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Principle 1		A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations and, for those populations that are depleted, the fishery must be conducted in a manner that demonstrably leads to their recovery.		
1.1 (MSC Criterion 1)		The fishery shall be conducted at catch levels that continually maintain the high productivity of the target population(s) and associated ecological community relative to its potential productivity.		
1.1.1		There should be sufficient information on the target species and stock separation to allow the effects of the fishery on the stock to be evaluated.		
1.1.1.1	Are the species readily identified as adults and juveniles?	Misidentification is possible and increases recording errors of catches, but this does not compromise monitoring to unacceptable levels.	The target species are unlikely to be confused with any other species; or, if target species are grouped, then life history or stock identification information exists to justify this grouping.	The species is readily identified by fishers and by regulators and is recorded appropriately.
1.1.1.2	Is the life history of the species understood and the spawning and nursery areas well described?	There are gaps in information but the basis of the life history is understood. There is some information on spawning and nursery areas.	The life history of the species is clearly documented and understood. Spawning and nursery areas are known.	The life history of the species is clearly documented and understood including behaviour and ecological interactions. Spawning and nursery areas are sufficiently well documented to support closed area / seasons where this is deemed necessary.
1.1.1.3	Is the geographical range of the target stock known and any seasonal migration described?	An estimate of the geographical range of the target stock is available. A management unit approximating the stock is used with some biological justification.	A reliable estimate of the geographic range of the target stock is available including seasonal patterns of movement and availability.	The complete geographic range of the stock, including seasonal patterns of movement/availability, is demonstrably understood and verified.
1.1.1.4	Is there information on fecundity and growth?	There is some information available on fecundity and growth.	Estimates are available of fecundity at size and growth rates.	There is comprehensive and reliable information on the fecundity at size, growth rates, and length and weight at age, and these are monitored over time to detect trends and shifts.

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1.1.1.5	Is information collected on the abundance/density/composition of the stock?	Either fishery dependent or fishery independent indices are available on the abundance/density/composition of the stock biomass. Qualitative information exists on the appropriateness of the indices as proportional indicators of stock status.	Fishery dependent and/or fishery independent indices are available on the abundance./density/composition of the stock. Uncertainties have been analysed and those uncertainties have been reduced so as to allow trends to be determined from indices.	Fishery dependent and fishery independent indices are available on the abundance/density/composition of the stock. Indices are consistent and there is clear evidence that they are proportional to the stock status.
1.1.1.6	Is information available on environmental influences on the stock dynamics?	There is evidence of studies on the effects of biological and physical influences on the stock (including natural mortality). Research is encouraged and ongoing.	There is sufficient knowledge of biological and physical factors affecting distribution, survival and year class strength (including natural mortality) to allow an estimation of effects on stock dynamics.	There is sufficient knowledge of biological and physical factors affecting distribution, survival and year class strength (including natural mortality) to allow detailed estimation of effects on stock dynamics.
1.1.1.7	Is there information on the variability in recruitment and can this be used to predict recruitment to the fishery?	There is some information on factors generating recruitment variability, including some time-series data.	There is some direct measurement of recruitment and/or ongoing research into the factors generating recruitment variability so as to predict future recruitment. Good time series data are available.	There is reliable monitoring of recruitment and/or strong evidence of ongoing research projects to study recruitment variability factors with some evidence of an understanding of those factors. Information, built up over a long time series exists and can be reliably used to predict recruitment for medium term stock projections.
1.1.2		There should be sufficient information on the fishery to allow its effects on the target stock to be evaluated		
1.1.2.1	Are all major sources of fishery related mortality recorded/ estimated, including landings, discards, incidental mortality and mortality of juveniles?	Sufficient information is available to allow accurate estimates to be made of landings. Estimates of discards and incidental mortality are available.	Landings are accurately recorded. Discards and incidental mortality are well estimated.	Landings, discards and incidental mortality are accurately monitored.
1.1.2.2	Are fleet descriptions, fishing methods and gear types known throughout the fishery?	Main fishing methods and gear types are known for the fishery. Information is available on the size and composition of the fleet, but is not regularly updated. Seasonal and geographical variations are estimated.	Main fishing methods and gear types are known and information is available on the geographical areas of use. Recorded information is available on the size and composition of the fleet. This is updated at irregular intervals. Seasonal and geographical variations are known.	All fishing methods and gear types employed in the fishery are known. In-situ observations are made of fishing practices. Information on the size and composition of the fleet, and seasonal and geographical variability, is recorded and regularly reviewed.

