



**Surveillance Report**  
**SFSAG North Sea Haddock Trawl & Danish Seine Fishery**

Certificate No.: MML-F-082

**Intertek Moody Marine**  
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## 1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scope against which the surveillance is undertaken:** MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as applied to the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) - North Sea haddock trawl & Danish seine haddock fishery.

**Species:** Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)

**Area:** ICES IVa & IVb: Central & Northern North Sea.

**Method of capture:** Demersal (otter trawls (single & multiple rigs) and Danish seine

<b>Date of Surveillance Visit:</b>	22-23 October 2013			
<b>Initial Certification</b>	<b>Date:</b> 22 October 2010		<b>Certificate Ref:</b> MML-F-082	
<b>Surveillance stage</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Surveillance team:</b>	<b>Lead Assessor:</b> A Hough <b>Assessor(s):</b> M Pawson			
<b>Company Name:</b> <b>Address:</b>	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG)  c/o Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd North Lodge Bath St Stonehaven AB39 2DH United Kingdom			
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## 2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report contains the findings of the third surveillance cycle in relation to this fishery.

The client's response to the Conditions of Certification was set out in an Action Plan, which was appended to the final certification report. Action on this was examined as a part of this second surveillance audit. For each condition, the report sets out progress to date. This progress has now been evaluated by the Intertek Moody Marine audit team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against the commitments made in the Action Plan. This assessment includes a re-evaluation of the scoring allocated to the relevant Performance Indicators in the original MSC assessment. Where the requirements of a condition are met, the Performance Indicators are re-scored and if the score is 80 or more, then the condition is closed.

The team carrying out the surveillance audit was Dr Andrew Hough and Dr Mike Pawson, the same team as carried out the previous audit.

### Information Sources:

#### Meetings

23 October 2012:

SFSAG : Jane Sandell, Mike Park

#### Reports etc

ICES. 2013a. Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK), 24–30 April 2013. ICES CM 2013/ACOM:13.

ICES. 2013b Mixed fisheries advice North Sea. Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2013. ICES Advice, 2013. Book 6, Section 6.3.2.

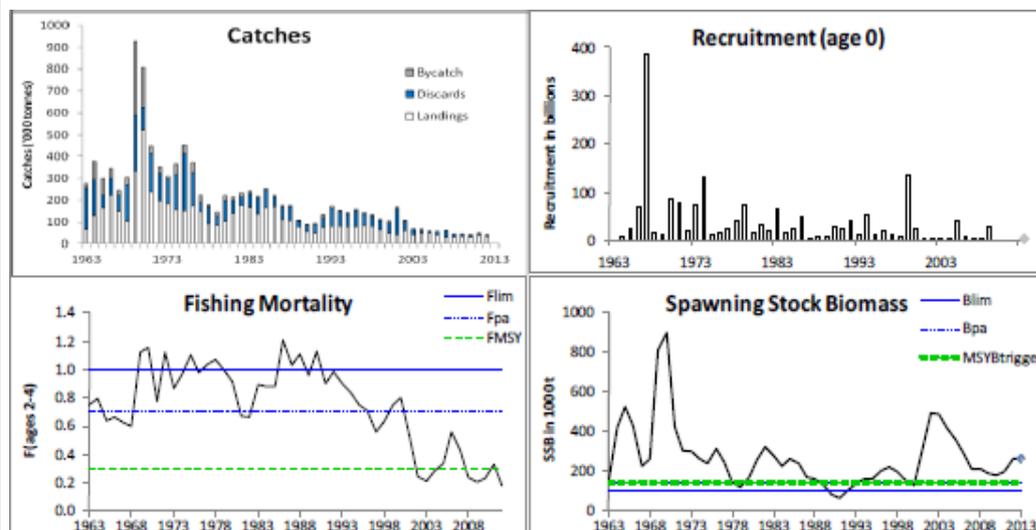
### Standards and Guidelines used:

1. MSC Principles and Criteria
2. MSC Certification Requirements v1.3

### Stock status and Catch Data

### Update on Stock Status (ICES advice for 2013)

The graphics below summarise the results of the June 2013 stock assessment for haddock in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa West (Skagerrak) (weights in thousand t) (ICES 2013a), including intermediate-year forecasts for 2013. Fishing mortality (F) has been below  $F_{pa}$  and fluctuating around  $F_{MSY}$  since 2001 and spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been above  $MSY$  Btrigger since 2000. Recruitment is characterized by occasional very large year classes, the last of which was the 1999 year class. The industry's perception is that haddock abundance continues to increase in the North Sea in 2013, with good recruitment of the 2009 year class, which concurs with the stock assessment.



