



Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS

**WESTERN ASTURIAS OCTOPUS TRAPS  
FISHERY OF ARTISANAL COFRADÍAS**

**MSC Fishery Announcement  
Reassessment**

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Table 1 – Fishery announcement**

1	Fishery name	
	WESTERN ASTURIAS OCTOPUS TRAPS FISHERY OF ARTISANAL COFRADÍAS	
2	Assessment number	
	First reassessment	
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)	
	No	
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope	
	<p>Bureau Veritas has confirmed that the assessed fishery is within the scope of the MSC fisheries certification since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This is a wild-capture fishery. It is not an enhanced fishery.</li> <li>✓ The fishery is not based on any introduced species</li> <li>✓ It does not target species classified as 'out-of-scope' (amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals)</li> <li>✓ The fishery does not make use of any kind of poisons or explosives</li> <li>✓ The client or client group does not include an entity that has been convicted for a shark finning violation in the last 2 years.</li> <li>✓ The assessed fishery takes place within Spanish waters and its management depends on the local authority (Government of Asturias, General Directorate of Maritime Fisheries –DGPM-), although in agreement with the Spanish and European fisheries regulations. The fishery is not conducted under any controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement and its management regime includes mechanisms for resolving disputes</li> <li>✓ Spain has been a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 1956. The country has ratified 133 conventions, including the 8 fundamental conventions and the 4 governance conventions. The CAB is not aware that none of the fishing operators included in the UoA have been prosecuted for a forced or child labour in the last 2 years.</li> <li>✓ The client has completed and submitted to the CAB the 'Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template' to detail the policies, practices and measures in place to ensure the absence of forced and child labour. This template was submitted to the CAB in September 2019 and it is available at the MSC since then, as required in FCP 7.4.2.8.</li> </ul> <p>Besides, Bureau Veritas has checked that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There are no MSC-certified or under-assessment overlapping enhanced fisheries.</li> <li>✓ There are no catches of non-target species that are inseparable or practically inseparable (IPI) from target stock.</li> <li>✓ The fishery has not previously failed an assessment and has no certificate withdrawn. At the time of entering re-assessment the MSC certified status for this fishery is: 'Certified'.</li> </ul>	
5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)	
	UoA 1	Description
	Species	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>
	Stock	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i> stock from Asturian waters (metapopulation description).
	Geographical area	Cantabrian Sea (FAO 27). ICES division VIIc The fishing grounds where the UoA operates as included in the OFMP (Octopus Fisheries Management Plan) is from the estuary Ria del Eo (7° 01 'W ) to the San Esteban de Pravia estuary (6° 04 ' W), always within internal waters of Asturias.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Fishing gear type</td> <td>Artisanal baited octopus traps</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fishing fleet included in the current UoC and client group</td> <td>ARPESOS (Asociación de armadores de la pesquería de pulpo con certificado de sostenibilidad). Arpesos is an association of shipowners targeting octopus with traps in Western Asturias waters. This association was created after the certification of the fishery and includes initially certified shipowners from the following fishers' guilds: Tapia de Casariego, Viavélez, Ortiguera, Puerto de Vega. The latest list of certified vessels, published on January 21, 2020, comprised 29 vessels from the following fishers' guilds in the Region of Navia-Porcía: Tapia de Casariego, Viavélez, Ortiguera, Puerto de Vega, Luarca, Oviñana and Figueras.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible fishers</td> <td>The number of vessels in the OFMP has been around 40-50 vessels per season in the last 5 years (47 vessels in the last 2018-19 fishing season). All vessels belonging to a fishers' guild included in the Asturian OFMP (Cudillero, Oviñana, Luarca, Puerto de Vega, Ortigueira, Viavelez, Tapia de Casariego y Figueras) and complying with the requirements stated at the certificate sharing published at the MSC website (<a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/western-asturias-octopus-traps-fishery-of-artisanal-cofradias/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/western-asturias-octopus-traps-fishery-of-artisanal-cofradias/@@assessments</a>).</td> </tr> </table>	Fishing gear type	Artisanal baited octopus traps	Fishing fleet included in the current UoC and client group	ARPESOS (Asociación de armadores de la pesquería de pulpo con certificado de sostenibilidad). Arpesos is an association of shipowners targeting octopus with traps in Western Asturias waters. This association was created after the certification of the fishery and includes initially certified shipowners from the following fishers' guilds: Tapia de Casariego, Viavélez, Ortiguera, Puerto de Vega. The latest list of certified vessels, published on January 21, 2020, comprised 29 vessels from the following fishers' guilds in the Region of Navia-Porcía: Tapia de Casariego, Viavélez, Ortiguera, Puerto de Vega, Luarca, Oviñana and Figueras.	Other eligible fishers	The number of vessels in the OFMP has been around 40-50 vessels per season in the last 5 years (47 vessels in the last 2018-19 fishing season). All vessels belonging to a fishers' guild included in the Asturian OFMP (Cudillero, Oviñana, Luarca, Puerto de Vega, Ortigueira, Viavelez, Tapia de Casariego y Figueras) and complying with the requirements stated at the certificate sharing published at the MSC website ( <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/western-asturias-octopus-traps-fishery-of-artisanal-cofradias/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/western-asturias-octopus-traps-fishery-of-artisanal-cofradias/@@assessments</a> ).
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6	Certificate sharing statement						
