DNV·GL

SURVEILLANCE NO. 2

# Surveillance Visit – Report for Faroe Islands North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn Fishery

## Maresco AS

**Report No.:** 2015-17, Rev. 0
**Certificate No.:** F-DNV-146646
**Date:** 2015-12-18

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Task and objective:

The objective of this report is the 2nd surveillance audit of the Faroe Islands North East Arctic cold water prawn fishery.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| CPUE | Catch per Unit Effort |
| DNV | Det Norske Veritas |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| ERS | Electronic Reporting System |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations) |
| FPZ | Fishery Protection Zone |
| FR | Felagid Rækjuskip, Faroese Prawn Trawlers Association |
| FVE | Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries Inspection |
| GLM | Generalised Linear model |
| HCR | Harvest Control Rule |
| ICES | International Council for the Exploration of the Sea |
| IMR | Institute of Marine Research, Norway |
| MCS | Monitoring Control and Surveillance |
| MSC | Marine Stewardship Council |
| NAFO | Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation |
| NEAFC | North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission |
| NIPAG | NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Group |
| PI | Performance Indicator |
| TAC | Total Allowable Catch |
| VME | Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem |
| VMS | Vessel Monitoring System |

# STOCK ASSESSMENT REFERENCE POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| $B_{lim}$ | Minimum biomass below which recruitment is expected to be impaired or the stock dynamics are unknown. |
| $B_{msy}$ | Biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (biological reference point); the peak value on a domed yield-per-recruit curve. |
| $B_{trigger}$ | Value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action. |
| F | Instantaneous rate of fishing mortality. |
| $F_{lim}$ | Fishing mortality rate that is expected to be associated with stock 'collapse' if maintained over a longer time (precautionary reference point). |
| $F_{msy}$ | F giving maximum sustainable yield (biological reference point). |
| K | Carrying Capacity |
| MSY | Maximum Sustainable Yield |

# 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This report contains the findings of the second annual MSC Fisheries surveillance audit conducted for the Faroe Islands North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn fishery on 3 November 2015.

The purpose of this annual Surveillance Report is:

1. To establish and report on any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
2. To monitor the progress made to comply with any Conditions raised and described in the Public Certification Report of 5 December 2013 and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client;
3. To monitor any actions taken in response to any Recommendations made in the Public Report;
4. To re-score any Performance Indicators (PI) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of Conditions raised.

**Please note:** The primary focus of this surveillance report is to review the changes occurred since the previous year. For a complete picture of the fishery, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report available for download at http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/faroe-islands-north-east-arctic-cold-water-prawn/assessment-downloads

## 1.1 The Unit of Certification

The MSC Guidelines specify that the unit of certification is the fishery or fish stock (=biologically distinct unit) combined with the fishing method, gear and practice, and the vessel(s) pursuing the fish of that stock) and management framework.

The fishery covered by this certification is defined as described in Table 1.

**Table 1 Unit of Certification**

| | |
|---|---|
| Fishery Name | Faroe Islands North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn |
| Species | Pink shrimp, deepwater prawn, deep-sea prawn, great northern prawn, crevette nordique and northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) |
| Geographical area | Barents Sea and Svalbard in FAO statistical area 27, ICES I and II |
| Method of capture | Bottom trawl with sorting grid |
| Stock | Barents Sea shrimp (ICES Division I and II)/FAO 27 |
| Management | • Faroe Islands Fisheries Management<br>• NEAFC<br>• Norwegian Fisheries Management (Svalbard FPZ)<br>• Russian Fisheries Management (EEZ of Russian Federation)<br>The stock is managed according to ICES advice |
| Client group | The client group is represented by the following ship owners:<br>• P/F Thor with shrimp trawler Sermilik II<br>• P/F Havborg with shrimp trawler Havborg.<br>• P/F Líðin with shrimp trawler Arctic Viking. |
| Other eligible fishers: | There are no other identified eligible fishers.<br>The vessels in the client fishery are the only vessels licensed to fish for shrimp in the Barents Sea under Faroe Islands Fisheries management.<br>New vessels owned by the client group will automatically (subject to full compliance with MSC requirements) be eligible to share the MSC certificate. |

## 1.2 General background about the fishery

### 1.2.1 The fishery – history and commercial catches

The North East Arctic cold water prawn, *Pandalus borealis*, is distributed throughout the Barents Sea and in the Svalbard Fishery Protection Zone (ICES Sub-areas I and II) primarily in areas with soft, muddy sediments. The fishery for *Pandalus borealis* in the Barents Sea and Svalbard Fishery Protection Zone (FPZ) was started initially by Norwegian vessels around 1970, and as the fishery developed, vessels from Russia, Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands and the EU countries also entered the fishery. Norwegian and Russian vessels exploit the *Pandalus borealis* stock across the entire region, although Russian vessels have declared zero landings from 2009 to 2012. Vessels from other countries including those from the Faroe Islands are not permitted to fish in the Norwegian EEZ. However under a bilateral agreement, vessels from Faroe Islands have recently been allowed access to fish in Russian waters. Vessels from Faroe Islands are therefore now permitted to fish within the Svalbard FPZ, in an area of international waters to the south east of Svalbard known as the 'Loop Hole', and in the Russian EEZ. Management regulations differ across the various fishing zones. The fishery is regulated primarily through effort control and technical measures. There is no TAC for the Barents Sea stock as a whole, but there is a partial TAC in the Russian zone. Vessels require a licence to fish in all areas issued by the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Fisheries Inspection (FVE). These licences are valid for one year only, so the Faroe Islands authorities can react rapidly to any change in stock status. In all areas, Faroe Islands vessels have a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on board and must complete log books. Two vessels (Arctic Viking and Havborg) have electronic log books (ERS), but paper log books are also required in some of the more northerly areas of the fishery where there no internet connections. The third vessel, Sermilik II, completes a paper log book. Faroe Islands vessels are allowed to fish in the Svalbard FPZ under Norwegian regulations. The number of vessels permitted to fish in the Svalbard FPZ is limited by country (3 for Faroe Islands) and by an overall limit on effective fishing days (922 for Faroe Islands) set by the Norwegian authorities. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) is a contracting party to NEAFC, which allows Faroe Islands vessels to fish in the area of international waters known as the Loop Hole. In 2014 Faroe Islands issued licences to only 3 vessels to fish in this area, but there is no quota and no limits on effective fishing days for Faroe Islands vessels, and there is potential for new licences to be taken up in the future by other Faroe Islands vessels to fish in this area. Fishing must be undertaken as set out in the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. There is a TAC in Russian waters for Faroe Islands vessels of 5000 tonnes per annum, recently raised from 4000 tonnes, and by-catch levels are regulated through a bi-lateral agreement between Faroe Islands and Russia. Faroe Islands vessels are subject to inspections by Norwegian inspectors in the Svalbard FPZ, by EU control vessels, Norwegian vessels or any other NEAFC contracting party's inspectors in the international waters, and in Russian waters, vessels must have a Russian observer on board at all times.

