 10% higher or more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC shall be fixed at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality that is respectively 10% higher or 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.

6) Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may, where considered appropriate, reduce the TAC to a level that corresponds to a fishing mortality more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3".

It is worth noting that the main difference between the harvest control rule (HCR) of this management plan and the current ICES MSY approach is that in the first case F_{mgt} varies according to SSB values whereas in the second case F_{MSY} is constant, except when a revision occurs. Such a revision occurred in 2017 when ICES reviewed its estimation of the natural mortality (M) which resulted in an increase of the F_{MSY} value from an historical value of 0.26 (which was the also the value retained for F_{mgt} in HCR of the Joint EU-Norway Long-Term Management Strategy) to 0.33.

Over the last decade, however, the overall TAC set jointly by the EU and Norway has been regularly overshoot, by several points in percentage (the exact values will be presented in the re-assessment report). This degree of overshoot cannot be explained by the EU-Norway rule which allows for a 10% inter-annual quota flexibility (but which cannot be transferred to the quota of subsequent years).

Table 3. TAC, Catch and TAC overshoot of fleet A from 2009 to 2017 (modified from ICES 2018)

Year	TAC for North Sea herring Fleet A (t x 1000)	Catch of North Sea herring (t x 1000)	Overshoot (t x 1000)	Overshoot (%)
2009	171	168	NA	NA
2010	164	188	24	15%
2011	200	226	26	13%
2012	405	435	30	7%
2013	478	511	33	7%
2014	470	517	47	10%
2015	445	494	49	11%
2016	518	564	46	9%
2017	482	499	17	4%

At the EU-Norway meeting in December 2017 it was agreed to use the ICES Advice (2017) value F_{MSY} of 0.33 for determining the 2018 TAC, rather than the lowest F_{mgt} value of 0.26 corresponding to the EU-Norway management plan. Since that meeting, ICES has revised its perception of F_{MSY} back down to 0.26 (ICES, 2018).

However, as a result of the use of the F_{MSY} value of 0.33, the agreed TAC increased substantially from 481,608 t in 2017 to 600,588 t in 2018 (ICES, 2018). Then, when ICES revised the F_{MSY} value back 0.26, its advised catch for 2019 went down to 311,572 t, whereas the EU-Norway adopted TAC was set at a higher value of 385,008 t without providing any justification. These abrupt inter-annual changes in the TAC values (+25% and -36% respectively) are not in accordance with the EU-Norway rule n° 5 of the management plan which sets a 15% constraint on the interannual variation of the TAC.

Due to these identified issues in the management of the stock, harmonisation discussions took place at the end of 2018 between the three CABs involved in the MSC fisheries that also target this stock (Section 2.5). Consensus was reached between the assessors and as a result, Performance Indicator 1.2.2 (Harvest Control Rules) was rescored, and a new harmonised condition was raised. The relevant scoring table is shown in Appendix 1. The new condition and corresponding Client Action Plan are provided in Section 4.

2.1.4 Landing obligation

The EU Landing Obligation is in place for herring. *De minimis* exemptions are, however, in place for 2018 - 2020 as follows:

“North Sea (Division IVc): By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, up to a maximum of 1 % of the total annual catches of mackerel, horse mackerel, herring and whiting in the pelagic fishery carried out by pelagic trawlers up to 25 metres in length overall, using mid-water trawls (OTM/PTM), and targeting mackerel, horse mackerel and herring in ICES divisions IVb and c south of 54 degrees north, may be discarded in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Eastern Channel (Division VIId): By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the following quantities may be discarded up to a maximum of 1 %, in 2018, 2019 and 2020, of the total annual catches of mackerel, horse mackerel, herring and whiting in the fishery carried out with pelagic trawlers up to 25 metres in length overall, using mid- water trawl (OTM and PTM) and targeting mackerel, horse mackerel and herring in ICES division VIId”.

Compliance of the UoC with the Landing Obligation is discussed in Section [2.3](#).

2.2 Principle 2

As in previous years, the fishery has remained largely unchanged with respect to its general fishing strategy, fishing grounds, fishing vessels and gear. The only significant change since the initial certification has been the addition of the Label Normandy (LN), a pelagic freezer trawler that also fishes in Divisions 4a and b (see Year 2 surveillance report for traceability discussion) and that undertakes longer trips. The LN's fishing strategy is clearly somewhat different from that of the other vessels, as is reflected in the overall catch profile of the UoC for 2018 (Table 4). Whereas during the initial assessment herring, sardine and mackerel made up the majority of the catch, there has been an increased presence of horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in the overall catch. Further inspection of the SIOP logbook data indicates that the majority of horse mackerel catches can be attributed to the LN. As shown in Table 4 below, the contribution of this species to the total UoC catch was 3.9%, less than 5% which is the MSC's threshold for 'main' species (or 2% for less resilient species which does not apply here). Furthermore, during the site visit, it became clear that the LN will not join this fishery in its reassessment as it is currently already covered under the PFA & SPSG North Sea Herring certificate. For this reason, the surveillance team decided not to consider this species as main and no rescoring was carried out.

Table 4. Retained catch aboard vessels in the UoC, shown as live weight (kg) and % composition for 2018 (data provided by FROM Nord, extracted from SIOP). Data for catches < 0.01% not shown

Species		Tonnes	% of total
Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	5,116	93.98
Horse mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	212	3.90
Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	67	1.23
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	42	0.77
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	5	0.09
Total			99.97%

This fishery remains subject to the IFREMER Obsmer scheme and the client has demonstrably taken a proactive approach in trying to increase observer coverage in the herring pelagic trawl fishery. Nevertheless, the Obsmer programme determines observer coverage on a basis of risk (as do most observer programmes under the EU's Data Collection Framework). As the herring fishery is clearly low-risk, observer coverage is likely to remain low. Although 12 observers were placed on board the vessels in the UoC in 2018, only two herring pelagic trawl trips were observed. The catches for both trips corresponded to 100% herring with negligible discards (at less than 0.01%). No interactions with ETP species were recorded.

There have been no changes in fishing areas or in the gear set-up for this fishery.