	<p>All vessels belonging to a fishers' guild included in the Asturian OFMP (Cudillero, Oviñana, Luarca, Puerto de Vega, Ortigueira, Viavelez, Tapia de Casariego y Figueras) and complying with the requirements stated at the certificate sharing in Appendix 2 can access to the certificate of the fishery.</p> <p>The owner of this certification opened the possibility of sharing such certification with other eligible fishers assessed in the recertification process recently announced. Eligible candidates must belong to the Fishermen's Guild of Cudillero, Oviñana, Luarca and Figueras in Asturias, capture octopus using octopus traps and are included in the Octopus Fishery Management Plan of the Principality of Asturias.</p> <p>Requirements for participants as outlined by client are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance with certification requirements, and ARPESOS statutes and its internal regulations.</li> <li>- Sharing equitably the costs of obtaining and maintaining the MSC Fishery certification</li> </ul>						
7	Name of proposed team leader						
	<p><b>Macarena Garcia</b>, her academic background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science from the Madrid Polytechnic University (Spain) and a Master degree in Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Systems from Barcelona University (Spain). She was the manager in Inemar (Association for innovation in marine resources and sea studies) developing sustainable projects. She has worked as an assistant in the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, carrying out different projects involving human activities and sea resources.</p> <p>She has participated in several scientific publications, such as the "Ecological framework for the management of the different habitats in Spain (Council Directive 92/43/CE)", "Supporting report accompanying the thematic cartography of the MedRAS Project", and "Draft of the Basis for Marine Planning in Spain". She was responsible for the scientific and technical coordination of the bilingual publication "The Seas of Spain" from the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, and responsible for the scientific and technical coordination of the bilingual publication "Human Activities in the Seas of Spain"</p> <p>She is the MSC fisheries manager at Bureau Veritas and specialises in sustainable fisheries. She has particular expertise with the MSC Certification requirements and has completed numerous MSC full assessments, pre-assessments, surveillance audits. Furthermore, she is in charge of other seafood sustainable projects developing private sustainable labels and seafood companies' policies. She is lead auditor for Friends of the sea, MSC Chain of custody, and other quality labels (DOP, Mexillon de Galicia, Pesca de Rías).</p> <p>She meets the qualification criteria for local knowledge, local fishery context and traceability. She meets the qualification and competency requirements for team leader, traceability and the CoC Standard set out in Annex PC of the MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2. Bureau Veritas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery audit. For this re-assessment she will act as team leader.</p>						
8	Name(s) of proposed team members						
	<p>The assessment team consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gonzalo Macho Rivero</li> </ul>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ángel Francisco González González</li> <li>- Macarena García Silva</li> </ul> <p>In accordance to MSC FCP 7.12.2c) Bureau Veritas Iberia has analyzed the experience of each team member (see professional Bios in Appendix 1) to determine that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The team has no conflict of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment</li> <li>(ii) Each team member meets the qualification and competency criteria established in PC2</li> <li>(iii) The fishery team (as a whole) meets the qualifications and competency criteria established in PC3</li> </ul>
9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) is now available to the stakeholders to provide input or comments by 5pm GMT, <b>4 December 2020</b> (30 days since the publication of the ACDR). Stakeholders must use the MSC Template for Stakeholders Input into Fishery Assessment v4 .0 (<a href="#">Press the follow link</a>).</p> <p>According to the MSC Fisheries Certification Process, a site visit to different locations in Asturias will be undertaken on the <b>Week 18<sup>st</sup> of January 2021</b>. During this visit relevant information will be collected on site and assessed, and meetings with different stakeholders (fisher's representatives, managers, scientists, and NGOs) will be held. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to an onsite meeting or remote conference call.</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The default assessment tree (Annex SA) contained in MSC Fisheries Standard version 2.01 (issued on the 31st August 2018) will be used for this assessment.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>It is expected that this reassessment will take at least 9 months. The expected months for the publication of the key reports are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publication Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) – 5 November 2020</li> <li>- Assessment site visit, stakeholder consultation – January 2021</li> <li>- Consultation and confirmation of Peer Reviewers – January 2021</li> <li>- The Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR)- May 2021</li> <li>- Final Report (FR) – July 2021</li> <li>- Public Certification Report (PCR) – August 2021</li> </ul> <p>A separate timeline has been uploaded to the MSC database.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>Stakeholders can comment on the Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) published on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The comments should be send within 30 days the publication of the ACDR.</p> <p>According to the MSC Fisheries Certification Process, a site visit to different locations in Asturias will be undertaken on the <b>Week 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021</b>. During this visit relevant information will be collected and assessed, and meetings with different stakeholders (fishery representatives, government management agencies, scientists, and non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders will be held.</p> <p>Due to the coronavirus outbreak and in line with the MSC Updated Derogation effective since 28 September 2020 (click <a href="#">here</a>), the CAB could change to a remote audit in response to travel restrictions and/or health risks issues. If this happens, the CAB will launch a Variation Request to the MSC and inform to the stakeholders as appropriate.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	Not applicable
14	Announcement Comment Draft Report stakeholder input deadline
	The Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) is now available to the stakeholders to provide input or comments by 5pm GMT, <b>4 December 2020</b> (30 days since the publication of the ACDR).

