

Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments

# Faroe Islands tusk and ling fisheries

## Surveillance

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	DNV-Business Assurance
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Fishery client	JFK Trol
Assessment Type	2nd Surveillance Report
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## Introduction

### Covid 19 derogation 27.03.2020

The surveillance report timeline is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020.

### MSC Covid 19 derogation 6

The fishery is subject to Derogation 6 on Covid-19 conditions extension: "To extend existing deadlines on eligible conditions by 12 months". Eligible conditions for this fishery are condition 1 (PI 1.2.2) and condition 3 (PI 3.1.1) (see <https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/chain-of-custody-supporting-documents/msc-derogation-6-covid-19-fishery-conditions-extension.pdf>). Derogation 6 has been used in this assessment.

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## 2 Glossary

### 2.1 Abbreviations - Acronyms – Concepts

Cpue	Catch per unit effort (abundance indicator)
CoC	Chain of Custody
ETP	Endangered, Threatened and Protected
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
IPI	Inseparable or Practically Inseparable (Species)
LTL	Low Trophic Level
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council nm Nautical mile (1 nm = approx. 1852 m)
PI	Performance Indicator PISG Performance Indicator Scoring Guidepost
RBF	Risk-Based Framework
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
SG	Scoring Guidepost
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UoC	Unit of Certification

### 2.2 Stock assessment reference points

FMSY	Fishing mortality at MSY
BMSY	Spawning biomass (equilibrium) when fishing at FMSY
PRI	Point where Recruitment would be Impaired
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
Blim	Precautionary reference point. SSB below Blim indicate increase risk of impairment of recruitment
Bpa	Precautionary reference point SSB below BPA indicate that action should be taken to recover the stock
Flim	Fishing mortality which should be avoided with high probability because it is associated with unknown population dynamics or stock collapse.
Fpa	Fishing mortality to ensure that there is a high probability that Flim will be avoided and that the spawning stock biomass will remain above the threshold Blim
MSY Btrigger	Biomass level below which fishing mortality should be reduced

### 2.3 Organisations

CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FISF	Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

### 3 Executive summary

Table 1 General Information

CAB name	DNV Business Assurance	
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Client contact details	Client	JFK Trol
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The intent of the Faroe Islands tusk and ling fisheries to become MSC certified was announced on 21 July 2017, and the fisheries received their certification on 24 October 2018. Name of the fishery will soon be changed in July 2021 to Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries Faroe Islands tusk and ling fishery (FISF Faroe Islands tusk and ling) since P/F JFK and SP/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) have created the Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There is a certificate sharing scheme with other fishing companies fishing tusk and ling in Faroese waters.

Details of these assessments is available at: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/faroe-islands-tusk-ling/@@view>

The main purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is:

- To establish and report on any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the fishery since the last assessment activity
- To monitor and assess progress on the conditions and recommendations set to the fishery during reassessment and subsequent surveillance audits
- 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.

Thus, the primary focus of this surveillance report is to review the changes occurred since latest surveillance in 2020. For a complete picture of the fishery, this report should be read in conjunction with the latest Public Certification Report for the Faroe Islands tusk and ling fishery and also all reports from previous assessments and surveillance audits. All reports are available for download here: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/faroe-islands-tusk-ling/@@view>

The surveillance audit was carried out with remote off-site meetings conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The client, ministry of fisheries, VØRN Inspection services and Havstovan (science) were interviewed.

The main findings at the surveillance audit were:

- Stock status for tusk and ling remain unchanged
- Harvest strategy and harvest control rule remained unchanged
- The stock assessment approach remained unchanged.
- Catch composition remains comparable to previous years
- The fishery covered the same grounds as in previous years
- The management setup is unchanged
- There are 3 conditions that were found to be "on target"
- There are 3 recommendations. There is no progress on recommendation 1, there is progress on recommendation 2, and there is some progress on recommendation 3.
- There is no rescoring of any PI.
- Traceability issues are unchanged

**Table 2** shows how the principle scores have developed over the certification period.

### 3.1 The assessment process

The MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2 § 7.5.3 and the MSC- MSCI Vocabulary defines the Unit of Certification (UoC) (i.e., the unit entitled to receive an MSC certificate) as follows:

“The target stock(s) combined with the fishing gear type(s), vessel type(s) if relevant, and the fishing fleets or groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock including entities initially intended to be covered by the certificate.”

The fisheries covered by this certification are defined as described in Table 4.

### 3.2 History of the assessment

#### 3.2.1 Summary of the original assessment

The intent of the Faroe Islands tusk and ling fisheries to become MSC certified was announced on 21 July 2017, and the fishery received their certification on 24 October 2018. Scope of certification is up to the point of landing and chain of custody commenced from point of sale/landing. Site visits were performed by DNV assessment team and consultations were done with interested stakeholders in 8-22 November 2019 in Torshavn, Faroe Islands. The performance indicators and the pertaining scoring systems were evaluated, and it was judged that the fisheries meet the requirements for MSC certification.

The initial assessment was based on the default assessment tree in FCR v2.0 and MSC Standard v 2.01 annex SA. The fisheries 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. The scores of the three Principles are given in Table 2 below.

The fishery achieved a score of below 80 against 3 scoring indicators for the Faroe Islands tusk and ling fisheries. The assessment team set 3 conditions for continuing certification. Further there were 3 recommendations.

Eligibility to enter further Chain of Custody includes fishing vessels that deliver to the client group (demersal trawlers and longlines, as per list published on MSC website) or jigging vessels that deliver to the client group, with valid licenses to fish tusk and ling in Faroese EZZ, these are eligible to enter further certified chains of custody and carry MSC logo in case of successful recertification.

The scope of the MSC Fishery certification is up to the point of landing and Chain of Custody commences from the point of landing.

Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels outside the client group fishing for tusk and ling within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using trawl, longlines and jigs.

**Table 2 Principle scores – initial assessment (N/R: Not revised)**

Principle	Stock	UoC	PCR 2018	1SA 2020	2SA 2021
<b>Principle 1- Target species</b>	Ling in 5b	UoC1-3	81.7	N/R	N/R
	Tusk Northeast Atlantic	UoC4-6	82.5	N/R	N/R
<b>Principle 2- Ecosystem</b>	Ling in 5b	UoC1 – Dem. Trawl	82.7	N/R	N/R
		UoC2- LL	85.0	N/R	N/R
		UoC3- Jigs	85.7	N/R	N/R
	Tusk Northeast Atlantic	UoC4 – Dem. Trawl	82.7	N/R	N/R
		UoC5- LL	85.0	N/R	N/R
		UoC6- Jigs	85.7	N/R	N/R
<b>Principle 3- Management System</b>	Ling in 5b and Tusk Northeast Atlantic	UoC1-6	93.3	N/R	N/R

### 3.2.2 First annual surveillance- Year 2020

The first surveillance audit was announced on the MSC website on 30 December 2019 followed with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for the fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team. Surveillance audit took place off-site at the DNV GL office in Høvik, Norway and included review of documentation, fishery reports, catch data and other relevant data. Collection and review of documentation was done during January-March 2020. No stakeholders expressed an interest to participate in the audit activities. Publication of the report was delayed according to the Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020.

As a result of this surveillance audit, the team found that there were no significant changes in the fishery and all scorings remained unchanged. Progress on Condition 1 and Condition 2 (on PI 1.2.2) was on target, while the Condition 3 (on PI 2.3.3) was found to be behind target.

### 3.2.3 Second annual surveillance – Year 2021

The second surveillance was announced on the MSC website on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021, followed with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for the fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team. No stakeholders expressed an interest to participate in the audit activities.