2.3 Principle 3

Apart from the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Brexit, there have been few changes to the fisheries management framework for this fishery. The ongoing implementation of the landing obligation (LO) is still a dominating topic in fisheries management. The adoption of a revised set of EU technical measures (to replace the current measures that are incompatible with the revised CFP and its landing obligation) is possibly the most anticipated development for this year, although currently this is still at the proposal stage. From their side, FROM Nord are supporting their members in the application of

the LO through several activities. A guide to the LO was produced, explaining in detail how it affects the various member fisheries, with detail given on the exemptions in place for each species, gear type and fishing area. A '*de minimis*' working group has also been set up which monitors monthly discard data for individual vessels and their application of reporting requirements on discards, carries out verification exercises and provides additional training where required. Finally, FROM Nord have also modified the logbooks distributed to its members. Modifications include new categories for reporting catch such as BMS (Below Minimum Size captures), DIM (*de minimis* sole below minimum size), and DIS (discards), with guidance given on how each category should be completed.

In 2018, 19 inspections were carried out on UoC vessels. Four instances of minor non-compliance were identified, although not all were related to the herring fishery. No judicial action was taken in any of the cases. In relation to the LO, observer records provided over the last four years in the context of the MSC certification indicate that discarding in this fishery is negligible. Non-compliance with the LO is therefore unlikely to be problematic for this fishery. FROM Nord have also been carrying out some verification for member vessels and confirm that comparison with sales notes demonstrates that previously discarded fish are being sold (albeit at very low prices).

2.4 Traceability

It is currently stipulated in the Public Certification Report for this fishery that all MSC-eligible herring is caught during trips where only pelagic trawl is used. Further discussion with the client fishery indicates however that even if gear types other than pelagic trawl are used on the same trip, the risk of mixing is minimal. In the event that bottom gears are used, any catch will end up in bins stored in the hold of vessel. Any catch from a pelagic trawl will on the other hand be stored on top of the deck as the volumes involved are significantly different and the catch will be made up of nearly 100% herring. A vessel that uses both bottom and pelagic trawl types during the same trip will therefore always have to deploy the bottom gear first as the hold becomes inaccessible once herring caught by pelagic trawl is stored on top of the deck. The risk of mixing onboard the vessel is therefore minimal due to this physical separation. FROM Nord, together with the Boulogne-sur-Mer auction, further have strict procedures in place as shown in Appendix 2 which ensure that any catch stemming from non-pelagic trawls is kept separate and stays as non-MSC, whilst enabling product to be traced back from the point of sale to the point of landing. Any catch must further be attributed to a given gear in the EC logbook which ensures that traceability to the point of catch is also maintained. The procedures in place can be verified on an annual basis and trace-back exercises carried out as required. The surveillance team therefore concluded that the use of multiple gears on the same trip is not a risk to the traceability in this fishery. This fishery is currently undergoing reassessment at which point a detailed review of the traceability system will be undertaken.

2.5 Harmonisation

In line with the MSC FCR v2.0, Annex PB3, the audit team reviewed the harmonisation requirements with the fisheries listed in Table 4 below. The table lists the assessment status and when the fisheries will align with the condition raised in this report. There were no issues raised or significant departures from existing scoring since the 2018 surveillance audit that concerned Principle 2 and 3 in all fisheries.

The Principle 1 harmonisation discussions took place on the 10th of September 2018 between three CABs (CU Pesca, Acoura and DNV GL) assessing three different fisheries exploiting the same stock (DPPO and DFPO North Sea herring fishery; PFA & SPSG North Sea Herring Fishery; Norway North Sea and Skagerrak herring respectively). As a result, the harvest control rules Performance Indicator (PI) was re-scored, resulting in a new PI score of 75 (or 70 depending on the assessment tree in use). This resulted in a new condition for the FROM Nord herring trawl fishery as shown in Appendix 1.3.

Table 5. Fisheries in the MSC programme with which harmonisation was required.

Fishery name	Status	CAB	Harmonisation status
Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea-Atlantic Mackerel and North Sea herring	2 nd surveillance audit report published April 2019	Acoura	Currently not aligned due to administrative error; this will be rectified at an upcoming expedited audit.
Norway North Sea and Skagerrak herring	3 rd surveillance audit report published September 2017, re-assessment announced 6th September 2018	DNV-GL	Will align during the 4 th surveillance audit
DPPO and DFPO North Sea herring	3 rd surveillance audit report published December 2018	Control Union Pesca Ltd	Aligned
PFA & SPSG North Sea herring	1st surveillance audit report published in November 2018	Lloyd's Register	Aligned
SPFPO Swedish North Sea herring	Re-assessment PCR report published July 2018	Acoura	Aligned
DFPO, DPPO, and SPFPO Skagerrak, Kattegat and Western Baltic herring*	1st surveillance audit report published in May 2018	MRAG Americas	Fishery self-suspended in September 2018 due to the status of the Baltic spring spawner herring only.

* This herring fishery takes a mixture of NSAS and Western Baltic Spring Spawning

3 Assessment Process

CU Pesca confirms that the certified fishery remains within the scope of the MSC Fisheries Standard (7.4 of the MSC Certification Requirements v2.0):

- The target species is not an amphibian, reptile, bird or mammal;
- The fishery does not use poisons or explosives;
- The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement;
- The client or client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced labour violation in the last 2 years;
- The fishery has in place a mechanism for resolving disputes, and disputes do not overwhelm the fishery;
- The fishery is not an enhanced fishery as per the MSC FCR 7.4.3; and
- The fishery is not an introduced species-based fishery as per the MSC FCR 7.4.4.

The FROM Nord pelagic trawl fishery for North Sea and Eastern Channel herring was certified on the 22nd April 2015. The initial assessment team consisted of Dr Jo Gascoigne (Team Leader, Principle 3), Dr Pierre Freon (Principle 1) and Chrissie Sieben (Principle 2). The site visit for the assessment took place in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France on the 29th and 30th July 2014.

The fishery takes place within EU waters and within a well-defined management framework. In the absence of any prior conditions it is considered to be a low risk fishery, and a surveillance level of 1 was awarded in accordance with the MSC FCR v2.0 (7.23.2). Level 1 is the minimum level of surveillance requiring 1 on-site audit, 1 off-site audit and 2 reviews of information.

