

Clarification of the units of assessment (UoA) and units of certification (UoC) for the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters fishery

Due to the size and complexity of the MSC assessment of this fishery, the scope of the UoAs / UoCs may not have been clear from the standard announcement documents (published on 16th March 2017). ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would therefore like to take this opportunity to provide clarification to stakeholders. The UoAs / UoCs for the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters fishery are as follows:

The Danish Fishermen's Producers' Organisation (DFPO):

Species / stock	All species and stocks listed in the Species and Stock table below
Geographical range	IIIas, IIIan, IV
Method of capture	All gear types listed in the Gear Type table below
Management System/s	EU Common Fisheries Policy EU-Norway Agreements as applicable Danish national management system
Operators	DFPO member vessels
Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)

The Swedish Fisherman's Producer Organisation (SFPO):

Species	All species and stocks listed in the Species and Stock table below
Geographical range	IIIas, IIIan, IV
Method of capture	All gear types listed in the Gear Type table below
Management System/s	EU Common Fisheries Policy EU-Norway Agreements as applicable Swedish national management system
Operators	SFPO member vessels
Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)

The Erzeugergemeinschaft-nordsee (EZG):

Species	All species and stocks listed in the Species and Stock table below
Geographical range	IIIas, IIIan, IV
Method of capture	All gear types listed in the Gear Type table below
Management System/s	EU Common Fisheries Policy EU-Norway Agreements as applicable German national management system
Operators	EZG member vessels
Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)

Coöperatieve Visserij Organisatie (CVO):

Species	All species and stocks listed in the Species and Stock table below
Geographical range	IIIa, IIIan, IV and VIId
Method of capture	All gear types listed in the Gear Type table below
Management System/s	EU Common Fisheries Policy EU-Norway Agreements as applicable Dutch national management system
Operators	CVO member vessels
Other eligible fishers	None (UoA is same as UoC)

Species and Stock table

Species		Description of stock
Common name	Scientific name	
Anglerfish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>	IIIa, IV and VI
	<i>L. budegassa</i>	VIIb-k and VIIIa,b,d
Atlantic cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	IIIan, IV, VIId
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	IIIa, IV, VIa
		VIIb-k
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Northern stock
Ling	<i>Molva molva</i>	IIIa, IVa etc. (other areas)
Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	IVa, VIa
		VIIb-k, VIIIa,b,d
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	FU7 Fladen Ground
		FU32 Norway Deep
		IIIa (Kattegat and Skagerrak)
Northern shrimp	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	IIIa, IVa East (Skagerrak, Norwegian Deep)
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Subdivisions 21–23 (Kattegat, Belt Sea, Sound)
		IIIan, IV
		VIId
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	IIIa, IV, VI
Dover sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	IIIa, 22-24
		IV
		VIId
Tusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Northeast Atlantic
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	IV, VIId

Gear Type table

TR	Demersal otter trawl (Skagerrak/Kattegat rules = 120 mm or 90 mm w/ separator grid or very large mesh escapement)
TR1	Demersal otter trawl or flyshooter, mesh size > 100 mm
TR2	Demersal otter trawl or flyshooter, mesh size 70 - 100 mm
TR PRAWN	Demersal otter trawl (mesh size > 35 mm for pandalus with escapement window, sometimes with separate 120 mm codend for fish)
SDN	Danish (Anchor) seine
SN	Set net (gill net, trammel net)
LL	Long line or handline
POT	Nephrops Creel
BT1	Beam trawl, mesh size > 120 mm (not pulse)
BT2	Beam trawl, mesh size 70 - 120 mm (not pulse)

Further information on this fishery can be seen on the MSC's website here: - <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/joint-demersal-fisheries-in-the-north-sea-and-adjacent-waters/@@view>

MEC is happy to receive comments from stakeholders on the assessment of this fishery. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) or Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.