The off-site activities were held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as off-site TEAMS sessions. The audit was performed offsite audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Process, version 2.2. The default assessment tree set out in the FCR v2.0 was used. Status of conditions and recommendation for this fishery are detailed in chapter 5.1.1 of this report. No new conditions were set at this audit.

## 3.3 Summary of surveillance audit findings

No new conditions were set at this audit.

Status of conditions and recommendation for this fishery are detailed in chapter 5.1.1 of this report.

## 3.4 Conclusion

The fisheries continue to be within the scope of the MSC fisheries standard (MSC FCP v2.2 § 7.4.2 & 7.12) according to the following determinations:

- 7.4.2.1: The fisheries do not target, under principle 1, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals.
- 7.4.2.2: The fisheries do not use poisons or explosives.
- 7.4.2.3: The fisheries are not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement.
- 7.4.2.4: The fisheries client has not been prosecuted for forced or child labour violation in the last 2 years.
- 7.4.2.10: The fisheries client or client group does not include an entity that has been convicted for a shark finning violation in the last 2 years.
- 7.4.2.11: The fisheries have mechanisms for resolving disputes
- 7.4.2.12: The fisheries are not enhanced fisheries.
- 7.4.2.13: The fisheries are not an Introduced species- based fisheries.
- 7.12: The fishery is within the scope of the MSC Fisheries Standard

The main findings of the surveillance audit included

- The fisheries, in 2020, are conducted with the same strategy, same gears and covering the same grounds as in previous years
- The fisheries are documented at the same level as in previous years
- The Ling stock shows decreasing biomass and the fishing mortality is increasing and at present slightly above FMSY. The signs for rescoring Principle 1 (PI 1.1.1b) was not at this time sufficient as single observations (2years) are difficult to judge in the context of stock fluctuation and the history of this stock is fluctuating fishing mortality around FMSY
- The tusk stock remains healthy



- Management regulations are unchanged.
- Control and Enforcement activities and strategies were unchanged and no significant non-compliance has been reported. MCS activities remained as in previous years
- Research continues to improve understanding of the biology of fisheries
- Traceability issues are unchanged
- The assessment for the fishery had 3 conditions and 3 recommendation. Condition 1 and condition 2 were found to be On Target partly because of the 12 month derogation effective 28 March 2021 allowing these conditions to meet the milestone for year 2 first in April 2022. Condition 3 is on target due to progress by the fishery. There is substantive progress on the recommendations.
- There were no changes to scoring of performance indicators at this 2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance audit.
- There have been no material changes to the status of the target stock, ecosystem impact nor the management system since reassessment. The resulting principle scores are given in Table 2

Overall, the fishery continues to be fully compliant with the standards set for MSC certification SG 80. **The assessment team concludes that the MSC Certificate for the fishery shall remain active, subject to annual surveillance review.**

**Table 3 Conclusion**

Fishery	Status of certification	Comment
Fl tusk and ling	Certified	The assessment team concludes that the MSC Certificate for this fishery shall remain active, subject to the agreed annual surveillance schedule and progress on the conditions.

## 4 Report details

### 4.1 Surveillance information

Table 4 Surveillance information

1	Fishery name	
	Faroe Islands tusk and ling Fishery	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	<b>UoA 1</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Species	Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )
	Stock	Faroe Islands Ling ICES 5.b.1 and 5.b.2 (Faroe Grounds)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal trawl
	Client group	<p>Client group: This certification applied exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that are members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that deliver to the client group.</p> <p>In March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market.</p> <p>Certification only applied to these vessels when they were fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.</p>
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.
	Geographical area	<p><b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b></p> <p><b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds</p> <p><b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ.</p> <p><b>Stock region:</b> Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</p>
	Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>
	<b>UoA 2</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Species	Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )
	Stock	Faroe Islands Ling ICES 5.b.1 and 5.b.2 (Faroe Grounds)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Long line
	Client group	<p><b>Note: Client group change as of May 2021.</b></p> <p>This certification applies exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that are members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that deliver to the client group.</p>

		<p>In March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market.</p> <p>Certification only applied to these vessels when they were fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.</p>
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.
	Geographical area	<p><b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b>  <b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds  <b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ.  <b>Stock region: Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</b></p>
	Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>
	<b>UoA 3</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Species	Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> )
	Stock	Faroe Islands Ling ICES 5.b.1 and 5.b.2 (Faroe Grounds)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Jigging
	Client group	<p>This certification applies exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that are members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that deliver to the client group.</p> <p>In March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market.</p> <p>Certification only applied to these vessels when they were fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.</p>
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.
	Geographical area	<p><b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b>  <b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds  <b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ.  <b>Stock region: Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</b></p>
	Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>
	<b>UoA 4</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Species	Tusk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> )
	Stock	ICES subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)

Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal trawl
Client group	<p>This certification applies exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that are members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that deliver to the client group.</p> <p>In March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market. Certification only applies to these vessels when they are fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.</p>
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.
Geographical area	<p><b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b></p> <p><b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds</p> <p><b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ.</p> <p><b>Stock region: Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</b></p>
Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>
<b>UoA 5</b>	<b>Description</b>
Species	Tusl (Brosme brosme)
Stock	ICES subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Long line
Client group	<p>This certification applies exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that are members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that deliver to the client group.</p> <p>In March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market. As before, certification only applies to these vessels when they are fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.</p>
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.
Geographical area	<p><b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b></p> <p><b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds</p> <p><b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ.</p> <p><b>Stock region: Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</b></p>
Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>
<b>UoA 6</b>	<b>Description</b>
Species	Tusk (Brosme brosme)

	Stock	ICES subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)	
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Jigging	
	Client group	This certification applied exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that were members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that delivered to the client group. In March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, an agreement was signed between P/F JFK and P/F Framherji (owner of P/F Faroe Origin) to create Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries company. For MSC purposes, this change is effective on July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021. A certificate sharing scheme is agreed between FISF and different companies targeting tusk and ling in Faroese waters. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Market. Certification only applies to these vessels when they are fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.	
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are defined as Faroese vessels fishing for tusk within ICES Division 5.b – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above and with a certificate sharing agreement with certificate holder.	
	Geographical area	<b>FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27</b> <b>Common name of the body of water:</b> Faroese grounds <b>Local fisheries management area:</b> Faroese fishing zone: ICES Area 5.b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ. <b>Stock region: Waters around the Faroe Islands ICES 5.b</b>	
	Management	<b>Faroese Government</b>	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry	
	24 October 2018	24 April 2024 based on a 6 months extension under Covid derogation 27 March 2020	
4	Surveillance level and type		
	Surveillance level 3 (reduced surveillance), no change from originally stated at PCR, and entailing 2 on-site and 2 off-site audits. 2 <sup>nd</sup> surveillance was originally scheduled as on-site however COVID related travel restrictions allowed for an off-site audit.		
5	Surveillance number		
	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance	X	
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
6	Surveillance team leader		
	<b>Lucia Revenga (Team leader, CoC responsible and Principle 2 expert):</b> Lucia Revenga is part of DNV MSC Fisheries Teams where she acts as Team Leader. She holds University degrees in Marine Science and in Environmental Sciences. She has been involved in MSC fisheries assessment since 2013 as Principle 2 expert and since 2018 as a Team Leader. She has more than 10 - year experience on the wild fisheries sector. In the DNV GL she works with the MSC standard for sustainable fisheries as team leader responsible for pre-assessments, initial assessments, re-assessments and surveillance assessments. She will be the team		

leader and traceability responsible.

Annex PC Table PC1.

- She has a degree in a relevant subject
- She has experience with the MSC fisheries standard.
- She has experience as TL.
- She has passed MSC's online training for fisheries team leader within the last 5 years.
- She has passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules
- She meets ISO 19011 training requirements.
- She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques
- She has undertaken more than 2 MSC fisheries assessments/surveillance site visits in the last 5 years.
- She has knowledge of common language spoken by clients and stakeholders for the fisheries
- She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and various stakeholder groups.
- She is responsible for coordinating the Assessment Team's work and for the completion of the assessment.
- She has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment.
- She understands the CoC standard and CoC certification requirements- pass MC's Traceability training module every 5 years.