The highest shrimp densities observed on the joint Norwegian-Russian ecosystem survey in the Barents Sea are at temperatures between zero and 4 degrees C, and shrimp are generally not caught in areas where bottom temperatures are below zero and the upper temperature limit seems to lie between 6 and 8 degrees C (Hvingel and Thangstad, 2014b). Over the last few years the fishery has shown increased activity in the international zone, due to a recent eastwards shift in the main areas of shrimp distribution possibly driven by observed changes in water temperatures, and to some area closures due to high by-catches of juvenile fish on traditional shrimp fishing grounds (NAFO/ICES, 2015).

Throughout the history of the fishery annual catches have ranged from 5.000 to a peak of 128.000 tonnes in 1984. The highest catch in more recent years was 83.000 tonnes in 2000, since when catches have declined to 20-30,000 tonnes per annum, of which the majority is landed by Norwegian vessels. This recent decline is due to reductions in fishing effort caused by high fuel prices and consequent low

profitability of the fishery. Faroe Islands vessels landed 4247, 3641 and 4219 tonnes of shrimps in ICES Area I and II in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively, equating to approximately 17%, 19% and 25% of the overall landings from the Barents Sea stock in the respective years. Provisional figures for 2015 up to the end of October 2015 show landings of 3878 tonnes, suggesting that landings will be over 4000 tonnes again this year. In 2012 the majority of landings were from the NEAFC region, whereas in 2013 the majority of landings were from the Russian EEZ. In 2014, approximately 85% of landings were from the Russian zone and the Svalbard FPZ, and provisional figures for 2015 show a similar distribution of catches across the three fishing areas. By-catch rates of other species are estimated from research surveys and surveillance operations, and then raised up to total by-catch using log book data.

Since 2006, the total catch in the fishery has been significantly below the catch level recommended by ICES. The NAFO/ICES advice for 2012 to 2014 was that catches of up to 60.000 tonnes will maintain the stock at the current high biomass, but the catch from all nations was approximately 25.500 tonnes, 19,200 tonnes and 16,700 tonnes in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively (ICES, 2015). The reduction in catches for 2012 to 2014 is a consequence of the reduction in fishing effort because the economic outcome of the fishery for shrimps remains marginal. The most recent ICES advice (ICES, 2015) is that catches of up to 70.000 onnest in 2015 and 2016 would maintain stock biomass well above Bmsy, and move the exploitation rate a little closer to, but still well below, Fmsy. Total catches in the fishery in 2015 and 2016 are forecast to be much lower than 70.000 tonnes.

### 1.2.2 Fleet structure

Currently the shrimp fishing fleet is comprised primarily of large vessels with on average 6000 HP in comparison with the 1980s when the average vessel was around 1000 HP. Traditionally vessels used single trawls only, but since 1996, vessels have increasingly used both double and triple trawls, and in 2010 approximately 90% of the largest fleet of vessels from Norway were using multiple trawls. In 2013, there were three Faroe Islands vessels licensed to fish in the Barents Sea: Havborg (OW2163), Sermilik II (OW2202) and Arctic Viking (OW2399), although in 2013 Sermilik II did not fish for shrimps. Two of these vessels use double trawls, whereas the third vessel, Sermilik II, uses only a single trawl. In 2014 an additional vessel, Ólavur Nolsøe (XPLJ) was issued with a one-year license to fish in the Svalbard FPZ and the international zone, but not in the Russian EEZ. This vessel landed only 68 tonnes of shrimps in 2014 from the international region (Loop Hole) and did not re-apply for a licence to fish shrimps in 2015. An additional vessel, Phoenix, was issued a licence in 2015 for the Svalbard FPZ only. The vessel is owned by the same company that owns Sermilik II, and applied for a licence for the purpose of trying to pair trawl with Sermilik II. However the Phoenix did not land any shrimps. Another vessel, Sjúrdarberg (OW2408) landed some shrimps in the Svalbard FPZ in 2015, but this was a one-off trip fishing for cod and the vessel is not covered by the certification. Fishing takes place throughout the year, but in some areas it will be restricted by ice conditions, with the main fishing season for Faroe Islands vessels being March to September.

### 1.2.3 Fishing practices and gear

Shrimp are caught using small-mesh trawl gear with a minimum stretched mesh size of 35 mm. The mesh size used by all UoC vessels in the cod end is 44 mm although a smaller mesh size is allowed in the Svalbard FPZ. All trawls are equipped with obligatory sorting grids, which stream by-catch of fish out of the shrimp trawl, allowing maximum reduction of by-catch of juvenile fish. Temporary closing of areas where excessive by-catch of juvenile cod, haddock, Greenland halibut, redfish or shrimp <15 mm CL is encountered also reduces by-catch.

The net is an otter (twin-rig) trawl net, which is held open by trawl doors. In the middle between the nets a clump is used to keep the net near the bottom. The weight of the doors is between 4 and 5

tonnes and the weight of the clump is around 6 tonnes. Sermilik II does not use a clump. The ground rope is prevented from making contact with the sea bottom by rubber discs with diameter 35 inches.

Most of the fishing vessels use double trawling. The length of towing is around 4-6 hours, with approximately 7-8 tonnes of shrimp being taken in 1 day. Longer towing is not recommended due to quality considerations. Offshore vessels can catch up to 300 tonnes of shrimp per trip, which usually last for 4-5 weeks. All client vessels are involved in an underwater camera project, where cameras are being installed on the trawl in order to see how it is operated. The camera also can show what impact the fishing gear has on the sea bed. The fishery generally takes place at 250 – 350 m depth in the Barents Sea. The deepest fishing ground is around 800 m. According to fishermen, shrimp can be found almost everywhere, though not always in the same volumes. The majority of vessels operate on the soft sea bed, allowing no lasting damage to the sea bottom. Some vessels operate in the areas with a harder sea-bottom, and use light-weight rock–hopper gear. In both cases, trawl doors have contact with the sea bottom and result in a direct impact on habitat structure. Some vessels have been trying pelagic doors, which are kept off the bottom. It is expected that this practice would be more frequently used in the future in order to reduce the environmental impact on the sea bottom. There are also several on-going projects which are aimed at developing a more effective and environmentally friendly trawl gear for shrimp fisheries.