The year 1 surveillance audit took place on-site at the FROM Nord offices in Boulogne-sur-Mer on the 2nd June 2016. The year 2 surveillance audit was a review of information. It was performed by Dr Sophie des Clers (Principle 3) and Chrissie Sieben (Team Leader). The year 3 surveillance audit was also a review of information, performed by the same team as in year 2, with the assistance of Henry Ernst as Project Manager. The present year 4 surveillance audit was performed by Chrissie Sieben (Team Leader) and Dr Pierre Fréon. According to the initial audit schedule, this surveillance audit should have been off-site. However, given that the fishery is undergoing reassessment this year, and the auditors were on site to conduct this exercise, the site visit took place simultaneously with the reassessment site visit. The audit was announced on the MSC website on the 21st of February 2019. No stakeholder submissions were received. The audit participants are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Year 4 surveillance audit participants

Name	Organisation
Christophe RADENNE	FROM Nord
Delphine RONCIN	FROM Nord
Manon JOGUET	FROM Nord
Jonathan THOLO	DDTM Pas de Calais
Pierre FREON	CU Pesca assessor
Chrissie SIEBEN	CU Pesca assessor

The aim of the audit was to review any changes that may have occurred since the initial assessment and that may lead to changes in the scoring. Information was collated and submitted by FROM Nord and independently checked and complemented by the audit team. Each Principle was examined in detail (Section 2). The surveillance audit followed the process requirements set out in the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements version 2.0, as well as Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements version 1.3 for scoring.

4 Results

The fishery was certified with no conditions. Four non-binding recommendations were made by the initial assessment team, which are reviewed in the following tables.

As a result of harmonization discussions held prior to the Year 4 surveillance, one new condition was raised in relation to Principle 1. This is discussed in detail in Sections 2.1.3 and 2.5; the new condition is given in Table 13 in Appendix 1.3.

Table 7. Recommendation 1 (trophic modelling)

Recommendation 1	The EwE trophic model is based on a long time-series ending in 2003. Furthermore the fit of the model is poor. Updating it with last available data of abundance, catches and diet would therefore be advisable. It would be interesting to fit the data not only to the whole time series but also to the last decades in order to see if fitting is improved. Special attention should be paid to the possible wasp-waisted structure of the North Sea ecosystem using Ecosim. Finally, the Ecospace model could be used to address the issue of local depletion and local wasp-waisted-ness. The client is recommended to suggest to the relevant scientific authorities that this work be carried out.
Progress year 1	The client suggested to IFREMER whether improvements to current models for pelagic species could be carried out, or whether others, such as Ecospace, could be introduced. While IFREMER expressed interest, the human, technical and financial resources are currently not available for this type of research.
Progress year 2	Same remark as last made last year.
Progress year 3	Same remark as made last year.
Progress year 4	Ifremer applied the trophic model OSMOSE to the whole North Sea and to the English Channel. The results indicate that, despite important changes in the relative abundance of LTL species, the relative abundance of the herring remains unchanged.

Table 8. Recommendation 2 (increase the amount of component-resolved information on the meta-population, in particular early stages, SSB and catches)

Recommendation 2	The contribution of the Downs component to the meta-population is only estimated during its early stages and with high uncertainty resulting from the poor temporal coverage of the spawning period. Therefore, it is recommended to improve the situation by further monitoring of these early stages but also of the SSB of this sub-stock. Following the HAWG (ICES, 2014) suggestion, it is first recommended to extend the present monitoring of the early stages in order to cover the whole spawning season of NSAS herring. Second, it is recommended to increase the studies of herring otoliths microstructure in commercial catches in order to better identify the contribution of the Downs component to those catches. Third, it is also recommended to study the benefit provided by a proper conventional acoustic survey (with transects) of the Downs spawning area, in addition to the existing IBTS. This survey should be performed every year during the core of the spawning season (January), but the feasibility study should determine whether or not a single survey can provide an unbiased estimate of the SSB despite the protracted spawning season.
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Progress year 1	A partnership is being planned between IFREMER and the fishermen, as part of the implementation of the EMFF, Article 28 (Scientific partnership - Fishermen), which enables collaboration. A project has been proposed to ensure otolith collection once a month by IFREMER on key species of the North Sea Eastern Channel area. Herring is part of this list; if the project is approved, extensive data can therefore be collected in the coming years.
Progress year 2	A new collaborative research project with Ifremer was presented in to stakeholders in April 2017 in FROM NORD offices. The project VARITROPH aims to increase knowledge of the trophic ecology of six fish species (sole, plaice, whiting, red mullet, mackerel and pilchard). Unfortunately, herring has not been included to date.
Progress year 3	No new information.
Progress year 4	Ifremer started a study to improve the knowledge on the Downs sub-stock with the help of a PhD student. In 2018 a specific larval survey was performed on the Downs sub-stock using the same methodology as the one in place for the routine IBTS surveys. The results indicate a large abundance of the larvae in the Downs area and they should appear in the 2019 HAWG report.

Table 9. Recommendation 3 (define a future harvest control rule related to the meta-population components)

Recommendation 3	Based on recommended additional efforts to monitor the Downs herring abundance and related catches (Recommendation 2), it is also recommended to increase the research effort into dynamics of the components of the metapopulation in order to define as soon as possible a future harvest control rule related to these components, with priority given to the Downs herring. The incorporation of component-resolved information of the meta-population into the assessment model should result in a new management approach that would provide an appropriate balance of F across meta-population components. Different options to approach this problem are proposed by Kell et al. (2009 see Gascoigne et al, 2015).
Progress year 1	As per recommendation 2, if the collaborative project between Ifremer and fishermen is approved, activities will include geo-referencing of sampled individuals, enabling the tracking of stock dynamics and (sub-) population movements. By combining these data with logbooks accurate data could be obtained on the cartographic distribution of fishing mortality.
Progress year 2	Although herring is currently not included in the VARITROPH project, the FROM Nord is continuing negotiation with Ifremer on the subject.
Progress year 3	No new information.
Progress year 4	No new information.

Table 10. Recommendation 4 (observer coverage)

Recommendation 4	The level of observer coverage remains low (only 4 out of 7 vessels have had observers on-board in the last 2 years). Although it is understood that this is mainly due to logistical issues (e.g. onboard safety requirements), the team recommends that efforts are made to increase the level of observer coverage in order to provide a more accurate picture of this fishery's interactions with ETP species (marine mammals in particular).
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Progress year 1	<p>Skippers are being encouraged to carry observers onboard their vessels. In parallel, FROM Nord continues to actively participate in local meetings (Channel / North Sea) on OBSMER. The client notes that the fishery continues to adhere to EU requirements in terms of observer coverage and that any observer data obtained for the herring fishery demonstrates that this is a very low-risk fishery with regards to marine mammal interactions.</p>
Progress year 2	<p>Same remark as last made last year.</p>
Progress year 3	<p>The client is in contact with the organisation responsible for deploying observers under the OBSMER Scheme (Océanic Développement) and has explicitly requested that observers are placed on UoC vessels. Considering the length of trips undertaken by the Label Normandy however, placement of observers on this vessel will remain problematic.</p>
Progress year 4	<p>This fishery remains subject to the IFREMER Obsmer scheme and the client has demonstrably taken a proactive approach in trying to increase observer coverage in the herring pelagic trawl fishery. Nevertheless, the Obsmer programme determines observer coverage on a basis of risk (as do most observer programmes under the EU's Data Collection Framework). As the herring fishery is clearly low-risk, observer coverage is likely to remain low.</p>

5 Conclusion

On the basis of the information reviewed, the audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing.