Lucia also meets the requirements for Principle 2 expert:

- She has a degree in a relevant subject.
- She passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years.
- She passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules.
- She has 3 years' or more experience in the biology and population dynamics of the target species or species with similar biology.
- She has 3 years' or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including at least two of the following topics: Bycatch, Endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species, Habitats, Ecosystem interactions.
- She has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment.

Lucia also meets the following requirements:

- Understand the CoC standard and CoC certification requirements- pass MC's Traceability training module every 5 years.
- RBF (when applicable)- Pass MSC's RBF training course every 5 years and updated with new requirements

She participated in the off- site audit. Full CV is available upon request.

## 7 Surveillance team member

### **Hans Lassen: Team member (Fish stock assessment and biology/ Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems/ country knowledge).**

Hans Lassen is an independent consultant. He holds a cand. scient. (M.Sc.) from Copenhagen University (1969) and a HD (B.Sc.) from the Copenhagen Business School (1978). His background is in fish stock assessments, particularly in the application of computers and models.

He joined the Danish Institute of Fisheries and Marine Research (DIFRES) in 1971. 1988-1992 he worked in the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute as Deputy Director and returned to DIFRES in 1992. Between 1998 and 2003 he was in charge of the Fisheries Group in the ICES Secretariat as Fisheries Adviser who serves as secretary to the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management. After 2004 he was head of the ICES Advisory Programme within the ICES Secretariat. He retired from the ICES secretariat in 2010 and has since worked as a private consultant on projects within his expertise.

He has been a member and Chairman of numerous ICES committees and groups, has within the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization chaired STACFIS and the Scientific Council, been a member of STECF (EC), scientific adviser to Danish delegations to fisheries negotiations and chaired an internal EC expert group to provide input to the EC Multi-annual Guidance Program, within the Nordic Council of Ministers he chaired its Working Group on Fisheries and worked with the FAO/DANIDA project (1982-1998) on teaching fish stock assessment. In 2006 he was awarded the prestigious Swedish prize "Kungsfenan" for contributions to communication between science and the fishing industry. At his retirement from ICES he was awarded a Special Service Award. He is author and co-author of more than 30 peer reviewed papers in prime scientific journals and numerous papers for scientific symposia.

He has been a member of MSC certification assessment and surveillance teams for fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic including on Westgreenland shrimp, Greenland halibut and lumpfish, for Barents Sea



	<p>stocks, for fisheries around Faroe Islands, in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea. He has reviewed MSC assessment reports including cod, haddock, shrimps, anchovy, sardine and vendace.</p> <p>Team member's qualifications meet the competence criteria defined in Annex PC for the Team-member with expertise in Fish stock assessment and biology and country knowledge.</p> <p>Principle 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has a degree in a relevant subject.</li> <li>• He has passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years.</li> <li>• He has passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules.</li> <li>• He has 3 years' or more experience in stock assessment techniques comparable with techniques used by the fishery under assessment.</li> <li>• He is primary authorship of 2 peer-reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment.</li> <li>• He has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Principle 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has a degree in a relevant subject.</li> <li>• He has passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years.</li> <li>• He has passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules.</li> <li>• He has 3 years' or more experience a practising fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant.</li> <li>• He has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Hans Lassen also meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context (2 years' fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years).</li> <li>• 2 assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years.</li> </ul> <p>Team member participated in the audit off-site. Full CV is available upon request.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	The surveillance report timeline is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020. The remote off-site interviews by the assessment team were held on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Microsoft Teams.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The key purpose of this surveillance audit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to review and evaluate the progress of the fishery against Conditions of Certification raised during the full assessment</li> <li>• review any potential or actual changes in the management systems</li> <li>• review changes or additions / deletions to regulations</li> <li>• review any personnel changes in scientific staff, key management or industry to evaluate impact on the management of the fishery</li> <li>• review any potential changes to the scientific basis of information, including stock assessments</li> <li>• review any changes affecting traceability</li> </ul>
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input to the annual surveillance process, were invited to contact DNV by <b>5 PM UTC on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> and provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Name and contact details</li> <li>b) Association with the fishery</li> <li>c) The issues they would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)</li> <li>d) When they would like to meet</li> </ol> <p>Stakeholder were requested to use the "MSC template for stakeholder input v4.0" for submission of any comments. The template can be downloaded from the MSC website: <a href="https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents/Index?search=stakeholder+input">https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents/Index?search=stakeholder+input</a></p>

	Stakeholders were also informed that remote meetings can be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions can be made to the email address on the audit announcement of 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.
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## 4.2 Background

The Faroese fishery for tusk and ling is mainly conducted with large trawlers (> 500 GT) and large long line vessels (> 110 GT), see Table 9. These two vessel categories account for about 90 % of the total catch of ling. For tusk the large long liners are dominating taking about 85 % of the tusk catch.

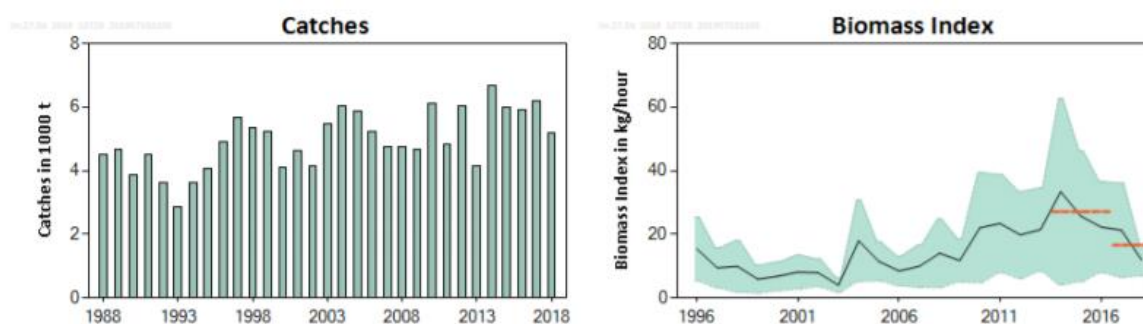
### 4.2.1 Stock Status

#### a. Ling (*Molva molva*) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)

The ling stock is assessed based on a biennial cycle. The most recent advice is ICES (2019) Advice on ling 5b+6a. The stock is to be assessed in the spring of 2021, the expected release date of the advice for 2022 and 2023 is 15 June and this input will be considered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> surveillance audit.

ICES assess that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY proxy; fishing mortality has fluctuated around FMSY 1995-2018. No reference points for stock size have been defined for this stock. The Faroese summer survey biomass index shows an overall increase since 2003 but has declined in 2015-2016. In general, the stock is considered to be at a high level in the decade 2007-2017 and is now at the level before that period i.e. 2004-2007 which is still above the level in the 1997-2003, Figure 1.

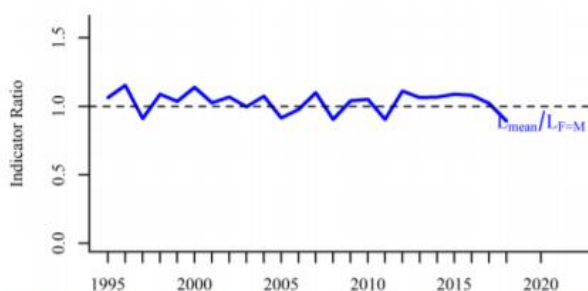
## Ling in ICES 5.b



Ling in Division 5.b. Left: Catches in Division 5.b. Right: CPUE ( $\text{kg hr}^{-1}$ ) in the Faroese summer groundfish survey. The dashed red lines indicate the average of the biomass index for 2014 to 2016 and for 2017 to 2018. The shaded areas on the biomass index plot represent 95% confidence intervals.