## 1.3 Name and contact information for the certified fishery

**Table 2 Client contact information**

| | |
|---|---|
| Client name | Maresco AS |
| Contact Person | Eydun Durhuus |
| Contact Address | Sydvestkajen 7G,<br>9850 Hirtshals,<br>Denmark |
| Email | eydun@maresco.dk |
| Telephone | +45 98 94 65 65 |

Maresco A/S is a sales company located in Hirtshals, Denmark and specializing in shellfish. The company's main product is shell-on cold water shrimp from the North Atlantic. Faroese shrimp trawlers are landing most of their catch in Tromsø, Norway. One of the vessels, delivering their catches to Maresco, pack shrimp in Maresco branded boxes at sea. The two other vessels, delivering their catches direct to Norwegian and Danish customers, pack shrimps in either boxes (cooked/frozen) or bags (raw frozen) at sea. In 2012, 3 trawlers from Faroe Islands joined their forces and applied for MSC Fisheries certification under coordination of Maresco AS. The client group is represented by the following shipowners/ vessels: Sermilik II (OW2202), a 54m, 776 tonnes shrimp vessel owned by P/F Thor, Havborg (OW2163), a 60m, 1531 tonnes shrimp vessel owned by P/F Havborg, and Arctic Viking (OW2399), a 58m, 1720 tonnes shrimp vessel owned by P/F Líðin. All three companies have a strong focus on the sustainability of their fishing operations.

The main product range produced on Faroese vessels includes raw frozen, small industrial shrimp for the peeling industry, cooked shell-on shrimp for Europe and China and raw shell-on shrimps for Europe and Japan. All shrimp catches are sorted, processed, packed and labelled after every haul and within 24 hours.

# 2 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## 2.1 Summary of the original assessment

The intent of the Faroe Islands North East Arctic Cold Water Prawns fishery to become MSC certified was announced on 20 September 2012, and the fishery received its certification on 5 December 2013. Scope of certification is up to the point of landing and chain of custody commences following the sale at the point of landing. Points of landing are Tromsø, Norway, Kårvikhavn, Norway, Hafnarfjørdur, Iceland and Kollafjørdur, Faroe Islands.

The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.2, was used for the initial assessment. The original assessment was carried out by DNV GL Lead Auditor and Team Leader Anna Kiseleva and Principle Experts Julian Addison (Principle 1), Bert Keus (Principle 2) and Óli Samró (Principle 3). Following guidance from the client, 34 stakeholders were identified and consulted during the assessment process.

The fishery attained a score of 80 or more against each of the MSC Principles and did not score less than 60 against any of the individual MSC Criteria. In the initial certification the scores of the three Principles were:

**Table 3 Principle scores – Original assessment:**

| Principle | Score |
|---|---|
| Principle 1 – Target Species | 84,4 |
| Principle 2 – Ecosystem | 87,0 |
| Principle 3 – Management System | 90,8 |

The fishery achieved a score of below 80 against 3 scoring indicators. The assessment team has therefore set 3 conditions for continuing certification that the client is required to address. The assessment team also made one 'non-binding' recommendation.

Conditions and recommendations are presented in full in section 5.1 of this annual surveillance report.

## 2.2 Surveillance level

**The surveillance level is determined based on Table C3 and C4 in the CR requirements v1.3.**

**Table 3 Determination of surveillance score (Ref. CR v1.3 table C3)**

| Criteria | Alternatives | Surveillance score | Surveillance Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Default assessment tree used? | Yes | 0 | 0 |
| | No | 2 | |
| Number of open conditions | Zero conditions | 0 | 1 |
| | Between 1-5 conditions | 1 | |
| | More than 5 | 2 | |
| Principle Level Scores | ≥85 | 0 | 2 |
| | <85 | 2 | |
| Conditions on outcome PIs? | Yes | 2 | 0 |
| | No | 0 | |
| | | **Total score** | 3 |

**Table 4 Surveillance level (Ref. CR v1.3 table C4)**

| | | | Year after certification or recertification | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Surveillance score (** | **Surveillance level** | | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** |
| 2 or more | Normal surveillance | | On-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit |
| 1 | Remote surveillance | Option 1 | Off-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit | Off-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit |
| | | Option 2 | On-site surveillance audit | Off-site surveillance audit | On-site surveillance audit | |
| 0 | Reduced surveillance | | Review of new information | On-site surveillance audit | Review of new information | On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit |

According to MSC Certification Requirements Version 1.3, the overall surveillance score for this fishery is 3. The surveillance level for this fishery qualifies for standard surveillance with on-site audit every year.

## 2.3 First annual surveillance, 2014

The first surveillance audit was performed as an on-site audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.3, 14 January 2013. The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements, was used for this surveillance.

The surveillance was announced on the MSC website 2 October 2014 followed with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct e-mail notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

The surveillance visit for this fishery was conducted in Torshavn on 11 November 2014. Members of the original assessment team, Julian Addison, and DNV GL project manager Sigrun Bekkevold, gathered input from the various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Fisheries, Fisheries Inspection as well as from the client fishery including Maresco A/S and vessel owners and skippers.

The fishery remains in conformance with the scope criteria relating to unilateral exemption and destructive fishing practices (Certification Requirements v1.3 section 27.4.4). The fishery cannot be considered as an enhanced fishery as it does not meet the enhanced fisheries criteria required under the MSC CR 27.4.12.

There were no changes to scoring of performance indicators at the 1st surveillance audit.

## 2.4 Second annual surveillance, 2015

The second surveillance audit was performed as an on-site audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.3, 14 January 2013. The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements, was used for this surveillance.

The surveillance was announced on the MSC website on 1 October 2015 followed with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct e-mail notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

The surveillance visit for this fishery was conducted in Torshavn on 3 November 2015. Members of the original assessment team, Julian Addison, and DNV GL project manager Sigrun Bekkevold, gathered input from the various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Fisheries, Fisheries Inspection as well as from the client fishery including Maresco A/S and vessel owners and skippers.

The fishery remains in conformance with the scope criteria relating to unilateral exemption and destructive fishing practices (Certification Requirements v1.3 section 27.4.4). The fishery cannot be considered as an enhanced fishery as it does not meet the enhanced fisheries criteria required under the MSC CR 27.4.12.

There were no changes to scoring of performance indicators at the 2nd surveillance audit.