The age-based analytical assessment (XSA) utilises three survey indices (IBTS Q1, ScoGFS Q3, EngGFS Q3) and includes discards and industrial by catch, and was benchmarked in early 2011. The assessment is sensitive to the estimation of a few large cohorts, so the variability in estimates among assessment years is to be expected. Forecasts are largely influenced by the 2005 and 2009 year classes, which are around the long-term average, and recent recruitment has otherwise been relatively poor. There is little retrospective bias in the assessment and ICES considers that there is close agreement between the assessments across the years.

ICES considers that the overall reporting (in particular through the fully documented fisheries (FDF) programme) of catch data is likely to have improved in 2012 and 2013. The approach used to collate discard data has changed in 2009 to conform to the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), but has not changed the perception of discard rates for haddock, which are highly variable without obvious long-term trend but appear to be declining in recent years.

#### Management plan

In 2008 the EU and Norway agreed a revised management plan for this stock (ICES has evaluated this and concludes that it can be accepted as precautionary), which states that every effort will be made to maintain a minimum level of SSB greater than 100,000 t (B<sub>lim</sub>). Furthermore, fishing was restricted on the basis of a TAC consistent with F of no more than 0.3 for appropriate age groups, along with a limitation on inter-annual TAC variability of  $\pm 15\%$ . A minor revision in 2008 permits inter-annual quota flexibility (“banking and borrowing”) of up to  $\pm 10\%$ , which ICES has evaluated and concluded has no significant impact on sustainability. This facility has not yet been used. The management plan has been adhered to by the EU and Norway since its implementation, which ICES considers has contributed to lower F levels and greatly improved stability of yield.

	<p>ICES advises (ICES, 2013b), on the basis of the EU–Norway management plan (as in 2012), that landings in 2014 should be no more than 40 639 t, which is a reduction in TAC of 15% and is expected to lead to an increase in F (71%). This is due to the absence of young fish recruiting to the population, and hence a predicted decline in spawning-stock biomass. The possibility of extended periods of low recruitment was accounted for in the 2008 evaluation of the management plan that was deemed to be sustainable. TACs for this stock are set for Division IIa (EU waters) and Subarea IV, and the whole of Subarea III.</p> <p>If the ICES MSY approach was followed, which implies F to be increased to 0.3, the human consumption landings would be no more than 37 146 t in 2014. If rates of discards and industrial by catch do not change from the average of the last 3 years (2010–2012), this implies catches of no more than 41 418 t. This is expected to lead to an SSB of 204 000 t in 2015.</p> <p>ICES will evaluate whether new survey information that becomes available in September forms a basis to update the advice and, if so, will publish new advice in November 2013.</p> <p><b>Mixed fisheries advice</b></p> <p>In contrast to single-species advice there is no single recommendation for mixed fisheries (ICES, 2013b), but rather a range of example scenarios, assuming fishing patterns and catchability in 2013 and 2014 are unchanged from those in 2012. Major differences between the outcomes of the various scenarios indicate potential undershoot or overshoot of the advised landings corresponding to the single-species advice. As a result, fleet dynamics may change, but cannot be determined. Cod is the limiting species for the North Sea demersal fisheries in 2014, and in most scenarios the haddock management plan catch options could not be fully utilized.</p>
<b>Total TAC in most recent fishing year</b>	45 040 t in 2013
<b>UoC share of TAC</b>	Scottish share of the 2013 TAC is 22317 t; the majority of this is within the UoC.
<b>Client share of TAC</b>	as above
<b>Green Weight<sup>1</sup> of catch taken by client group</b>	<p>Most recent calendar year (2012): 22 000 t</p> <p>Previous year (2011): 19 000 t</p>