Ling in Division 5.b. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. The status evaluation is based on the reference point proxy for  $F_{MSY}$ , using the length-based indicator method (ICES, 2019; see Figure 2).

		Fishing pressure			Stock size		
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY \text{ proxy}}$	✓	✓	✗ Above	$MSY B_{trigger}$	?	?
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa} F_{lim}$	✓	✓	? Unknown	$B_{pa} B_{lim}$	?	?
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	—	—	— Not applicable	$B_{MGT}$	—	— Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	—	—	— Not applicable	-	↘	↘ Decreasing



Ling in Division 5.b. Index ratio of the average length relative to the expected length when fishing mortality equals natural mortality ( $L_{mean}/L_{F=M}$ ) from the length-based indicator method, used for the evaluation of the exploitation status (ICES 2019). The exploitation status is below the  $F_{MSY \text{ proxy}}$  when the index ratio value is higher than 1.

**Figure 1 Ling in ICES 5.b (Faroese Grounds). Stock status and stock trends. Source ICES (2019) Advice on Ling 5.b**

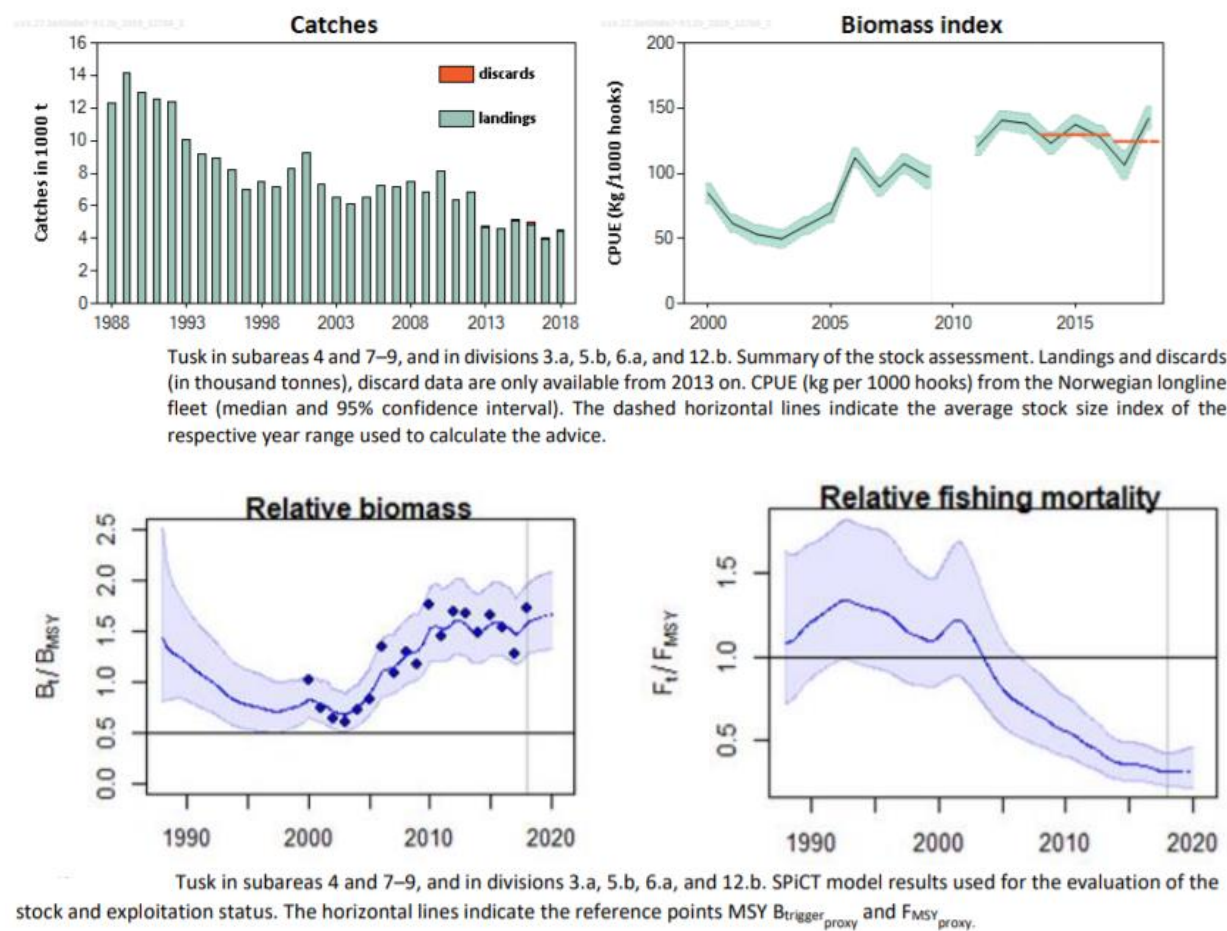
Stock status is unchanged.

**b. Tusk (*Brosme brosme*) in subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)**

The tusk stock is assessed based on a biennial cycle. The most recent advice is ICES (2019) Advice on tusk Northeast Atlantic. The stock is to be assessed in the spring of 2021, the expected release date of the advice for 2022 and 2023 is 15 June and this input will be considered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> surveillance audit.

Catches have generally declined in all subareas. The Norwegian longline CPUE series, based on catches when tusk is targeted, shows a positive trend from 2004 to 2011 and has been stable since. ICES assess the relative fishing pressure on the stock to be below FMSY proxy and the relative spawning stock size to be above MSY Btrigger proxy.

Figure 2 Tusk in subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic). Source ICES (2020) Advice on Northeast Atlantic Tusk



Tusk in subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. The status evaluation is based on the reference point proxies for  $F_{MSY}$  and  $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$ , using the SPiCT model (ICES, 2019).

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2016	2017	2018		2016	2017	2018	
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY}$ proxy	✓	✓	✓	Below	$MSY_{B_{trigger}}$ proxy	✓	✓	✓ Above
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}, F_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓	Below possible reference points	$B_{pa}, B_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓ Above possible reference points
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	—	—	—	Not applicable	$B_{MGT}$	—	—	— Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	—	—	—	Not applicable	-	➡	📉	📈 Increasing

Stock status is unchanged.

#### 4.2.2 Harvest Strategy and Harvest Control Rule

There is no formal management plan for the tusk and ling fisheries nor are there a HCR for Faroese ling or tusk. The fishery is regulated by limiting the number of fishing days in a group of vessels that also target cod, haddock and saithe, Group 2 and 3, see Table 9.

The number of fishing days are set based on considerations of the mixture of fish stocks that are exploited by each group, i.e. including cod, haddock and saithe. In spite of the potential for overexploitation the tusk and ling are both in a healthy state.

A harvest control rule applicable for the cod, haddock and saithe was adopted for 2021. This limitation will affect the tusk and ling fisheries as well since the limitations are imposed on the vessel categories.

### 4.2.3 Stock assessment and Data

The stock assessment approach is unchanged. Ling is assessed based on the results of the Faroese summer survey while the tusk stock is assessed based on the catch data and CPUE data from the Norwegian long line fishery applied in a SPiCT model. This assessment is for the Tusk on the Faroese ground supplemented by CPUE data on the Faroese long line fishery.

The stock assessment approaches are unchanged.

The stock assessment of ling in 5b and 6a has been through an ICES benchmark, ICES (2021) and it is expected that the results of the benchmark will be adopted in the following advice process. This review also includes reconsiderations of the reference points. As noted above the adoption of the benchmark will only be completed in the ICES process with the release of advice for 2022-2023 on 15 June 2021 and is therefore to be evaluated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Surveillance audit.