No new recommendations have been raised. One performance indicator was rescored, resulting in one new condition in relation to Principle 1 (see Appendix 1). This fishery is now at the end of its surveillance cycle with reassessment ongoing.

Following a review of the traceability in this fishery, the surveillance team have made the determination that the use of multiple gears on the same trip is not a risk to the traceability in this fishery, as long as the traceability systems in place are adhered to. This should be verified on an annual basis.

The audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified.

6 Evaluation Results

The final Principle scores and Performance Indicator level scores are provided in Table 11 and Table 12. Scores amended as a result of this surveillance are shown in red.

Table 11. Final Principle Scores

Final Principle Scores	
Principle	Score
Principle 1 – Target Species	90.6
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	83.3
Principle 3 – Management System	92.1

Table 12. Performance Indicator level scores

Principle	Component	Weighting	PI number	Performance Indicator	Score
1	Outcome	0.5	1.1.1	Stock status	90
			1.1.2	Reference points	100
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	N/a
	Management	0.5	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	85
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools	75
			1.2.3	Information and monitoring	90
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	95
2	Retained species	0.2	2.1.1	Outcome	80
			2.1.2	Management	80
			2.1.3	Information	80
	Bycatch species	0.2	2.2.1	Outcome	80
			2.2.2	Management	90
			2.2.3	Information	80
	ETP species	0.2	2.3.1	Outcome	80
			2.3.2	Management	80
			2.3.3	Information	80
	Habitats	0.2	2.4.1	Outcome	90
			2.4.2	Management	80
			2.4.3	Information	95
	Ecosystem	0.2	2.5.1	Outcome	90
			2.5.2	Management	80
			2.5.3	Information	85
3	Governance and Policy	0.5	3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	85
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles and responsibilities	100

Principle	Component	Weighting	PI number	Performance Indicator	Score
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	100
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainability	100
	Fishery-specific management system	0.5	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	95
			3.2.3	Compliance and enforcement	95
			3.2.4	Research plan	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	80

7 References

- Gascoigne, J., Sieben, C. and Freon, P. 2015. MSC Public Certification Report - FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring fishery. MacAlister Elliott and Partners.
- ICES. 2015. EU and Norway request to evaluate the proposed Long-Term Management Strategy for herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the North Sea and the Division IIIa herring TAC-setting procedure. ICES Special Request Advice, Greater North Sea and Baltic Sea Ecoregions. 20 pp.
- ICES. 2017. Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3a and 7.d, autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2017. ICES Advice 2017, her.27.3a47d.
- ICES. 2018. Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, and eastern English Channel). In ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Greater North Sea Ecoregion. ICES Advice 2018 her.27.3a47d published 31 May 2018, with Version 2 published 24 October 2018. 13 p. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4387>
- Norwegian Government, and European Union Delegation. 2017. Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union for 2018. Bergen, 1 December 2017. Pages 1–34. <https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/2018-agreed-record-eu-norway-north-sea-12-2017.pdf>.
- Norwegian Delegation, and European Union Delegation. 2018. Agreed Record of Consultations on Long-Term Management Strategies Between Norway and the European Union. London, 7th June 2018. Pages 1–5. London. <https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/2018-sweden-norway-06-2018.pdf>.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Principle 1 rescoring evaluation tables

Appendix 1.1 Original scoring 1.2.2

PI 1.2.2		There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Generally understood harvest rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached.	Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached.	
	Met?	Y	Y	
	Justification	<p>The Management Plan (MP) is well defined with HCRs aimed at reducing exploitation rate according to the stock status in relation to target and limit reference points. The current harvest strategy consists of setting an annual TAC allowing to manage the stock according to the agreed management plan. This annual TAC is firmly based on the predicted catch corresponding to the ICES advice.</p> <p>The HCRs make use of clearly defined B_{pa} and B_{lim}, so that the fishing exploitation rate is reduced as biomass limit reference point is approached. If the SSB falls below the management plan upper biomass trigger level of 1.5 million tonnes, the harvest strategy has clear rules which effectively reduce the fishing mortality on adults and juveniles by lowering the annual TAC. If the SSB falls below the B_{lim} point then fishing mortality on adults and juveniles is drastically reduced (Table 8 in the main report).</p> <p>Some additional management tools, complementary to the major HCRs, are also in place: minimum landing size, some closed areas at spawning times and restrictions on the catches of juvenile herring (please refer to section 3.3.8 for details).</p> <p>Altogether, the above well-defined harvest control rules that are in place are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. SG80 is therefore met.</p>		
b	Guidepost		The selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties.	The design of the harvest control rules takes into account a wide range of uncertainties.
	Met?		Y	Y
	Justification	<p>Some sources of uncertainty has been identified in the acoustic biomass estimates, in relation to survey catchability at age and to spatial distribution of mature fish, among others. These sources of uncertainty are kept under constant review by the assessment working group (ICES, 2014a). Furthermore, the uncertainty associated with the parameter estimated is low for most data sources. Only the CV of the catch at age 0 is somewhat higher. But up to recently the major source of uncertainty resulted from the overshooting of the TACs especially the major one (Fleet A in IV & VIId), although the total TAC was not overshoot. In addition, one can argue that the uncertainty corresponding to TACs overshooting can be corrected for on the following year because real catches are then incorporated in the models.</p>		