<b>Condition 1</b>	2.1.2: Management strategy: There is a strategy in place for managing retained species that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to retained species.
	This condition was closed at the second surveillance audit

<sup>1</sup> The weight of a catch prior to processing

<b>Condition 2</b>	2.1.3: Information / monitoring: Information on the nature and extent of retained species is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage retained species.
	This condition was closed at the first surveillance audit

<b>Condition 3</b>	2.2.2: Management strategy: There is a strategy in place for managing bycatch that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to bycatch populations.
	This condition was closed at the second surveillance audit

#### **Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned**

No complaints against the certified operation were identified with the client. No sanctions have been imposed on any vessels within the UoC.

#### **Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.**

None. It is noted that the reform of the CFP will introduce a future landings obligation for haddock. Vessels targeting haddock (TR1) will be required to land all haddock caught as from 1 January 2016, and vessels catching the species as a by-catch, including the TR2 fleet, must land all haddock as from 1 January 2019.

#### **Any relevant changes to management regime.**

Administration of the conservation credit scheme (whereby extra days at sea may be obtained in return for adoption of highly selective gear) continues to operate effectively through FMAC. FMAC comprises broad stakeholder membership including POs, Fishermen's Associations, Government and Government Science and NGOs.

#### **Overall Conclusions**

All Conditions have been previously closed. No changes in the operation of the fishery have been identified which would require a rescoring of any PIs. The revised Principle scores for the fishery therefore remain:

Principle 1: 92.5

Principle 2: 84.7

Principle 3: 95.3

No changes in management have taken place that would detrimentally affect the performance of this fishery against the MSC standard and the fishery continues to meet the requirements of the MSC Standard.

MSC Certification should therefore continue with audits annually (See Appendix 3). The next audit will be the 4<sup>th</sup> and so is expected to coincide with a re-certification audit if requested.

## **Annex 1**

No written submissions were received. The outcome of the meeting with the clients is represented in the report above. The client submission prior to the audit is appended to this report.

**Annex 2 Stakeholder Notification of Surveillance Audit****SFSAG North Sea Haddock Fishery****MSC Certification****Certification Body: Intertek Moody Marine****Third Surveillance Audit**

Following certification of this fishery, we are now continuing the process of annual surveillance audits of the fishery. These 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. Please note however that there are currently no conditions of certification open for this fishery.

During the audit, or at separate meetings, we shall be speaking with representatives of the fishery and fishery management organisations. We expect to carry out meetings on 23 October 2013:

Meetings will be held at **London, UK** and attended by Audit Team members

Dr Andrew Hough	<b>L/A, P2</b>	<b>On site</b>
Dr Mike Pawson	<b>P1, P3</b>	<b>On site</b>

(see details of the team membership below).

Should you have any information on this fishery that you feel should be considered in the assessment, please advise us by **5 p.m. GMT on 11 October 2013**. We may be available to meet with stakeholders as appropriate. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please advise us of:

- a) your name and contact details
- b) your association with the fishery
- c) the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)
- d) where and when you would like to meet

Yours

Dr Andrew Hough  
Lead Assessor  
19 September 2013

**Annex 3****Determination of surveillance level**

A surveillance audit may be conducted as either an “on-site” or “offsite audit”. This is determined by using criteria set out by the MSC:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Surveillance Score</b>	<b><i>SFSAG NS Haddock Fishery</i></b>
<b>1. Default Assessment Tree</b>		
Yes	0	0
No	2	
<b>2. Number of Conditions</b>		
Zero Conditions	0	0
1-5 Conditions	1	
>5 Conditions	2	
<b>3. Principle Level Scores</b>		
≥ 85	0	
<85	2	2
<b>4. Conditions on outcome PIs?</b>		
Yes	2	
No	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

The score for the fishery is used to determine the surveillance level appropriate to the fishery.

The SFSAG North Sea Haddock Fishery scores 2 as the Principle 2 score is <85, and the next audit will coincide with the recertification visit (if requested): the 4<sup>th</sup> surveillance visit will therefore be an on-site audit.