### 4.2.4 Impact on the ecosystem

As for previous years, the client shared with the assessment team the species composition of the different UoC catches when targeting demersal species (including tusk and ling) during 2020 (see Table 9). This data updates historical series assessed up to the previous surveillance audit, confirming that UoC catches remain highly dominated by demersal species such as saithe, tusk, ling, cod and haddock. VØRN filters catches by vessel group and shows that tusk and ling are targeted mainly by Blk.2 (large trawlers) and 3 (large longliners) which target tusk and ling throughout the year and where the species accounts for a 70% of total catches. No material differences were identified in the species composition of the trawl saithe fishery compared to the scoring elements considered at certification.

There are no reports of interactions with sea birds, marine mammals or sharks. The only ETP species listed in Table 16 is the porbeagle shark which was already assessed in Revenga et al 2018. No significant changes in the pattern of the impact on ETP species were identified as a result of the current surveillance audit.

As regards the use of bait species, on a broad proxy, 75 kg of bait is used to catch 1500 kg of fish. Total catch of longliners in groups 3 in 2020 was 12,117 t, which gives an estimate of 605 t of bait used in the same year, giving a total catch of 12,722.8 t., and which accounts for a 4.7% of the total catch. Bait species used are Argentinian squid, NEA herring and NEA mackerel on similar proportions (1/3). The use of each individual bait species is considered negligible (1.58% of total catch each). It is noteworthy to mention that in 2020 the client has not used Pacific saury as a bait species.

### 4.2.5 Impact on habitats

As for the habitat impact remains as in previous years, since no changes have been identified either in the frequented fishing grounds or in the fishing gears used. Based on the information presented above the team considers that no material differences were found in the scientific information related to the impact of the certified fishery in the non-target species, habitats and ecosystems.

### 4.2.6 Changes to the management system

There are a range of technical regulations around the tusk and ling fishery such as closed areas for trawlers and larger long liners and minimum mesh size in the cod end of trawls. The regulations are unchanged.

A revised act of marine resources was issued in December 2019. The main change was that the intention to establish a catch quota system has been dropped and the system of fishing days applied since 1996 remains. The allowed number of fishing days for 2021 are found in Regulation 25.

### 4.2.7 Changes to relevant regulations

There are no changes in regulations affecting the tusk and ling fisheries.

### 4.2.8 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry.

There are no changes in key personnel responsible for the management or with industry. Havstovan has because of budgetary cuts reduced its activities on work on demersal stock but the basic information of sampling from the fisheries and the suit of surveys are not affected. There has been minor reshuffling of staff allocated to stock assessment tasks. The basis for the tusk and ling assessments are therefore expected to be unchanged also in the future.

### 4.2.9 Changes that impact Traceability

No changes in traceability issues were identified since the last surveillance audit. The client did not report any changes in relation to traceability of tusk and ling catches.

Potential changes due to the creation of FISF (effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021) and the inclusion of new certificate sharers will be reviewed at next surveillance audit.

#### 4.2.10 Status of Inseparable or practically inseparable stock (IPI)

There are no IPI stocks to consider.

**Table 5 IPI determination**

Ref.	Clause/ Requirement	IPI- Y/N	Observation
<b>7.5.9.1</b>	The CAB shall only recognise stock(s) as being an IPI stock, where the inseparability arises because either:		
a	The non-target catch is practicably indistinguishable during normal fishing operations (i.e. the catch is from a stock of the same species or a closely related species),	N/A	
b	When distinguishable, it is not commercially feasible to separate due to the practical operation of the fishery that would require significant modification to existing harvesting and processing methods.	N/A	
c	The total combined proportion of catches from the IPI stock(s) do not exceed 15% by weight of the total combined catches of target and IPI stock(s) for the UoA.	N/A	
d	The stocks are not ETP species	N/A	
e	The stocks are not certified separately	N/A	

#### 4.2.11 Enhanced fisheries

Not relevant

### 4.3 Version details

**Table 6 Fisheries program documents versions**

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	<b>Version 2.2</b>
MSC Fisheries Standard	<b>Version 2.01</b>
MSC General Certification Requirements	<b>Version 2.4.1</b>
Default assessment tree version	<b>Version 2.01</b>
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	<b>Version 2.01</b>

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Surveillance results overview

#### 5.1.1 Summary of conditions

**Table 7 Summary of conditions** (The condition milestone is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020 and to a 12 month extension of deadline for eligible conditions (condition 1 and condition 2) according to MSC Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension).

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	Ling: The effectiveness of the Harvest strategy shall be tested and it shall be demonstrated that theling fishery will be conducted within sustainable limits	PI 1.2.2.a.b.c	On target	60	Not revised
2	Tusk: The effectiveness of the Harvest strategy shall be tested and it shall be demonstrated that the tusk fishery will be conducted within sustainable limits	PI 1.2.2.a.b.c	On target (because of the 12 month derogation 6, dated 28 March 2021)	60	Not revised
3	The Client shall work together with Havstovan and the Faroese Natural Museum to provide a quantitative estimate of the impact that the three UoCs make on the ETP populations, notably sea birds. Data should be adequate to contribute to the estimate trends and status of the sea bird populations.	PI 2.3.3.a	On target	70	Not revised

#### 5.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

**Table 8 Total Allowed Catch (TAC) and Catch data**

		Ling (MT)	Tusk (MT)
TAC	2020	N/A	N/A
UoA share of TAC	2020	N/A	N/A
UoA share of total TAC	2020	N/A	N/A
Total green weight catch by UoC	2020	5,982	1,380
Total green weight catch by UoC	2019	4,804	977



Table 9 Catch data for 2020 (kg) by vessel category (Tr: Bottom trawlers, LL: long liners)

2020			Vessel group							
	English name	Scientific name	2	3	4a	4b	4T	5a	5b	Total
			TR>500GT	LL>110GT	TR15-40GT	LL<110GT	TR40-500GT	Jigs	Jigs	
1	Cod	Gadus morhua	1.564.350	3.224.005	308.168	884.805	933.703	2.955.114	573.004	<b>10.443.150</b>
2	Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	473.151	2.536.946	527.230	1.321.131	342.130	1.608.942	265.762	<b>7.075.291</b>
3	Saithe	Pollachius virens	22.341.614	63.676	30.219	3.755	104.751	139.836	17.993	<b>22.701.843</b>
4	Redfish	Sebastes spp	1.890.427	19.472	-	559	6.610	248	42	<b>1.917.357</b>
5	Ling	Molva molva	1.696.839	3.882.219	13.566	157.793	147.502	56.331	28.040	<b>5.982.292</b>
6	Tusk	Brosme brosme	88.282	1.213.681	2.950	43.693	5.748	19.418	5.921	<b>1.379.692</b>
7	Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	590.026	263.028	-	7.372	2.071	1	-	<b>862.498</b>
8	Wolf fish	Anarchias spp	11.604	212	60	137	26.829	983	213	<b>40.038</b>
9	Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	141.985	34.756	7.677	9.263	18.753	21.397	4.123	<b>237.954</b>
10	Monkfish	Lophius piscatorius	361.968	264.192	6.883	165.906	948.567	9.325	3.599	<b>1.760.440</b>
11	Geenland halibut	Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	1.171.928	634.587	-	14.484	1.439	-	-	<b>1.822.438</b>
12	Lemon sole	Microstomus kitt	3.281	-	2	3	382.671	7	10	<b>385.975</b>
13	Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	13.748	435	117	303	406.595	1.031	302	<b>422.531</b>
14	Grenadiers	Coryphaenoides rupestris	22.513	1.917	-	-	-	-	-	<b>24.430</b>
15	Halibut	Hippoglossus hippoglossus	10.494	5.064	64	855	627	1.785	749	<b>19.638</b>
16	Porbeagle	Lamna nasus	644	49	-	-	261	161	-	<b>1.114</b>