# 3 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND ANNUAL REVIEW

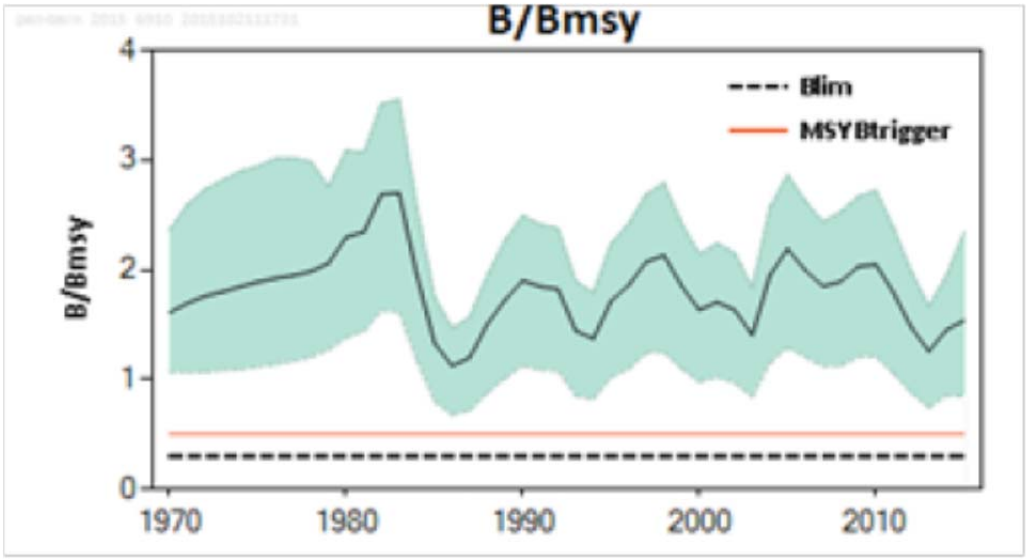
## 3.1 Stock Status

The stock in the Barents Sea and Svalbard area (ICES Sub-areas I and II) is assessed along with other Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) stocks by the joint NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Group (NIPAG). The most recent assessment was carried out at the NIPAG meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada in September 2015 (NAFO/ICES, 2015). The stock assessment model used by NIPAG is a stochastic version of a surplus production model. The model is formulated in a state-space framework and Bayesian methods are used to derive posterior likelihood distributions of the parameters (Hvingel and Kingsley, 2006). The model synthesises information from input priors including the initial population biomass in 1969, the carrying capacity (K) and Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), a series of shrimp catches and four independent series of shrimp biomasses (Hvingel, 2014).

Total reported catch from all vessels in the fishery is used as yield data. The four series of shrimp biomasses are a series of commercial catch rates and three trawl survey biomass indices. Log book data from Norwegian vessels are used in a multiplicative model to calculate standardised annual catch rate data (Hvingel and Thangstad, 2014a). The GLM model includes vessel, season, area and gear type as variables and is considered to be a good index of the biomass of shrimps over 17mm CL, i.e. of the older male and female stock combined. The standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) declined to the lowest value of the series in 1987, but then showed an overall increasing trend until 2011. The 2012-14 values were however down significantly to below long term mean values, but standardised CPUE showed a significant increase in 2015, although still below the long term mean (NAFO/ICES, 2015). Norwegian and Russian shrimp trawl surveys were conducted from 1982-2004 and 1984-2005 respectively and provided indices of stock biomass, recruitment and size composition. In 2004 these two trawl surveys were superseded by the joint Norwegian-Russian ecosystem survey which surveys shrimp and monitors other ecosystem variables (Hvingel and Thangstad, 2014b). Biomass indices from all three trawl surveys used in the model have fluctuated without any obvious trend. Recruitment indices (estimated abundance of shrimp between 13 and 16mm CL) derived from Norwegian (Hvingel and Thangstad, 2014b) and Russian (Zakharov, 2014) surveys showed no major changes from 2004 to 2013.

The assessment model estimates biomass in relation to Bmsy and fishing mortality in relation to Fmsy, and considers two other reference points that ICES uses within its MSY framework for providing advice: Btrigger (50% of Bmsy), a biomass encountered with low probability if Fmsy is implemented, and Blim (30% of Bmsy), the biomass below which recruitment is expected to be impaired. The assessment also considers Flim (170% of Fmsy), the fishing mortality that would drive the stock to Blim.

The most recent assessment in 2015 shows that there has been no change in stock status since the original assessment. The estimated biomass has been above Bmsy since the start of the fishery in the 1970s, and the fishing mortality rate has been well below Fmsy throughout the duration of the fishery (Figure 1). The assessment estimates the risk associated with exceeding the various reference points. In 2015, the risk of F being above Fmsy was 2.1%. The risk of falling below Btrigger and Blim is 1.1% and 0.1% respectively, and the risk of exceeding Flim is 0.9%. The assessment also provides model predictions of risk associated with a range of catch levels up to 100,000 tonnes per annum. Assuming a catch of 20,000 t for 2015, catch options up to 70,000t for 2015 and 2016 have low risks of exceeding *Fmsy* (<10%), *Flim* (<5%), and of going below *Btrigger* (<5%) in 2016 and all are likely to result in stock increase (NAFO/ICES, 2015).



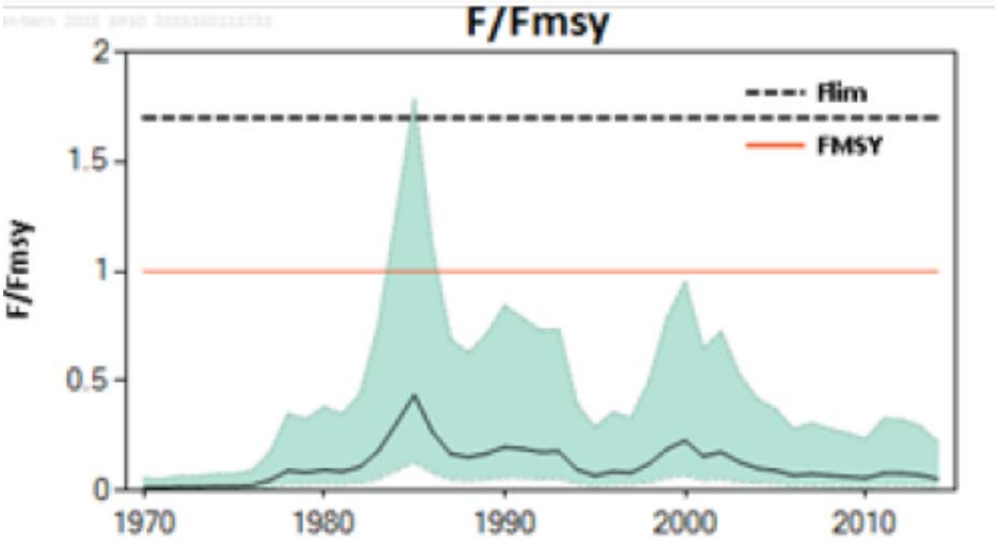




**Figure 1. Estimated time series of relative biomass (B/Bmsy) and fishing mortality (F/Fmsy) for 1970-2015. The solid black lines are the median with 90% probability intervals. The dotted lines are the Blim and Flim reference points and the red lines are the MSYBtrigger and Fmsy reference points. (Source: ICES, 2015).**

In conclusion the most recent stock assessment by NIPAG shows that there is no change in the status of the stock. Based on the 2015 stock assessment, ICES advises that catches of up to 70,000 tonnes in 2015 would maintain stock biomass well above Bmsy, and move the exploitation rate a little closer to, but still well below, Fmsy. Catches are again forecast to be much lower than 70.000 tonnes.

## 3.2 Impact on the ecosystem

No new potential impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem have been identified, and the significant reduction in fishing effort suggests that fishery impacts are lower than in previous years.