Bureau Veritas encourages that stakeholders interested in schedule a meeting provide the following details:

- a) Your name and contact details
- b) Your relation with the fishery
- c) Issues you would like to discuss
- d) Where and when are you available for a meeting (Week 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021).

In order to make the necessary adjustments on the scheduled agenda of the assessment team, this information should be sent to the contact details provided below before 5pm GMT on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. If written information will be provided, please use the MSC template for stakeholder input into Fishery Assessments v4.0 ([click here](#) to download it).

Besides, Bureau Veritas encourage stakeholders to provide any information they might consider relevant in relation to the status of the target fish stock, ecosystem interactions, fishery management practices and/or progress on existing conditions/recommendations. The deadline for input on the ACDR is 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (30 days since the publication). Check at the MSC website the guide for stakeholder's engagement in fishery assessments:

- Stakeholder's Guide and Template for stakeholder's inputs available here: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>

Please use the template to provide your comments and send it to:

Macarena Garcia

Fishery manager

[macarena.garcia@es.bureauveritas.com](mailto:macarena.garcia@es.bureauveritas.com) and/or [ICCMSCfisheries@es.bureauveritas.com](mailto:ICCMSCfisheries@es.bureauveritas.com)

Submitted by: Macarena Garcia

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2020

Contact email: [Macarena.garcia@bureauveritas.com](mailto:Macarena.garcia@bureauveritas.com)

## Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

**Gonzalo Macho Rivero** holds a BSc (1997) in Marine Sciences, a MSc (2000) in Marine Ecology & Ecosystems Functioning and a PhD (2006) on Barnacles Ecology & Population dynamics from the Univ. of Vigo (Spain). Afterwards he has done postdoctoral research (2008-2015) at the Univ. of Washington (Seattle, USA), CENPAT-CONICET (Puerto Madryn, Argentina) and the Univ. of South Carolina (Columbia, USA). He has a background as a marine ecology and fishery scientist (1998 - ongoing), as a fishery practitioner on shellfish resources (bivalves, echinoderms, crustaceans and algae) for a Fisher's guild and the Regional Fisheries Authority of Galicia, Spain (2007-2008), and as an independent consultant in fisheries & marine ecology (2011 - ongoing). He has published over 20 papers in SCI peer-reviewed journals, another 20 technical reports and has participated in more than 25 national and international scientific projects on population dynamics of shellfish resources (razor clams, cockles, gooseneck barnacle, clams & sea urchins), fisheries management and governance (octopus, razor clams, gooseneck barnacle, scallops, abalones, pelagic and deep-sea fishes in Argentina, Chile, Spain, Portugal and EU), reform of the EU common fisheries policy, marine socio-ecological systems and climate change impacts on marine invertebrates.

He has worked on shellfish stock status since 2007 while hired as a practitioner leading a razor clam fishery assessment project, and has been involved in other assessments of octopus fishery in Madagascar (2017-18) and another razor clam fishery in Spain (2018-20). He has an extensive background on the biology, life cycle and population dynamics of shellfish with a focus on bivalves by being involved since 1999 in many projects (cephalopods (2017-20 & 2017-18), edible stalk barnacles (2017-20, 1999-2002), clams (2015-17 & 2011-15), Razor clams (2017-20, 2010-13 & 2007-10), Sea urchins (2005-08), intertidal invertebrates (2003-06) and cockles (2001-03)), ensuring he meets qualification and competency criteria for stock assessment & stock biology & ecology.

Several of the projects mentioned and job background as a practitioner in fisheries management, have dealt with the impact of fisheries and other drivers on the fishery; monitoring of impacts and fauna associated in shellfish fisheries (2007-08), oil spills impact on marine benthonic invertebrates (2003-06), discards in the razor clam fishery and minimization through changes in the closed season and fishing grounds rotation (2017-20 & 2007-10) and the impact of the stalk barnacle fishery on the rocky ecosystem (2017-20). This ensures he meets qualification and competency criteria for fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems.

He also has experienced since 2007 on fisheries management and governance as a practitioner first (2007-08) and then as a researcher (2008 - to present) and independent consultant (2011 - to present) in several different countries (Spain, Portugal, France, Argentina, Chile, USA, Madagascar...). He has participated in around 10 national and international scientific projects on the management and governance and the social implications, understanding fisheries as socio-ecological systems and applying ecosystem based management frameworks. This ensures he meets qualification and competency criteria for fishery management and operations.

He has recently coordinated the FAO project Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH): Case study on small-scale fisheries in Spain (2020, client: FAO-Univ. Vigo) and finished a review (2019, client: MSC) on 3 octopus fisheries (Spain, Indonesia and Australia) for identifying potential obstacles to MSC certification for octopus' fisheries and revision of the MSC certification scheme for this kind of fisheries (3 pre-assessment were conducted).

Gonzalo has worked since 2014 as an assessor on 22 MSC certifications (5 Full Assessments, 6 Annual Surveillances, 3 Peer reviews and 8 Pre-assessments) within Europe, USA, Australia, Asia and Latin America acting as Team member on P1, 2 and 3 and as peer-reviewer. He was part of the team in charge of the initial assessment of the Western Asturias octopus traps fishery of artisanal *cofradías*, and all the subsequent surveillance audits. Furthermore, he has completed the MSC training in the use of the RBF. **For this re-assessment his responsibilities will be mainly related to assessing Principle 2 and 3. He has no conflicts of interest for this fishery.**