### 5.1.3 Recommendations

Table 10 Recommendations

#	Recommendation	Progress
1	It is recommended that catches of redfish and grenadiers are specified to the species level (if possible).	<u>1SA (2020)</u> : There are no changes in the VØRN database. <u>2SA (2021)</u> : There are no change in the VØRN database
2	It is recommended that the client considers the sustainability of the bait stocks when purchasing bait species.	<u>1SA (2020)</u> : The Client is considering the bait issue as part of its business strategy. <u>2SA (2021)</u> : Information on bait has been provided
3	It is recommended that interactions with elasmobranchs (sharks, rays and skates) and with all bird species are recorded.	<u>1SA (2020)</u> : The general improvement of the statistics (Condition 2) includes also initiative to improve statistics for these species groups. <u>2SA (2021)</u> : No further action

## 5.2 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

N/A

## 5.3 Conditions

### 5.3.1 Closed Conditions

N/A

### 5.3.2 Progress against conditions

Table 11 Condition 1 - Harvest Control Rule (Ling)

Condition 1	Harvest control rule (Ling)
Performance Indicator	<p>1.2.2 a,b,c SG80</p> <p>A: Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs.</p> <p>B: The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties</p> <p>C: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>
Score	60
Justification	<p>Sia SG80: Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. There is no explicit HCR directed at ling in place but there are general considerations which are built into the effort days system</p> <p>Slb SG80: The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties. The HCR is not robust to a range of external conditions, e.g. market conditions, partly because there are significant unused fishing days in the system</p> <p>Sic SG80: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p> <p>Sic SG80: The tools available to the Faroese authorities include the full package required for effective control of the exploitation of the Faroese saithe (effort restriction, TACs, technical measures closed areas, closed seasons known to be effective in implement HCRs). Experience with other Faroese stocks (cod, haddock) where the same effort regulation is applied indicates that the tools are not effective in achieving the exploitation rates required.</p>



Condition	The fishery for ling shall be subject to well-defined HCRs. These HCRs shall meet objectives consistent with PI 1.1.1 and include provision for reducing exploitation pressures if the stocks fall below PRI reference points. It shall be demonstrated that the HCR is robust to the main uncertainties and implementation shall include monitoring that can demonstrate that the tools in use are appropriate and effective.	
Condition start	December 2018	
Condition deadline	By 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance.	
Condition deadline (revised)	<b>By 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance after recertification (MSC Derogation 6 applies).</b>	
Milestones	<p>Year 1: The Client shall present a draft for a HCR that meets requirements consistent with SG80 requirement</p> <p>Year 2: The HCR shall be consulted with all involved parties. The HCR shall be revised to reflect input from these hearings.</p> <p>Year 3: The HCR shall be adopted for ling in 5.b.</p> <p>Year 4: The HCRs shall be implemented.</p>	
Client Action Plan	<p>The Ministry of Fisheries together with the Faroe Marine Research Institute (FAMRI) has begun the work on developing a management plan. The time frame is not known except that the Faroese Marine Resource Act stipulates that Management Plans are effective from 1 January 2019. The industry will request that the Ministry and FAMRI get the management plan effective as soon as possible. The Marine Resource Act requires that Management Plans are consistent with objectives laid down in MSC Principle PI 1 and PI 2. The Management Plan when implemented is expected to meet the criteria for SG80 for PI 1.2.2a and PI 1.2.2b. When the Management Plan is effectively implemented The CAB will score the Plan versus PI 1.2.2a and PI 1.2.2b (FCR v 2.0)</p> <p>Year 1: The client will formally approach the relevant authorities and seek an invitation to take part in a consultations group and the development of a management plan. If invited, the Client will contribute to the development of a precautionary plan. The Client will present documentation on the interaction between the Client and the Authorities. No rescoring is expected.</p> <p><b>Year 2, 3 and 4:</b> At the surveillance audits the Client will present documentation on progress with development and implementation of the management Plan. The client will continue to repeat action taken in year 1 until the management plan is effectively implemented. When the Management Plan has been effectively implemented the PI 1.2.2a and PI 1.2.2b will be rescored and the condition hopefully closed.</p>	
	Year 1	<p>The Client has participated in a working group on the development of a management plan (May 2019). The Ministry has confirmed that there is an obligation to implement a management plan for Cod and Haddock in 2020 effective for 2021. The tusk and ling fisheries are under current management regulated as part of BLK 2 where the number of fishing days are primarily set based on the needs for the saithe fishery and BLK 3-5 where the number of fishing days are primarily set based on the needs for the cod and haddock fishery. The Working group report May 2019 does not present an analysis of the impact of the tusk and ling stocks.</p> <p>Progress on this condition was found to be ON TARGET</p>
	Year 2	<p>The Ministry informed that work on the management plan has focused on cod, haddock and saithe and that Management Plans for these three species had been agreed and implemented for 2021. The plan including the Harvest Control Rules are described in Report from a WG (2019) and the evaluation of this plan in terms of sustainability is presented by Havstovan in Bilag 3 of this report. However, the evaluation of sustainability is confined to a study of the cod, haddock and saithe stocks. At the same time the limit on fishing days is set based on considerations of these three species. The number of fishing days for 2021 are found in Regulation Nr. 215 from 22. desember 2020 Kunngerð um fiskidagar í føroyskum sjógvi í 2021.</p> <p>There has thus been progress on setting up management plans for the Faroese fishery although nothing specific has been presented for the Tusk and ling fisheries.</p> <p>The management plan is not effectively implemented and the Client e.g. as being represented in the working group defining the management plans for</p>

	vessel groups 2-5. Has been active in progressing towards the management plan. The milestone for Year 2 is met. The condition is On Target.
Year 3	N/A
Year 4	N/A
Insert additional years if relevant	
Progress status	ON TARGET based on the 12 month derogation allowed effective from 28 March 2021.
Remedial action	N/A.
<b>Covid 19 derogation</b>	The condition milestone is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020. MSC Derogation 6 also allows for a delay of 12 extra months in meeting certain conditions (as per conditions on PI 1.2.2).
Additional information	Condition is subject to Covid derogation 6 on the extension of deadlines by 12 months.
Revised CAP	N/A

**Table 12 Condition 2 - Harvest control Rule (Tusk)**

Condition 2	Harvest control rule (Tusk)
Performance Indicator	1.2.2 a,b,c SG80 A: Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs. B: The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties C: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.
Score	60
Justification	Sia SG80: Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Although the harvest strategy is expected based on past experience to achieve stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80 no well-defined HCR covering the stock exist.  Sib SG80: The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties. Although there is input from the ICES advice, based on the precautionary approach, this input is not embedded in the non-existing comprehensive management plan.  Sic SG80: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs Experience with other Faroese stocks (cod, haddock) where the same effort regulation is applied indicates that the tools are not effective in achieving the exploitation rates required.
Condition	The fisheries for tusk shall be subject to well-defined HCRs. These HCRs shall meet objectives consistent with PI 1.1.1 and include provision for reducing exploitation pressures if the stocks fall below PRI reference points. The tusk (NEA) is fished by several Parties (EU, Norway, Faroe Islands) and a joint approach to management is required. It shall be