## 3.3 Changes to the management system

The Faroe Islands Ministries of Fisheries and Fisheries Inspection confirmed that there had been no major changes to the management system since the original assessment. In 2015 a new Executive Order was enacted but this simply formalised the previously used practices for regulating the fishery. Issuing of fishing permits is delegated to the Fisheries Inspection Department (FVE). Two levels of permits are issued – a general licence to fish in Faroese waters and a fishing mandate issued for 1 year only for specific fisheries in specific areas. The general license has to be renewed each year. The three main shrimp vessels, Arctic Viking, Havborg and Sermilik II, must all apply for a shrimp fishing licence every year for each of the shrimp fishing areas, and this licensing legislation allows the Faroese Ministry to maintain control over the level of fishing effort and adjust the level in response to changes to fishing opportunities. In 2014 an additional vessel, Olavur Nolsøe, had been issued with a one-year license to fish for shrimp in the Svalbard FPZ and the international zone, but not in the Russian EEZ. In 2015 Olavur Nolsøe did not apply for a shrimp licence, but another vessel, Phoenix, was issued a licence in 2015 for the Svalbard FPZ only. The vessel is owned by the same company that owns Sermilik II, and applied for a licence for the purpose of trying to pair trawl with Sermilik II. However the Phoenix did not land any shrimps. In 2014, bilateral negotiations between the Faroe Islands and Russia had resulted in an increase in TAC for Faroe Island vessels in the Russian EEZ from 4000 to 5000 tonnes, and this higher TAC remains in place in 2015.

There has been a change in the bottom areas which may be fished in the international zone known as the Loop Hole managed by NEAFC. An area on the eastern side of the Loop Hole has been closed to bottom fishing in 2015 (Figure 2). NEAFC considered this section of the Loop Hole as an area in which no commercial fishing took place, and in line with current practice, the aim was to close any area in which fishing does not currently take place, and then introduce management regulations before the fishery was opened and fishing activity commenced. In fact, significant levels of shrimp fishing have taken place in recent years in the closed area, and so this closure has had the effect of reducing fishing effort in the Loop Hole.

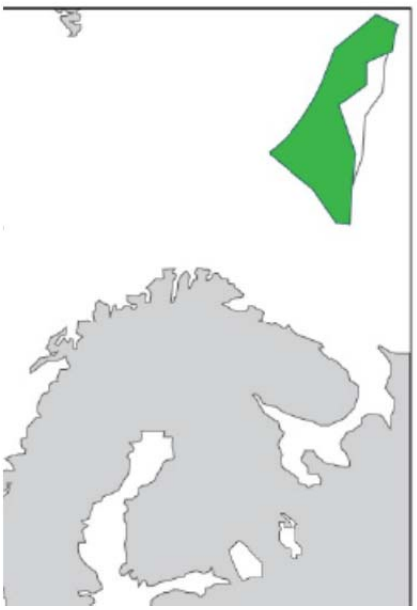


**Figure 2. Map of the Loop Hole showing areas designated by NEAFC as bottom fishing areas (green) and areas closed to bottom fishing (white).**
(source: http://www.neafc.org/system/files/Rec_19-2014_as_amended_by_09_2015_fulltext_0.pdf)

Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities remain unchanged. The Ministry of Fisheries Inspection undertakes cross-checks of VMS records and log book records and monitors cold-store landings. These cross-checks confirm that there has been no systematic misreporting of fishing activity and landings, and the Ministry confirms that there have been no compliance issues with UoC vessels since the fishery was certified.

# 4 COC CONSIDERATIONS

No changes to the CoC were observed during the surveillance activities. The MSC Fisheries certificate (F-DNV-146646 applies only to the fishing vessels specified in Appendix 2 of this surveillance report up to the sale at point of landing (auction, cold/freezer store or processing plant).

Land-based peeling/processing plants, as well as cold/freezer stores, that perform anything more than movement of products must have separate CoC certification in accordance with MSC Certification Requirements.

First points of landing for this fishery may include Tromsø and Kårvikhavn, Norway, Hafnarfjørdur, Iceland and Kollafjørdur, Faroe Islands. At present all of the shrimps are landed in Tromsø.

# 5 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Status of previously raised conditions

**Condition 1: Absence of limitations on fishing effort in International Waters (The 'Loop Hole')**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 1.2.1** | **There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place** |
| **Score:** | **70** |
| **Rationale:** | **SG 80 (a) Requirement:**<br>The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.<br><br>**Rationale:**<br>A significant component of the Faroe Islands shrimp fishery takes place in International waters, where only technical measures apply, and there is currently therefore no scope for limiting fishing effort within this sub-area of the fishery. Although the proportion of the stock which is in international waters is relatively small and there is a limit on the number of the Faroese vessels, this is a significant weakness in the harvest strategy and the assessment |
| **Condition:** | By the fourth annual surveillance, regulations limiting fishing effort in international waters (ICES Ia and Ib), that are responsive to the state of the stock, should be implemented to demonstrate that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives for the Barents Sea shrimp stock as a whole |
| **Milestones:** | **Annual surveillance 1**: Show written evidence of consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholder groups in relation to options limiting fishing effort in international waters<br>**Annual surveillance 2:** Provide an evaluation of options considered for potential mechanisms for limiting fishing effort<br>**Annual surveillance 3:** Propose regulations for limiting fishing effort to relevant authorities<br>**Annual surveillance 4:** Implementation of regulations for limiting fishing effort through consultation with relevant authorities |
| **Client Action Plan:** | FR (Felagid Rækjuskip, Faroese Prawn Trawlers Association), representing the Maresco AS and the associated vessels, will work to express its views and recommendations on the harvest control to the Ministry of Fisheries of Faroe Islands, who is the negotiating part on behalf of Faroe Islands in NEAFC organs. The Ministry will use all their effort to get this issue on the agenda at NEAFC´s annual meetings in order to have this settled with all member states of NEAFC. FR will continue to monitor the fishing effort in the zones and notify national administration as soon as utilization rate increase. Towards Norwegian and Russian administration, FR will during yearly, bilateral negotiations, advise all parties about its view and push them to take action in the particular area in NEAFC.<br><br>FR will approach NGO´s and open a dialog with relevant NGO´s and draw their attention to the matter. |
| **Consultation on condition:** | Consultation required with NEAFC and the EU Commission through the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries. |