		<p>The uncertainty in the SAM assessment from 2001 to 2011 was evaluated by the WKHELP (ICES CM 2012/ACOM:72) and the results indicates that, on average, the uncertainty associated with the terminal SSB estimate is in the order of a 10% CV. The assumed risk to fall below Blim while the stock assessment indicates SSB to be at Bpa was set at 5%. Stochasticity (randomness) was added to variables and parameters to ensure that biological variation in the simulations, and the uncertainty in the historic perception of the stock was thus reflected.</p> <p>At the end, one can consider that the selection and the design of the harvest control rules takes into account a wide range of uncertainties.</p>		
c	Guidepost	There is some evidence that tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.	Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	Evidence clearly shows that the tools in use are effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	<p>The HCRs have been well tried and tested in the past and have been found to be effective in recovering the stock from historically low levels. In recent years the HCRs have succeeded in maintaining the stock at levels above the MP trigger (although to us triggers are not reference points by which one can judge stock status), and fishing mortalities below precautionary and management plan levels for both adults and juveniles. This evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> <p>Nonetheless, there has been a consistent overshoot of the TAC of Fleet A in the recent years because the clause of 15% max of inter-annual variation has not been respected. Similarly, the sub-TAC for Divisions IVc and VIId was consistently overshoot, particularly before 2002. These overshoots constitute an indication that some harvest control rules have not been strictly applied. These 2011 and 2012 overshoots of fleet B occurred after the record of strong juvenile age classes in 2010 and 2011 (age 1 in Table 5 of our report) the perception by the industry that the North sea herring stock was somewhat larger than previous calculation had shown, and the resulting strong lobbying of the profession (section 3.3.8). But for reasons not fully understood, the abundance of these two cohorts decreased in subsequent years. Despite these overshoots, the SSB was not significantly affected in subsequent years (Figure 10). This TAC of Fleet A issue will be largely relaxed because another stabilizer has been introduced in the 2014 MP (to enter in force in 2015; section 3.2.7) that indicates that F may not vary by more than 10% from the management target, and therefore overrides a possible 15% TAC constraint. Another factor dampening this consideration is that the total TAC set for the whole NSAS population has not been overshoot. It remains that the consistent overshoot of TACs (TAC of Fleet A and TAC of Downs herring caught in IVc and VIId) only a few years ago, and the fact that HAWG (ICES, 2014b) consider that a more robust harvest control rule is required for Downs herring (section 3.3.8) prevents us to scoring 100 because we do not consider that the tools in use are always effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. SG80 is met but not SG100.</p>		

References	<p>ICES, 2012a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks (WKPELA, 2012). 13-17 February. Copenhagen. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:47.(522pp)</p> <p>ICES, 2012b Report of the Workshop for the Revision of Long Term Management Plans, WKHELP. ICES CM 2012 / ACOM:72</p> <p>ICES, 2014a . Herring in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea autumn spawners). Advice May 2011. ICES Advice, Book 6, Sec 6.3.9.</p> <p>ICES. 2014b. Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 11-20 March 2014, ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:06. 1257 pp.</p>
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:	90
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):	N/a

Appendix 1.2 Revised scoring 1.2.2

Note: changes are shown in blue font

PI 1.2.2		There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guidepost	Generally understood harvest rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached.	Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached.	
	Met?	Y	Y	
	Justification	<p>The MP is well defined with HCRs aimed at reducing exploitation rate according to the stock status in relation to target and limit reference points. The current harvest strategy consists of setting an annual TAC allowing to manage the stock according to the agreed Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) between the EU and Norway (EU–Norway, 2015; EU–Norway, 2017). Up to 2017, this annual TAC was firmly based on the predicted catch corresponding to the ICES advice that made use of the EU–Norway HCRs. Because Norway and the European Union had not yet agreed on a specific LTMS and communicates this to ICES, the last ICES advice (ICES, 2018) was based on the MSY approach. Despite this change, and despite the fact that EU-Norway did not follow their own HCRs in 2017 and 2018 (see below) one can still consider that HCRs are in place.</p> <p>The HCRs make use of clearly defined B_{pa} and B_{lim}, so that the fishing exploitation rate is reduced as biomass limit reference point is approached. If the SSB falls below the management plan upper biomass trigger level of 1.5 million tonnes, the harvest strategy has clear rules which effectively reduce the fishing mortality on adults and juveniles by lowering the annual TAC. If the SSB falls below the B_{lim} point then fishing mortality on adults and juveniles is drastically reduced d (section 2.1 of this report).</p> <p>Some additional management tools, complementary to the major HCRs, are also in place: minimum conservation reference size, some closed areas at spawning times and restrictions on the catches of juvenile herring (please refer to section 3.3.8 of the first assessment PRC for details – see Gascoigne et al., 2015).</p> <p>Altogether, the above well-defined harvest control rules that are in place are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. SG80 is therefore met.</p>		

b	Guidepost		The selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties.	The design of the harvest control rules takes into account a wide range of uncertainties.
	Met?		Y	N
	Justification	<p>Some sources of uncertainty has been identified in the acoustic biomass estimates, in relation to survey catchability at age and to spatial distribution of mature fish, among others. Other sources of uncertainties are related to the herring larvae counting, particularly the small larvae of the Down sub-stock; there is also a large uncertainty in some of the age classes in the different fleets (multifleet configuration). ICES also recognize that uncertainty related to the separation of adjacent spring, autumn or winter spawning stocks requires a further set of methods. These sources of uncertainty are kept under constant review by the assessment working group (ICES, 2014a), by WKPELA (ICES CM 2018/ACOM:32) and WKWIDE (ICES CM 2017/ACOM:37). Furthermore, the uncertainty associated with the parameter estimated is low for most data sources. Only the CV of the catch at age 0 is somewhat higher. But up to recently the major source of uncertainty resulted from the overshooting of the TACs especially the major one (Fleet A in IV & VIId). In addition, one can argue that the uncertainty corresponding to TACs overshooting can be corrected for on the following year because real catches are then incorporated in the models (but obviously by no way this can be argued as a justification of TAC overshooting).</p> <p>The uncertainty in the SAM assessment from 2001 to 2011 was evaluated by the WKHELP (ICES CM 2012/ACOM:72) and by WKPELA (ICES CM 2018/ACOM:32). The results indicate that, on average, the uncertainty associated with the terminal SSB estimate is in the order of a 10% CV. The assumed risk to fall below Blim while the stock assessment indicates SSB to be at Bpa was set at 5%. Stochasticity (randomness) was added to variables and parameters to ensure that biological variation in the simulations, and the uncertainty in the historic perception of the stock was thus reflected.</p> <p>In 2015 ICES reviewed EU-Norway proposed the LTMS for herring in the North Sea and the Division IIIa and concluded that it is precautionary and that any value for $B_{trigger}$ above 1 million t can be considered precautionary (ICES, 2015); The EU-Norway $B_{trigger}$ value is set at a higher level of 1.5 million t and F_{mgt} is equal to or lower than the estimate of F_{MSY} according to the SSB value. SG80 is therefore met.</p> <p>Sub-TACs have been set for divisions 4.c and 7.d (11% of the Fleet A's TAC) to help protect the Downs component of the meta-population of the North Sea herring stock. The value of 11% is still an historical percentage that has been empirically defined since 2005 as the long term average of the proportions used from 1986 to 2004, whereas this measure was seen by HAWG (ICES, 2005) as an interim measure prior to the development of a more robust harvest control rule for protecting the Downs herring. This specific HCR is empirical, and based on past management without any biological basis. It appears to be working up till now, despite the fact that the share of the Downs sub-stock to the meta-population recruitment is highly variable and follows a dynamics which appear to be different to those of the other sub-stocks. Although the HAWG members note that they are 'not aware of any evidence to suggest that this measure is inappropriate' it is arguable that this empirical rule takes into account the main uncertainties. Two recommendations (out of four) were made during the first assessment of the FROM Nord fishery regarding the Downs sub-stock. One was to "increase the amount of component-resolved information on the meta-population, in particular early stages, SSB and catches", the other was to "define a future harvest control rule related to the meta-population</p>		