**Ángel Francisco González González**, holds over twenty-five years' experience working in marine resources from temperate, tropical and polar ecosystems. From the commencement of his research, participated in many projects devoted to fishery science, marine ecology and relationships between climatic factors and the population dynamics of marine species, especially cephalopods, studied from a holistic perspective and targeting an ecosystem approach. Fisheries studied include industrial and small-scale stocks in the western and eastern Atlantic, Pacific and Antarctic waters. During his early career, the main aim was to analyze the fishery biology, fishery potential and bioecology of north-eastern Atlantic squid stocks. After that period, the goals continued to afford studies on the fishery management of cephalopods from two different perspectives: a) in 1995 at the Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island (USA), studying assessment taking into account the life cycle, and particularly their age, which regulates and determines the migration patterns and behaviour of highly mobile species in Georges Bank (USA); b) in 1996 at British Antarctic Survey (NERC), Cambridge, UK, targeting the fishery biology and ecology of sub Antarctic populations based on the influence of the oceanography, which influences the presence and catchability of sympatric species in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich conservation zones. Later, once back in Spain, the main target was to adapt the knowledge obtained during the previous years to be applied in other resources worldwide, but especially in the north-eastern Atlantic waters, which ended in the participation in several projects in ecology and fishery management. These projects included the influence of unreported or misreported CPUE data of important teleost and cephalopods in fishery management data to apply fishery management, the review, analysis, assessment and sustainable management of cephalopod stocks in European waters, the impact of fisheries on cetaceans, and also the impacts of anthropogenic influence, such as the oil spill event of the vessel *Prestige* in the important small scale common

octopus fishery in north-western Spanish waters or the effects of the bioaccumulation of pollutants on the reproductive success of small cetaceans. Finally, the influence of climatic variables in the interannual variability of stock abundance and fisheries was one of the main tasks of his research during the last fifteen years. Collaborations with oceanographers and ecologists of recognized international prestige have allowed progress in the influence of atmospheric-oceanic factors on the spatial and temporal distribution of common octopus larvae in nature, for the first time worldwide. After demonstrating the influence of physical and chemical factors, he managed to include an important factor in the models: the trophic ecology of octopus larvae in nature from pioneering studies using molecular techniques, which were also the first time they were applied in cephalopod larvae. This work incorporates the opening of a new field of study, the mesozooplankton.

All these aspects are reflected in the projects he participated during his career. In summary, his research career has allowed to supervise eight PhD Thesis, lead and consolidate a multidisciplinary line of work that translates into the publication of more than 125 articles indexed in the SCI / WoS, which have been based on a collaborative and inclusive vision. This issues are accredited by the collaboration with 180 authors from 71 institutions and 23 countries belonging to five continents, in addition to more than twenty chapters and complete books on marine ecology. He was part of the team in charge of the initial assessment of the Western Asturian octopus trap fishery of small scale cofradías and has no conflicts of interest for this fishery. **For this re-certification his responsibilities will be mainly related to assessing Principle 1.**

## Appendix 2: Client certificate sharing statement

CERTIFICATE SHARING OF THE FISHERY

**WESTERN ASTURIAS OCTOPUS TRAPS FISHERY OF ARTISANAL COFRADIAS**

Octopus fishery Shipowners' Association with Sustainability Certification (ARPESOS)

**Open certificate for vessels assessed in the Western Asturias Octopus traps fishery.**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Octopus Fishery Shipowners' Association with Sustainable Certification (ARPESOS) is pleased to announce the requirements of participation in this fishery to eligible fishers.

The owner of this certification opened the possibility of sharing such certification with other eligible fishers assessed in the recertification process recently announced. Eligible candidates must belong to the Fishermen's Guild of Cudillero, Ovifana, Luarca and Figueras in Asturias, capture octopus using octopus traps and are included in the Octopus Fishery Management Plan of the Principality of Asturias.

Requirements for participants as outlined by client are as follows:

- Compliance with certification requirements, and ARPESOS statutes and its internal regulations.
- Sharing equitably the costs of obtaining and maintaining the MSC Fishery certification.

Should you have any questions, please contact project coordinator.

				
Fdo: Julio Blanco Álvarez	Fdo: Adolfo García Méndez	Fdo: Avelino Fernández Gubiérrez	Fdo: José Manuel García Alonso	Fdo: Rodrigo Maseda Gonzalez
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