| Performance indicator 1.2.1 | There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place |
|---|---|
| **Progress against milestones:** | At the **1st surveillance audit in 2014**, the Client reported that representations had been made to the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries expressing the view that regulations are required to limit fishing effort within the international waters known as the 'Loophole', which falls under the jurisdiction of NEAFC. Within NEAFC, dialogue on conservation issues is initiated by the Coastal States. During the 1st surveillance audit, the Ministry of Fisheries confirmed that it had not yet commenced discussions with the Commission on regulation of shrimps in the Barents Sea, and the client confirmed that management of the Barents Sea shrimp fishery was not discussed at the Annual Meeting of NEAFC held from 10 to 14 November 2014. The Ministry of Fisheries cautioned that the good status of the shrimp stock would make it difficult to persuade other coastal states that the shrimp fishery needs additional management measures.<br><br>At the **2nd surveillance audit**, the Client reported that further representations had been made to the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries expressing the view that regulations are required to limit fishing effort within the international waters known as the 'Loophole'. The Ministry of Fisheries informed the audit team that within NEAFC, proposals and decisions are usually made by the coastal states and that within the Danish delegation, the Faroese Foreign Ministry is the representative at NEAFC. The Ministry of Fisheries made a request to the Foreign Ministry to propose that shrimp be included within the list of species in Annex 1 (Regulated Resources) of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement thereby ensuring that shrimps are subject to recommendations under the NEAFC Convention (see communication from Ministry of Fisheries in Appendix 1). The proposal was referred to the Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement, and is expected to be discussed further at the NEAFC annual meeting in November 2015 (see Appendix 1 of this report). The Ministry of Fisheries confirmed therefore that although dialogue has been opened, no decision has yet been made on the inclusion of shrimps in Annex 1 and therefore options for potential mechanisms for limiting fishing effort in the Loop Hole have not yet been considered. NEAFC have however introduced a new closed area within the Loop Hole in which bottom fishing is not permitted (see Figure 2). This closure applies to all bottom fishing including shrimp trawling. |
| **Observations:** | The condition required that at the first surveillance audit written evidence should be provided of consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholder groups in relation to options limiting fishing effort in international waters. The Ministry of Fisheries confirmed at the 1st surveillance audit that it had not yet opened dialogue with NEAFC and the condition was considered therefore to be behind target. By the 2nd surveillance audit, dialogue had been opened with NEAFC ensuring the 1st year milestone had been reached, but that as the proposal to include shrimp in the list of species in Annex 1 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement had not yet been agreed, options for potential mechanisms for limiting fishing effort in the Loop Hole have not yet been considered. The 2nd year milestone had not therefore been reached and the audit team considered that the condition was behind target.<br><br>Nevertheless the audit team recognised that NEAFC's decision to close an area of the eastern side of the Loop Hole to bottom fishing had provided some additional control of shrimp fishing effort in the Loop Hole. The audit team noted the difficulty faced by the Client in meeting milestones for this condition as it needed action on behalf of NEAFC to meet the condition and that such action may not occur quickly, but recognised that the Ministry of Fisheries through the Foreign Ministry is lobbying strongly for shrimp fisheries management to be incorporated within the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. The Ministry of Fisheries reiterated the view expressed at the 1st surveillance audit that the good status of the shrimp stock would make it difficult to persuade other coastal states that the shrimp fishery needs additional management measures. |

**Condition 2: Absence of harvest control rules**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 1.2.2** | **There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place** |
| **Score:** | **75** |
| **Rationale:** | **SG 80 (a) Requirement:**<br>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.<br><br>**Rationale:**<br>There are no well-defined harvest control rules in place which stipulate what management action will be invoked if the stock biomass declines to levels close to Btrigger or Blim, or if fishing mortality increases to levels close to Flim |
| **Condition:** | By the fourth annual surveillance, well defined harvest control rules shall be implemented for the shrimp stock as a whole to ensure that the exploitation rates are reduced as limit reference points are approached. |
| **Milestones:** | **Annual surveillance 1**: Show written evidence of consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholder groups in relation to options for HCRs.<br>**Annual surveillance 2**: Provide an evaluation of options considered for potential HCRs<br>**Annual surveillance 3**: Propose HCR to relevant authorities<br>**Annual surveillance 4:** Implementation of HCR through consultation with relevant authorities. |
| **Client Action Plan:** | FR (Felagid Rækjuskip, Faroese Prawn Trawlers Association), representing the Maresco AS and the associated vessels, will work to express its views and recommendations on the harvest control to the Ministry of Fisheries of Faroe Islands, who is the negotiating part on behalf of Faroe Islands in NEAFC organs. The Ministry will use all their effort to get this issue on the agenda at NEAFC´s annual meetings in order to have this settled with all member states of NEAFC. FR will continue to monitor the fishing effort in the zones and notify national administration as soon as utilization rate increase. Towards Norwegian and Russian administration, FR will during yearly, bilateral negotiations, advice all parties about its view and push them to take action in the particular area in NEAFC.<br><br>FR will approach NGO´s and open a dialog with relevant NGO´s and draw their attention to the matter. |
| **Consultation on condition:** | Consultation required with the relevant authorities through the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries. |

| Performance indicator 1.2.2 | There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place |
|---|---|
| | At the **1st surveillance** audit the Client reported that representations had been made to the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries expressing the view that there needs to be an explicit harvest control rule for the Barents Sea shrimp fishery. A harvest control rule is likely to apply to the whole fishery, so dialogue will be required with a number of authorities. Within NEAFC, dialogue on conservation issues is initiated by the Coastal States. During the 1st surveillance audit, the Ministry of Fisheries confirmed that it had not yet commenced discussions with the Commission on a harvest control rule for the shrimp stock in the Barents Sea, and the client confirmed that management of the Barents Sea shrimp fishery was not discussed at the Annual Meeting of NEAFC held from 10 to 14 November 2014. The Ministry of Fisheries cautioned that the good status of the shrimp stock would make it difficult to persuade other coastal states that the shrimp fishery needs additional management measures. |
| **Progress against milestones:** | At the **2nd surveillance** audit, the Client reported that further representations had been made to the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries expressing the view that there needs to be an explicit harvest control rule for the Barents Sea shrimp fishery. Implementation of a harvest control rule for the whole Barents Sea shrimp stock will require dialogue between Norway, Russia and contracting parties of NEAFC. The Ministry of Fisheries informed the audit team that within NEAFC proposals and decisions are usually made by the coastal states and that within the Danish delegation, the Faroese Foreign Ministry is the representative at NEAFC. The Ministry of Fisheries made a request to the Foreign Ministry to propose that shrimp be included within the list of species in Annex 1 (Regulated Resources) of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement thereby ensuring that shrimps are subject to recommendations under the NEAFC Convention (see communication from Ministry of Fisheries in Appendix 1). The proposal was referred to the Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement, and is expected to be discussed further at the NEAFC annual meeting in November 2015 (see Appendix 1 of this report). The Ministry of Fisheries confirmed therefore that although dialogue has been opened, no decision has yet been made on the inclusion of shrimps in Annex 1 and therefore options for potential harvest control rules for the shrimp fishery had not yet been considered. |