	demonstrated that the HCR is robust to the main uncertainties and implementation shall include monitoring that can demonstrate that the tools in use are appropriate and effective.	
Condition start	December 2018	
Condition deadline	By 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance.	
<b>Condition deadline (revised)</b>	<b>By 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance after recertification (MSC Derogation 6 applies).</b>	
Milestones	<p>Year 1: The Client shall present documentation of an initiative to the relevant authorities for the development of a HCR that is consistent with SG80 requirements. The HCR shall apply to the full UoA and thus include consultations with all Parties involved in the fishery including EU and Norway.</p> <p>Year 2: The Client shall present documentation that HCR has been consulted with all involved parties including non-Faroese fisheries exploiting tusk (NEA).</p> <p>Year 3: The HCR shall be discussed at the appropriate international forum for tusk (NEA).</p> <p>Year 4: The HCR shall be implemented</p>	
Client Action Plan	<p>The Ministry of Fisheries together with the Faroe Marine Research Institute (FAMRI) has begun the work on developing a management plan. The time frame is not known except that the Faroese Marine Resource Act stipulates that Management Plans are effective from 1 January 2019. The industry will request that the Ministry and FAMRI get the management plan effective as soon as possible. The Marine Resource Act requires that Management Plans are consistent with objectives laid down in MSC Principle PI 1 and PI 2. The Tusk stock is shared with EU and Norway. The Client will seek for an agreement for the countries involved through the relevant Faroese authorities. The Management Plan when implemented is expected to meet the criteria for SG80 for PI 1.2.2a and PI 1.2.2b. When the Management Plan is effectively implemented The CAB will score the Plan versus PI 1.2.2a and PI 1.2.2b (FCR v 2.0).</p> <p>Year 1: The client will formally approach the relevant authorities and seek an invitation to take part in a consultations group and the development of management plan. If invited, the Client will contribute to the development of a precautionary plan. The Client will present documentation on the interaction between the Client and the Authorities. No rescore is expected.</p> <p>Year 2, 3 and 4: At the surveillance audits the Client will present documentation on progress with development and implementation of the management Plan. The client will continue to repeat action taken in year 1 until the management plan is effectively implemented. When the Management Plan has been effectively implemented the PI 1.2.2a and PI1.2.2b will be rescored and the condition hopefully closed.</p>	
	Year 1	<p>The Client has participated in a working group on the development of a management plan (May 2019). The Ministry has confirmed that there is an obligation to implement a management plan for Cod and Haddock in 2020 effective for 2021. The tusk and ling fisheries are under current management regulated as part of BLK 2 where the number of fishing days are primarily set based on the needs for the saithe fishery and BLK 3-5 where the number of fishing days are primarily set based on the needs for the cod and haddock fishery. The Working group report May 2019 does not present an analysis of the impact of the tusk and ling stocks.</p> <p>Progress on this condition was found to be ON TARGET.</p>
	Year 2	<p>A management Plan for Cod, Haddock and Saithe has been established for 2021, This plan is local for the Faroese grounds/Faroese fleet. There is no report of activities towards joint management of the Northeast Atlantic Tusk among the parties that fish this stock (EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and UK. However, the Condition 2 is subject to the 12 month derogation effective 28 March 2021 and therefore the deadline for the milestone for year 2 is only to be met April 2022. The status of the condition therefore remains unchanged ON TARGET.</p>
	Year 3	N/A
	Year 4	N/A
	Insert additional	

	years if relevant	
Progress status	ON TARGET based on the 12 month derogation allowed effective from 28 March 2021.	
Remedial action	N/A	
<b>Covid 19 derogation</b>	The condition milestone is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020. MSC Derogation 6 also allows for a delay of 12 extra months in meeting certain conditions (as per conditions on PI 1.2.2).	
Additional information	Condition is subject to Covid derogation 6 on the extension of deadlines by 12 months.	
Revised CAP	N/A	

Table 13 Condition 3 - ETP species information

Condition 3	ETP species information
Performance Indicator	2.3.3.a SG80: Some quantitative information is adequate to assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species. OR If RBF is used to score PI 2.3.1 for the UoA: Some quantitative information is adequate to assess productivity and susceptibility attributes for ETP species.
Score	70
Justification	Some quantitative information is adequate to assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species. The available data from logbooks, landing statistics and interviews with fishers support that the probability of ETP catches and associated fatal impacts on these populations is negligible but is not considered adequate to fully assess the impact and SG80 is not met.
Condition (original)	The Client shall work together with Havstovan and the Faroese Natural Museum to provide a quantitative estimate of the impact that the three UoCs make on the ETP populations, notably sea birds. Data should be adequate to contribute to the estimate trends and status of the sea bird populations.
<b>Revised condition</b>	<b>Some quantitative information shall be made available to adequately assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species.</b>
Condition start	December 2018
Condition deadline (original)	By 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance
<b>Condition deadline (revised)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Milestones	Year 1: The Client shall present a plan agreed with Havstovan and the Faroese Natural Museum. The plan shall provide quantitative data that allow an assessment of the impact on the ETP populations. Year 2-4: The Client shall present data collected from the fisheries together with an assessment of the impact on the ETP populations.
Client Action Plan	Year 1 (2019) The focus will be on sea birds and sea mammals and includes the following actions: Increase awareness among the captains that they in 2019 must focus especially on catch of seabirds and sea mammals Equip the captains and ships with appropriate

	<p>identification keys to ensure that identification is correct. Collect data from log books, supplemented with data from the database of Vørn. This could possibly be submitted directly to The Marine Research Institute or the Museum. The Marine Research Institute/The Natural Museum analyses the collected data and produces a short report assessing the importance of the catch for the total stock for each bird and mammal species. The size of the impacted stock, is available on the website of the Norwegian Polar Institute (The Barents Sea Portal)</p> <p>Year 2-4 Data will be presented as collected through the steps from year 1.</p>	
<b>Client Action Plan (revised)</b>	<b>There is no need to review original CAP.</b>	
<b>Progress on Condition (Year X)</b>	The progress made by the fishery client to address conditions shall be detailed, along with any observations from the assessment team. The CAB may include progress summaries from previous surveillance audits.	
	Year 1	No evidence was presented to the assessment team of the agreed plan with Havstovan and the Faroese Natural Museum. The plan should have provided quantitative data that allow an assessment of the impact on the ETP populations. The improvement in the reporting of encounters with sea birds, marine mammals and in particular with ETP species are welcome. The Client Action Plan represents the required plan. Progress on this condition is considered to be BEHIND TARGET.
	Year 2	<p>At the 2nd surveillance audit the client presented to the assessment team a signed agreement (document 20/00574) between the Ministry of Fisheries and the client which includes the funding of a research program by Havstovan (with the participation of client vessels) so that research is undertaken in relation to fishery interactions with seabirds. Project ("Pilot study of fisheries impact") timeline runs from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021. Jóhannis Danielsen from Havstovan is the project manager. At present data is been collected although there is no summary of findings yet. Assessment on the impact is expected for SA 3</p> <p>As regards interactions with marine mammals, the assessment team consulted Bjarne Mikkelsen (Havstovan expert on marine mammals in Faroese waters) who confirmed that it is highly unlikely that the saithe demersal fishery may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species.</p> <p>As regards fleet reporting of seabirds and sea mammals, these have been registered since the beginning of 2020. This information is now available from Vørn.</p> <p>The condition is on target.</p>
	Year 3	N/A
	Year 4	N/A
	Insert additional years if relevant	
<b>Progress status</b>	On target.	
<b>Remedial action</b>	N/A	
<b>Covid 19 derogation</b>	The condition milestone is subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020. This condition is NOT subject to Covid derogation 6 on the extension of deadlines by 12 months.	
<b>Additional information</b>	N/A	
<b>Revised CAP</b>	N/A	

## 5.4 Client Action Plan

Client Action plans are given together with the tables presenting progress on conditions, see Table 11, Table 12 and Table 13. There is no need for review of the original CAP.