		<p>components". Little progress has been observed on the first recommendation and none on the second one, despite regular recommendations made by ICES (see section 4 for details).</p> <p>On this basis, the team considered that SG100 is not met in full.</p>		
c	Guidepost	There is some evidence that tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.	Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	Evidence clearly shows that the tools in use are effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.
	Met?	Y	N	N
	Justification	<p>The HCRs have been well tried and tested in the past and have been found to be effective in recovering the stock from historically low levels. In recent years the HCRs have been slightly reviewed and complemented but still have succeeded in maintaining the stock at levels above the MP trigger, and fishing mortalities below precautionary and management plan levels for both adults and juveniles. This evidence indicates that the tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.</p> <p>Nonetheless, there has been a consistent overshoot of the TAC of Fleet A in the recent years and the clause of 15% max of inter-annual variation has not been respected (see section 2.1). Similarly, the sub-TAC for Divisions IVc and VIIId was consistently overshoot, particularly before 2002. These overshoots constitute an indication that some harvest control rules have not been strictly applied. These 2011 and 2012 overshoots of fleet B occurred after the record of strong juvenile age classes in 2010 and 2011 (age 1 in Table 5 of our report) the perception by the industry that the North sea herring stock was somewhat larger than previous calculation had shown, and the resulting strong lobbying of the profession (section 3.3.8). But for reasons not fully understood, the abundance of these two cohorts decreased in subsequent years. Despite these overshoots, the SSB was not significantly affected in subsequent years (Figure 10). This TAC of Fleet A issue will be largely relaxed because another stabilizer has been introduced in the 2014 MP (to enter in force in 2015; section 3.2.7) that indicates that F may not vary by more than 10% from the management target, and therefore overrides a possible 15% TAC constraint. Another factor dampening this consideration is that the total TAC set for the whole NSAS population has not been overshoot. It remains that the consistent overshoot of TACs (TAC of Fleet A and TAC of Downs herring caught in IVc and VIIId) only a few years ago, and the fact that HAWG (ICES, 2014b) consider that a more robust harvest control rule is required for Downs herring (section 3.3.8) prevents us to scoring 100 because we do not consider that the tools in use are always effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. SG80 is met but not SG100.</p> <p>At the EU-Norway meeting in December 2017 the Delegations agreed to use the ICES F_{MSY} value of 0.33 for determining the 2018 TAC, rather than the lowest F_{mgt} value of 0.26 corresponding to the current EU-Norway LTMS. Since that meeting, ICES has revised its perception of F_{MSY} back down to 0.26 (ICES, 2018), which resulted in a drastic decrease in the advised catch for 2019 at 311,572 t. As a result of the use of the F_{MSY} value of 0.33, the agreed TAC increased dramatically from 481,608 t in 2017 to 600,588 t in 2018 (ICES, 2018). Then, when ICES revised the F_{MSY} value back 0.26, its advised catch went down to 311,572, whereas the EU-Norway adopted TAC was set at a slightly higher value of 385,008 t, without justification. These inter-annual abrupt changes in the TACs values (+25% and -36% respectively) are stepping over the EU-Norway rule</p>		

		<p>n° 5 of the LTMS stating that inter-annual variations of TAC should not exceed +/- 15%. By definition and conception, a long-term management strategy is not expected to be modified on the short-term.</p> <p>Altogether these breaches in the LTMS indicate that the tools in use are not appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. Therefore, SG80 and SG100 are not met.</p> <p>A condition of certification has been raised to address this issue.</p>
References		<p>ICES, 2012a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks (WKPELA, 2012). 13-17 February. Copenhagen. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:47.(522pp)</p> <p>ICES, 2012b Report of the Workshop for the Revision of Long Term Management Plans, WKHELP.ICES CM 2012 / ACOM:72</p> <p>ICES, 2014a . Herring in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea autumn spawners). Advice May 2011. ICES Advice, Book 6, Sec 6.3.9.</p> <p>ICES. 2014b. Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 11-20 March 2014, ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:06. 1257 pp.</p> <p>ICES. 2015. EU and Norway request to evaluate the proposed Long-Term Management Strategy for herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in the North Sea and the Division IIIa herring TAC-setting procedure. ICES Special Request Advice, Greater North Sea and Baltic Sea Ecoregions. 20 pp.</p> <p>ICES. 2017. Workshop on Stock Identification and Allocation of Catches of Herring to Stocks (WKSIDAC). ICES CM 2017/ACOM:37. 99 pp.</p> <p>ICES. 2018. Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel). In ICES Advice on Fishing Opportunities, Catch, and Effort Greater North Sea Ecoregion Published 31 May 2018 her.27.3a47d.</p> <p>ICES. 2018. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks. WKPELA Report 2018. ICES Advisory Committee. ICES CM 2018/ACOM:32. 508 pp.</p> <p>Norwegian Government, and European Union Delegation. 2017. Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union for 2018. Bergen, 1 December 2017. Pages 1–34. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/2018-agreed-record-eu-norway-north-sea-12-2017.pdf.</p> <p>Norwegian Delegation, and European Union Delegation. 2018. Agreed Record of Consultations on Long-Term Management Strategies Between Norway and the European Union. London, 7th June 2018. Pages 1–5. London. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/2018-sweden-norway-06-2018.pdf.</p>
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:		75
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):		1 – See Appendix 1.3

Appendix 1.3 New condition
Table 13. Condition 1 (Harvest control rules)