| Performance indicator 1.2.2 | There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place |
|---|---|
| **Observations:** | The milestone at the 1st annual surveillance audit for this condition required that written evidence should be provided of consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholder groups in relation to considering options for a suitable harvest control rule. The audit team recognised that progress in meeting this condition is likely to be slow, but at the 1st surveillance audit the Ministry of Fisheries confirmed that it had not yet opened dialogue with the relevant authorities and the condition was considered therefore to be behind target.<br><br>The implementation of a harvest control rule for the Barents Sea shrimp stock will require cooperation between Norway, Russia and contracting parties of NEAFC. At the 2nd surveillance audit, the Ministry of Fisheries reported that dialogue had been opened with NEAFC on shrimp fisheries management ensuring the 1st year milestone had been reached, but that as the proposal to include shrimp in the list of species in Annex 1 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement had not yet been agreed, options for potential harvest control rules for the shrimp fishery had not yet been considered. The 2nd year milestone had not therefore been reached and the audit team considered that the condition was behind target. The audit team noted the difficulty faced by the Client in meeting milestones for this condition as it needed action on behalf of NEAFC and the Norwegian and Russian authorities to meet the condition and that such action may not occur quickly, but recognised that the Ministry of Fisheries through the Foreign Ministry is lobbying strongly for shrimp fisheries management to be incorporated within the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. The Client is aware that the largest fleet from Norway within the Barents Sea fishery has also received MSC certification and that the Norwegian fishery certification assessment also raised a condition against the absence of a well-defined harvest control rule. The third annual surveillance audit of the Norwegian fishery took place in February 2015, during which the audit team were advised that the development of a HCR is part of a wider management plan for the shrimp fishery under consideration by the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The Ministry advised that the process of developing a shrimp management plan had been initiated, but not yet finalised, and no information was available currently. During discussions the audit team recognised that the development of a HCR within a wider management plan for the Barents Sea shrimp fishery was not necessarily a priority because the fishery is regulated through effort control and area management, stock biomass estimates throughout the history of the fishery have been well above $B_{msy}$ and that the current exploitation rate results in catches of around 20.000 tonnes when ICES advice for 2015 is that catches of up to 70.000 tonnes would maintain the current high stock biomass. The audit team noted that under such circumstances, there is scope within the new Certification Requirements v2.0 for timescales for implementing a HCR to be extended. |

**Condition 3: Lack of information on by-catch of corals and sponges**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 2.4.3** | **Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types** |
| **Score:** | **75** |
| **Rationale:** | **SG 80 (c) Requirement:**<br>Sufficient data continue to be collected to detect any increase in risk to habitat (e.g. due to changes in the outcome indicator scores or the operation of the fishery or the effectiveness of the measures)<br><br>**Rationale:**<br>Based on the (VMS) information provided the team has concluded that the fishery is patchy and focused in limited areas. It is expected that the fishery will continue this fishing pattern and also that the same fishing grounds will be fished time after time. Additionally the move on rule concerning interactions with sponge or coral habitats requires vessels to move on when bycatch exceeds thresholds for VMEs in the NEAFC regulatory area of 30 kg of live coral and 400 kg of sponges. Therefore the conclusion is that large areas are not impacted by the fishery and the move on rule further reduces risk to bottom habitat. In order to detect any increase in risk for vulnerable bottom habitats information is needed to show that the fishery continues to be conducted in the same patchy and concentrated manner. More information is also needed to show that the move on rule is consequently applied and risks for habitat continue to be low. |
| **Condition:** | The fishery is required to collect sufficient information on bycatches and spatial distribution of the fishery in order to detect any increase in risk for vulnerable bottom habitats (e.g. due to changes in fishing pattern or effectiveness of the move on rule).. |
| **Milestones:** | **Annual surveillance 1:** Develop and implement procedures for monitoring and recording all by-catches of coral and sponges in every fishing haul. Provide the team with the collected data preferably with a map showing all recorded bycatches of sponges and corals. Provide the team with a map with all the VMS data on all UoC fishing vessels. Together with the team analyse the collected data to determine whether significant impacts are likely and where necessary develop appropriate management responses.<br>**Annual surveillance 2-4:** Provide the team with the collected data preferably with a map showing all recorded bycatches of sponges and corals. Provide the team with a map with all the VMS data on all UoC fishing vessels. Show proof that appropriate management responses are taken where necessary. |
| **Client Action Plan:** | The client will through FR work closely with Havstovan as well as other scientific institutions engaged in protecting the prawn stock and fauna in the area.<br><br>The client are willing to adjust current level of data collection program for especially corals and sponges in the NEAFC regulatory area, the Norwegian zone, Svalbard Zone and the Russian zone. A program will be implemented by using "MaxSea" Marine Navigation Software as well as other useful tracking systems which is on board each vessel. The MSCV logbook will also be used as a record for this program. All collected data will be provided to Havstovan for further analyzing. |
| **Consultation on condition:** | Consultation required with Havstovan in relation to analysis of bycatch of corals and sponges. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 2.4.3** | **Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types** |
| **Progress against milestones:** | For every fishing haul the Faroe Islands fleet will record any by-catches of coral and sponges in log books and then avoid that area in future. During the first two years following certification, the Client reported that there have been no incidences of by-catch of coral or sponges. As no by-catch of corals or sponges were observed, no data have been passed on to Havstovan. VMS data of all vessels in the UoC were provided by the Client and these patterns of fishing activity were compared with the biomass distribution of the main taxonomic groups from the joint Norwegian/Russian ecosystem survey in 2013 (Figure 3). |

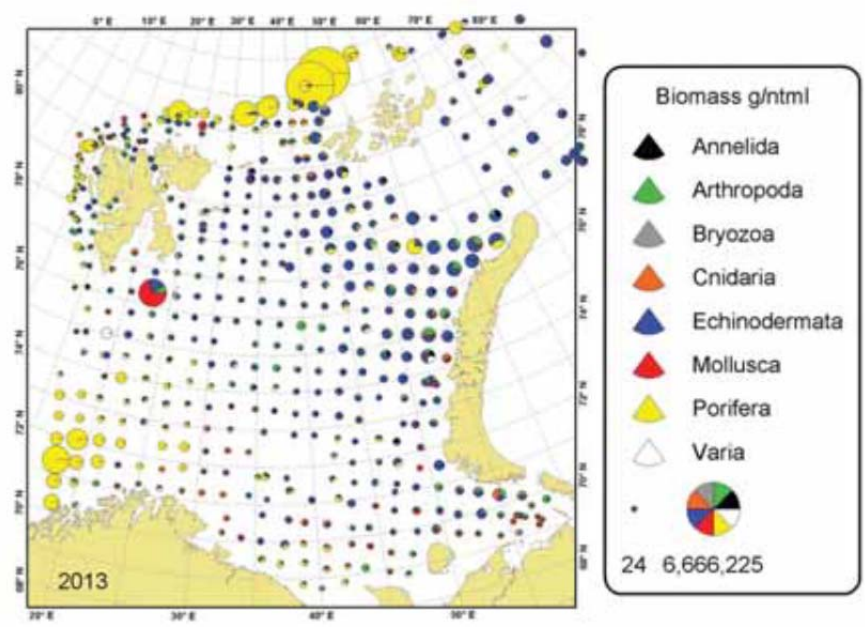



Figure 3. Biomass distribution of main taxonomic groups per station in the Barents Sea during the ecosystem survey 2013 (source: Prokhorova, 2013).