## 6 Appendices

### 6.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

#### 6.1.1 Site visits

The site visit took place an off-site activity due to travel restrictions associated to COVID-19 and as allowed by MSC derogations. 2 different meetings were held with different stakeholders:

**Table 14: Off-site audit meetings.**

17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 14.30-15.30	Ministry of Fisheries Fishing Inspections Services	Ulla Svarrer Wang: Ministry of Fisheries representative Meinhard Gaardlykke: Representative of Fishing Inspection Services.
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 10.30-13.00	Havstovan (Research institution)  Client	Petur Steingrund (Havstovan researcher on demersal species) Bjarni Mikkelsen (Havstovan, marine mammal expert) Jóhannis Danielsen (Havstovan, seabird ecologist)  Durita í Grótinum (client representative) Hanus Hansen (client representative) Bethuel Johannensen (captain)

#### 6.1.2 Stakeholder participation

Neither written nor oral stakeholder submissions were received during consultation opportunities after announcement. No other stakeholders apart from those mentioned in Table 14 were contacted.

### 6.2 Stakeholder input

The Assessment team was facilitated information on catches by the client, compliance by management authorities together with progress on the implementation of the management plan for cod, haddock and saithe. No other stakeholder input was received.

### 6.3 Surveillance program

The assessment team does not propose any revised surveillance program but notes that as allowed by MSC Derogation of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 a 6 months certificate extension was granted to all certified fisheries.

**Table 15 Fishery surveillance program**

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 3	Off-site	Initially scheduled on-site but travel restrictions associated with Covid-19 prevented from travelling. Conducted on-site	Off-site (originally scheduled as off-site. Given the progress on conditions on Year 2 it is reasonable that information can be gathered off-site)	On-site and recertification visit.

**Table 16 Timing of surveillance audit**

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Justification
2022	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	January- June 2022	Time should be given to Havstovan to prepare analysis on data collected during 2021 related to condition

**Table 17 Surveillance level justification**

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Justification
2022	3 SA (off-site)	2 auditors	FCP v2.2 Section 7.28
2023	4SA (on-site)	2 auditors	FCP v2.2 Section 7.28



## 6.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

This report covers the MSC assessment of the tusk and ling stocks in ICES areas 5.b (5.b1 and 5.b2), this is, inside Faroese EEZ.

There are other Faroese MSC certified fisheries operating in Faroese fishing grounds. These include the Greater silver smelt fishery and the saithe fishery. The silver smelt fishery operates in different sectors of the Faroese EEZ and with different fishing gears, and therefore there is no overlap as regards Principle 2 nor Principle 3, since the silver smelt fishery is regulated with TACs and is subject to international agreements.

As regards the Faroe Islands saithe fishery, this fishery occurs exclusively in Faroese waters and is regulated through effort regulation as the tusk and ling fishery, although it is subject to a recently implemented management plan. There are similarities which allow for harmonization of scores between the saithe and the tusk and ling fisheries for Principle 2 and Principle 3.

Currently, all Faroese fisheries are assessed by DNV, and specifically the saithe and the tusk and ling fisheries share team leaders and team members, facilitating that overarching Faroese fisheries regulations and also fisheries impacts are assessed in a consistent manner among all of them.

Given that team members are the same on both fisheries harmonization activities as such have not taken place, but a similar approach has been taken to both fisheries. There are no significant scoring differences among these fisheries for Principle 2 and Principle 3 PIs.

**Table 18 Overlapping fisheries**

Fishery name	Certification status and date	Performance Indicators to harmonise
FI saithe	Certified 15.06.2013	Principle 2 Principle 3

## 6.5 References

- Agreement between Faroe Islands and UK in fisheries consultations. 2021.  
<https://d3b1dqw2kzexi.cloudfront.net/media/14889/undirrita%C3%B0ur-karmss%C3%A1ttm%C3%A1li-%C3%A1-f%C3%B8royskum.pdf>
- ICES. 2019. Ling (Molva molva) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, lin.27.5b, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4817>
- ICES. 2019. Tusk (Brosme brosme) in subareas 4 and 7–9, and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4823>
- ICES. 2021. Benchmark Workshop for Barents Sea and Faroese Stocks (WKBARFAR 2021). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:21. 205 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7920>
- Marine Resources Act 2019. Løgtingslóg um sjófeingi nr. 152 frá 23. desember 2019 um sjófeingi, sum seinast broytt við løgtingslóg nr. 186 frá 18. desember 2020
- Regulation Nr. 215 from 22. desember 2020 Kunngerð um fiskidagar í føroyskum sjógvi í 2021 [Fishing days allocation for 2021]
- Report from a working group on management of bottom fish on the Faroese Grounds. [Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarætlan. Frágreiðing og tilmæli frá arbeiðsbólkinum at gera uppskot til umsitingarætlan og at eftirmeta skipanina í fiskiskapinum eftir botnfiski undir Føroyum] 6. mai 2019

## 6.6 Vessel list

Previous vessel list is valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 vessel list will be displayed at <https://www.fisf.fo/en/participants/>

## 6.7 Proposed certificate sharing agreement



To whom it may concern

Klaksvík  
12.05.2021

### Faroe Islands ling and tusk, scope extension with cod and haddock fisheries

With respect to MSC certificates for the Faroe Islands ling and tusk, scope extensions with cod and haddock fisheries, we can confirm change of the client group.

A: The original client group is no longer valid. This certification applied exclusively to the fleet of demersal trawlers and longliners that were members of P/F JFK, P/F Kósin, P/F Regn and P/F Faroe Origin and the jiggers that delivered to the client group. Certification only applied to these vessels when they were fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau.

New client group: The new client group is the company FISF. Fishing companies JFK and Framherji have established the Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries (FISF) company to manage sustainability initiatives of Faroese groundfish fleet. As of end of May 2021 FISF will act as a client for this fishery. The FISF member group includes all registered Faroese vessels that carry valid permits for fishing within the Faroese Exclusive Economic Zone issued by the Faroese Directorate of Fisheries, and that fish, supply and/or sell fish to members of Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries (FISF) and/or its authenticated certificate sharers.

Authenticated certificate sharers are: P/F JFK Seafood, P/F Kósin, P/F Faroe Origin, P/F Delta Seafood, P/F TG Seafood, Sp/F Undir Klakki, P/F Regn, P/F M&S Strendur, P/F EFHO, P/F Eysturoy, Sp/F Miðdalsenni. Following persons are represented in the board of FISF: The CEO of JFK, the CEO of Framherji, the director for the fisherman association and the Forman of the board for the Faroe Fish Marked.

As before, certification only applies to these vessels when they are fishing for ling, tusk, cod and/or haddock within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau

B: All vessels are required to comply with the requirements regards to all issues in connection to the MSC certification. Decisions taken by FISF with regards to the MSC certification are binding for all vessels.

C: The fish can be landed directly to the authenticated certificate sharers. When landing to other landing sites the landing site must be member of FISF or have an MSC CoC certification.

Durita í Grótinum

## 6.8 List of landing sites

Fish can be landed directly to the authenticated certificate sharers or in landing sites with an MSC CoC certification. Certificate sharers landing facilities are located in the following ports:

- P/F Kósin, Klaksvík.
- P/F NFCS, Klaksvík.
- P/F Faroe Origin, Saltangará.
- P/F LMT, Tvøroyri.

Should landing occur outside the above mentioned landing facilities, in any of the Faroe Islands authorized landing sites (which are listed at <https://fmf.fo/torshavnibaldi/?menuid=458>), there is need of an MSC Chain of Custody Certification at the specific landing port.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, approved landing sites will be listed in <https://www.fisf.fo/en/participants/>

## 7 Template information and copyright

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### Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	08 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability
2.1	25 March 2020	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website ([msc.org](http://msc.org)).

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