Performance Indicator	PI1.2.2 – There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place
Score	70
Rationale	<p><u>Scoring issue c (SG80)</u>: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> <p>The HCRs have been well tried and tested in the past and have been found to be effective in recovering the stock from historically low levels. In recent years the HCRs have been slightly reviewed and complemented but still have succeeded in maintaining the stock at levels above the MP trigger (although to us triggers are not reference points by which one can judge stock status), and fishing mortalities below precautionary and management plan levels for both adults and juveniles. This evidence indicates that the tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.</p> <p>Nonetheless, there has been a consistent overshoot of the TAC of Fleet A in the recent years (Table 3) and the clause of 15% max of inter-annual variation has not been respected (see section 2.1). These overshoots constitute an indication that some harvest control rules have not been strictly applied.</p> <p>At the EU-Norway meeting in December 2017 the Delegations agreed to use the ICES FMSY value of 0.33 for determining the 2018 TAC, rather than the lowest Fmgt value of 0.26 corresponding to the current EU-Norway LTMS. Since that meeting, ICES has revised its perception of FMSY back down to 0.26 (ICES 2018), which resulted in a drastic decrease in the advised catch for 2019 at 311,572 t. As a result of the use of the FMSY value of 0.33 the agreed TAC increased dramatically from 481,608 t in 2017 to 600,588 t in 2018 (ICES 2018). Then, when ICES revised the FMSY value back 0.26, its advised catch went down dramatically to 311,572, whereas the EU-Norway adopted TAC was set at a slightly higher value of 385,008 t, without justification. These inter-annual abrupt changes in the TACs values (+25% and -36% respectively) are stepping over the EU-Norway rule n° 5 of the LTMS stating that inter-annual variations of TAC should not exceed +/- 15%. By definition and conception, a long-term management strategy is not expected to be modified on the short-term.</p> <p>Altogether these breaches in the LTMS indicates that the tools in use are not appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. Therefore SG80 and SG100 are not met.</p>
Condition	<p>Within 4 years, evidence should be provided to demonstrate that the harvest control tools in place are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> <p>Note: the condition deadline is due to extend into the fishery's second certification cycle (pending the successful outcome of its reassessment). This situation therefore meets the "exceptional circumstances" described in FCRv2.0, clause 7.11.1.3.a.i.</p>
Milestones	<p>Year 1 – Year 3 (second certification cycle): Evidence shall be presented to demonstrate that the harvest control tools are being used to maintain fishing mortality to a level that is close to or below the value set out in the harvest control rules in force. (Score: 75).</p>

	<p>Year 4: Evidence shall be presented to demonstrate that the harvest control tools are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the Harvest Control Rules in place (Score: 80).</p>
Client action plan	<p>In June 2018, EU and Norway met to discuss long term management strategies for the jointly managed stocks, including North Sea herring. An advice request by the North Sea Member States was drafted and sent to ICES seeking options for revised long- term management strategies, including the North Sea herring. The key component embedded in the long- term management strategy will be a precautionary harvest control rule. On receiving the request, ICES notified EU and Norway that given the extensive scope of work involved the advice could not be delivered before the first quarter of 2019. EU and Norway accepted this timeframe.</p> <p>In the meantime, the parties informed ICES to provide the 2019 TAC advice based on MSY principles.</p> <p>The outline plan is that EU and Norway will meet shortly after the ICES LTMS options have been delivered in 2019 to agree a new LTMS for North Sea herring. Once this has been agreed ICES will be asked to provide the 2020 TAC advice based on the new LTMS.</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will lobby both the EU Commission and the North Sea Member States (Scheveningen Group) to set the 2019 TAC based on the harvest control rule in place at the time the TAC is determined.</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will also actively contribute to the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in order to be able to propose management methods and harvesting rules in accordance with a sustainable fishing strategy.</p> <p>Through the European Association of Producers Organizations (EAPO), FROM Nord representatives will also be able to discuss jointly with the EU PO's harvesting the same stock in order to come to agreements when regarding the management.</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will lobby both the EU Commission and the North Sea Member States (Scheveningen Group) to set the 2020 TAC based on the harvest control rule in place at the time the TAC is determined.</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will also actively contribute to the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in order to be able to propose management methods and harvesting rules in accordance with a sustainable fishing strategy.</p> <p>Through the European Association of Producers Organizations (EAPO), FROM Nord representatives will also be able to discuss jointly with the EU PO's harvesting the same stock in order to come to agreements when regarding the management.</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will lobby both the EU Commission and the North Sea Member States (Scheveningen Group) to set the 2021 TAC based on the harvest control rule in place at the time the TAC is determined.</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will also actively contribute to the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in order to be able to propose management methods and harvesting rules in accordance with a sustainable fishing strategy.</p> <p>Through the European Association of Producers Organizations (EAPO), FROM Nord representatives will also be able to discuss jointly with the EU PO's harvesting the same</p>

	<p>stock in order to come to agreements when regarding the management.</p> <p>Year 4</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will lobby both the EU Commission and the North Sea Member States (Scheveningen Group) to set the 2022 TAC based on the harvest control rule in place at the time the TAC is determined.</p> <p>FROM Nord representatives will also actively contribute to the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in order to be able to propose management methods and harvesting rules in accordance with a sustainable fishing strategy.</p> <p>Through the European Association of Producers Organizations (EAPO), FROM Nord representatives will also be able to discuss jointly with the EU PO's harvesting the same stock in order to come to agreements when regarding the management.</p>
Consultation on condition	<p>The mission of the Pelagic AC is to be the foremost stakeholder advisory body in the European Union on the management of pelagic fish stocks. The Pelagic AC provides advice on matters related to the management of major pelagic fish stocks in all ICES areas, excluding the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It does so on its own initiative or at the request of the Commission, a Member State or another party. The advice shall either be on a specific species (i.e. on blue whiting, herring, mackerel horse mackerel or boarfish) or on a horizontal issue regarding the CFP, when this is of specific concern to the stakeholders of the Pelagic AC. The objective of the EAPO is to influence the rules and regulations affecting fisheries targeting a sustainable production through socio-economic viability with respect for the environment.</p> <p>CU Pesca considered the membership status of FROM Nord in the PELAC and EAPO and the influential role of both organisations and well as the Scheveningen Group in the decision-making process for this fishery and determined that the Client Action Plan is satisfactory with no further consultation required.</p>