The VMS plots for 2013, 2014 and 2015 confirm that the fishery does not overlap with the highest concentration areas of the sponges. (VMS plots of fishing activity of each individual vessel in the UoC were presented to the audit team, but are not reproduced here to protect commercial confidentiality.) The Client considered that the observed zero by-catches may be a consequence of the use of the Nordmore grid with bar spacing of 22 mm that may inhibit the by-catch of sponges and corals. In addition all the vessels within the UoC have CCTV cameras installed on the trawl, and the vessels' skippers confirmed that analysis of camera footage shows that the trawl had not been towed in high density areas of corals or sponges. As there have been no observed incidences of interaction of the fishery with corals and sponges, there has been no requirement to develop additional management measures.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 2.4.3** | **Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to habitat types by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on habitat types** |
| **Observations:** | The condition required that procedures for monitoring and recording all by-catches of coral and sponges in every fishing haul had been developed and implemented. This requirement was met at the 1st surveillance audit. In addition at both the 1st and 2nd surveillance audits the client was required to provide a map showing all recorded by-catches of sponges and corals and a map with all the VMS data on all UoC fishing vessels. As no bycatch of corals and sponges was recorded during the two years following certification, maps of bycatch were not required. Comparison of VMS data from all shrimp vessels with the biomass distribution of the main taxonomic groups from the joint Norwegian/Russian ecosystem survey in 2013 suggests that significant impacts are unlikely. There appears to be no need therefore to introduce new management responses. The condition is considered to be on target. |

**Recommendation 1: Lack of observer programme for Faroe Islands shrimp vessels**

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|---|---|
| **Performance indicator 1.2.3** | **Relevant information is collected to support the harvest strategy** |
| **Score:** | **80** |
| **Rationale:** | **SG 80 (a) Requirement:**<br>Sufficient relevant information related to stock structure, stock productivity, fleet composition and other data is available to support the harvest strategy.<br><br>**Rationale:**<br>Genetics studies of Pandalus borealis have concluded that the populations of the Barents Sea and Svalbard can be considered to be a single population (Martinez et al., 2006), and research surveys and observer programmes on some components of the fleet provide data on the size range and reproductive state of the stock. The licensing of all vessels, VMS, log books and obligatory catch returns ensure that the fleet composition is well understood.<br>There is good information on the composition of the Faroese fleet, but the assessment team recommends that an observer programme is introduced for the Faroese fleet in the Barents Sea and Svalbard area to collect data on the catch and discards of shrimps and other species, and obtain representative samples of the size and sex distribution of shrimps. |
| **Recommendation:** | The assessment team recommends that an observer programme is introduced for the Faroese fleet in the Barents Sea and Svalbard area to collect data on the catch and discards of shrimps and other species, and obtain representative samples of the size and sex distribution of shrimps. |
| **Observations:** | At the 2nd surveillance audit, vessel skippers reported that Russian observers on Faroe Islands vessels fishing in the Russian zone undertake occasional monitoring of bycatch. However a formal observer scheme has not been implemented since the fishery was certified. |

## 5.2 New conditions and recommendations

No new conditions or recommendations were raised during the 2nd surveillance audit.

## 5.3 Status of the Certification.

The client, Maresco A/S, has taken appropriate measures to address the conditions of certification raised during the MSC certification assessment and therefore remains compliant with its MSC certification. Satisfactory and timely progress has been made with one of the three conditions for this certification, but progress in relation to the other two conditions is behind target because progress is dependent upon action by the relevant authorities through the Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries. MSC Certification should therefore continue, subject to satisfactory compliance with outstanding conditions, and surveillance audits continue to the same schedule. This can be summarized as follows:

1. Conditions where requirements are deemed to have been met on target but which will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit prior to closure.

**Condition:** NONE

2. Conditions which are considered to be on-target and which will be subject to full review in future surveillance audits

**Conditions:** Condition 3

3. Conditions where work is currently falling behind target and which will be subject to full review at the next surveillance audit.

**Conditions:** Conditions 1 & 2

**The assessment team concludes that the MSC Certificate for this fishery shall remain active, subject to annual surveillance review.**

# 6 CATCH DATA

**Table 6 Catch data**

| Fishing Year | TAC (or Fishing days) | UoC share of the total TAC (or Fishing Days) | Client share of the total TAC (or fishing days) | Total green weight catch taken by the client group |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | No TAC allocated | - | - | 3641 tonnes |
| 2014 | No TAC allocated | - | - | 4219 tonnes |

Provisional landings data for 2015 up to 31 October 2015 are 3878 tonnes, suggesting that overall landings for 2015 are going to be similar to landings in 2014.

# 7 REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX 1 STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

**Letter from Faroese Ministry of Fisheries to audit team in relation to Conditions 1 and 2.**

DNV GL Business Assurance AS
Att.: Sigrun Bekkevold

**Faroe Islands North East Atlantic cold water prawn fishery**

With reference to the MSC Fisheries surveillance audit on 3 November 2015, and questions raised concerning:
Condition 1: Absence of limitations on fishing effort in International Waters (The 'Loop Hole')
Condition 2: Absence of harvest control rules

We would like to inform you, that the area in International Waters in the Barents Sea (The "Loop Hole") is within the NEAFC Regulatory Area.
All fisheries is under the provisions of NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, hereunder – Annex I – Regulated Resources. Regulated resources are those of the fisheries resources which are subject to recommendations under the NEAFC Convention and are listed in Annex I.

Prawn/Shrimp is not listed in Annex I as a regulated species, and is not subject to recommendations under the NEAFC Convention. No management measures are adopted.

There was a proposal at the last Annual Meeting of NEAFC in 2014 to include shrimp on the list in Annex I, and this matter was referred to the Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement.

The matter is expected to be discussed again at the Annual Meeting of NEAFC 9-13 November 2015.

Best regards

Ulla Svarrer Wang,
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Ministry of Fisheries/ Faroe Islands
Tel. (+298) 353030
Teldupostur: fisk@fisk.fo

# APPENDIX 2 LIST OF MEMBER VESSELS

Sermilik II (OW2202)
Havborg (OW2163)
Arctic Viking (OW2399)

## About DNV GL

Driven by our purpose of safeguarding life, property and the environment, DNV GL enables organizations to advance the safety and sustainability of their business. We provide classification and technical assurance along with software and independent expert advisory services to the maritime, oil and gas, and energy industries. We also provide certification services to customers across a wide range of industries. Operating in more than 100 countries, our 16,000 professionals are dedicated to helping our customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.