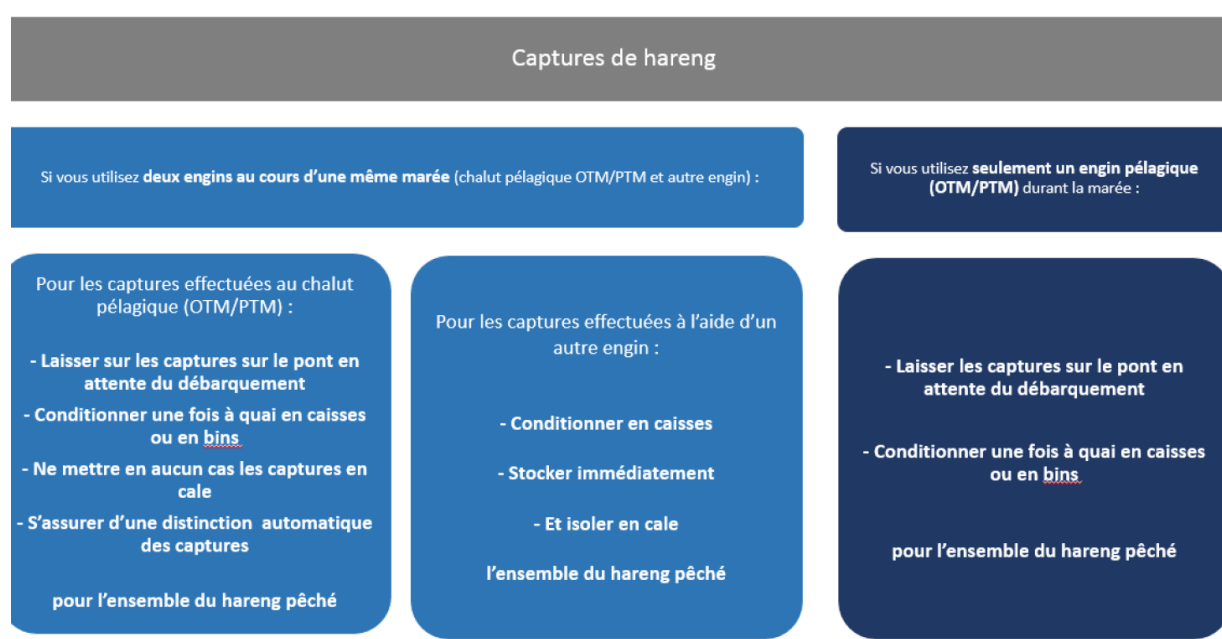
Appendix 2. Traceability procedure FROM Nord



Procédure traçabilité MSC Hareng à bord

- Considérant que les navires de l'unité de certification sont susceptibles d'utiliser au cours d'une même marée plusieurs engins,
- Considérant qu'il est impératif de distinguer les captures de hareng effectuées au chalut pélagique de celles effectuées avec d'autres engins,
- Considérant les habitudes de travail consistant (lors de l'utilisation de deux engins) à déployer le chalut de fond/sennes en début de marée et à stocker la production en cale dans des caisses, ainsi qu'à déployer uniquement le chalut pélagique en fin de marée et à stocker la production en vrac sur le pont,
- Considérant la saison du hareng, s'étendant du 1^{er} octobre au 30 avril,

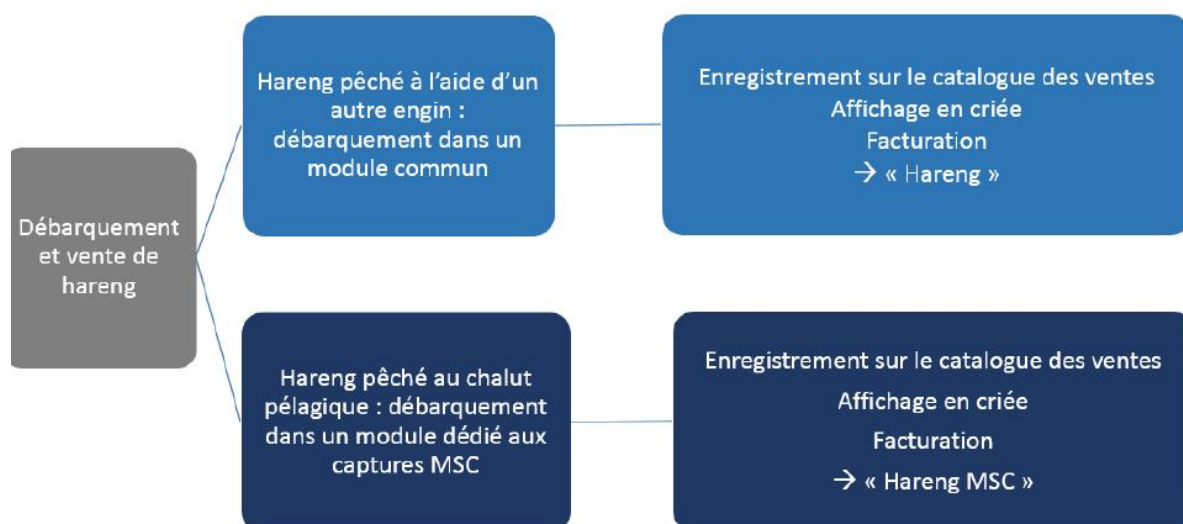
Les navires de l'UoA MSC Hareng sont tenus de respecter strictement la procédure de stockage à bord suivante :



Procédure traçabilité MSC Hareng pour le débarquement et la vente

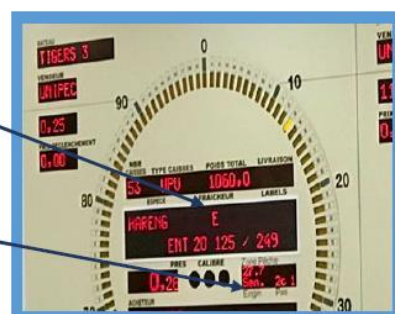
- Considérant l'obligation réglementaire d'indiquer l'engin de pêche lors de la vente,
- Considérant qu'il est impératif de distinguer lors du débarquement et de la vente les captures de hareng effectuées au chalut pélagique de celles effectuées avec d'autres engins,
- Considérant que les navires de l'UoA confient la vente de leur production à une des sociétés privées installées dans les modules de la criée de Boulogne-sur-Mer mis à disposition par la SEPD,
- Considérant que cette société privée est tenue de respecter la réglementation en vigueur en matière de première mise en vente,
- Considérant que cette société privée assure la traçabilité des ventes directes grâce à sa certification MSC,

Les navires de l'UoA MSC Hareng sont tenus de respecter strictement la procédure de stockage à bord suivante :



« MSC » ou non mentionné

Engin utilisé



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