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1.1.2.3	Is the target species taken in other fisheries in the area that are not subject to this certification and are such catches recorded or estimated?	There is some information relating to other fisheries in the area that are not subject to this certification, although these are not fully identified. Catches are estimated.	The main fisheries not subject to certification are identified. Catches of the target species are either recorded or estimated.	All fisheries (and other sources of human-induced mortality) in the area that are not subject to this certification are identified and monitored. All the catches are recorded.
1.1.2.4	Is gear selectivity known for the fishery	Information is available on selectivity and qualitative changes in selectivity.	Selectivities of gear types are well estimated for key locations and times.	Full selectivities have been accurately estimated for all gears, locations and times of fishing over a suitable time period.
1.1.3		There is a well-defined and effective harvest strategy to manage the target stock.		
1.1.3.1	Are there appropriate indices of the stock status?	Indices have been chosen and are justified.	Indices are justified based on stock and species biology and are measurable given data and assessment limitations.	Indices are justified based on stock biology, uncertainty, variability, data limitations and statistical simulations of these factors.
1.1.3.2	Is the stock status evaluated relative to appropriate reference points?	The stock status is estimated relative to reference points.	There is an approximated evaluation of the stock status relative to the reference points.	There is a reliable evaluation of the stock status relative to the reference points and projects and these provide short and longer term forecasts.
1.1.3.3	Are clear, tested decision rules set out?	It can be demonstrated that decision making, though not documented, is logical and appropriate. Rules have not been tested.	Clear decision making rules exist, are fully documented, but may not have not been fully evaluated. Decision rules are reconciled with appropriate reference points and with data and assessment limitations.	Clear, documented and tested decision rules are fully implemented and have been fully reconciled with reference points, and the data and assessment limitations, and have been periodically evaluated.
1.1.3.4	Is there a mechanism in place (via input or output controls) to contain harvest as required?	Mechanisms exist to monitor and (if necessary) reduce harvest, but may not fully contain harvest, or have not been tested/evaluated.	Mechanisms are in place to reduce harvest as and when required to maintain, or allow the target stock to return to, productive levels.	Mechanisms are in place to reduce harvest as and when required to maintain (or allow the target stock to return to productive levels. Measures to demonstrate effectiveness are in place.

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1.1.3.5	Are appropriate management tools specified to implement decisions in terms of input and/or output controls?	Management tools exist to implement decisions of input and/or output controls although these are not developed for the specific fishery, or management tools are not fully developed, but are specifically related to the fishery. Some evidence exists to show that tools can be effective.	Management tools have been specified to implement decisions of input and/or output controls. These are generic although some attempt has been made to relate them to the specific fishery OR tools are lacking in some details but are specifically related to the fishery. Evidence exists to show clearly that tools are effective.	Management tools, appropriate to the species and fishery, have been specified to implement decisions of input and/or output controls. Tools are responsive, relevant and timely. Performance of the tools has been evaluated and evidence exists to show clearly that tools achieve their objectives.
1.1.4		The stock is/are at an appropriate level to maintain long-term productivity.		
1.1.4.1	Is there evidence that stock status is consistent with that providing long-term productivity? [YES - Criteria 1 is complete. NO - Answer Criteria 2]	Indices suggest no deterioration from a level providing long-term productivity.	Indices suggest that trends in the stock status are consistent or positive and/or evidence exists that there are no changes to the gross size of the resource base from past observations (over an appropriate timescale).	All available indices strongly indicate that trends in the stock status are consistent or positive and/or evidence exists that there are no changes to the gross size of the resource base from past observations (over an appropriate timescale).
1.2 (MSC Criterion 2)		Where the exploited populations are depleted, the fishery will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level consistent with the precautionary approach and the ability of the populations to produce long-term potential yields within a specified time frame.		
1.2.1	If the stock is below the appropriate reference point, or trends in the stock are significantly negative, are measures to rebuild the stock specified?	Appropriate rebuilding measures through reduction in exploitation exist and are being implemented. Rebuilding measures other than reduction in exploitation are being considered. Measures are implemented but may not have not been tested.	Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery within reasonable time frames. Measures have been tested, in this or a comparable situation, and can be shown to be effective in rebuilding the stock.	Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery as quickly as possible. Additional measures are being implemented to prevent problems in the future.

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1.3 (MSC Criterion 3)		Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not alter the age or genetic structure or sex composition to a degree that impairs reproductive capacity.		
1.3.1		Fishing activity maintains the age, genetic structure or sex composition of the stock to a degree that does not impair reproductive capacity.		
1.3.1.1	Is there adequate information on the population sex and age structure and the existence of possible sub-populations?	There is some information available on the sex and age structure and the presence of sub-populations within the stock, and the relationship of these to reproductive capacity.	Estimates are available of the sex and age structure and the presence of sub-populations within the stock, and the relationship of these to reproductive capacity.	There is comprehensive and reliable information on the sex and age structure and the presence of sub-populations within the stock, and the relationship of these to reproductive capacity as well as evaluations of the implications of shifts in these parameters on productivity and management quantities.
1.3.1.2	Is the age and sex structure and status of sub-populations of the stock monitored so as to detect any impairment of reproductive capacity?	Population structure is based on some sampling and verification. Some information on sub-populations is available as necessary.	Population structure is based on adequate sampling and verification for this stock. Genetic or sub-population studies have been carried out as appropriate.	Population structure is well estimated with only insignificant errors. Genetic or sub-population studies have been conducted at appropriate time intervals.
1.3.1.3	Does information indicate any changes in structure that would alter reproductive capacity?	Changes in stock structure have been detected but there is no evidence of negative effect on recruitment of the stock.	There is evidence of no fishery-related changes in stock structure that would affect recruitment.	Data strongly indicate a robust age, sex and genetic structure in the stock, such as would maintain reproductive capacity.
Principle 2		Fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem (including habitat and associated dependent and ecologically related species) on which the fishery depends		
2.1 (MSC Criterion 1)		The fishery is conducted in a way that maintains natural functional relationships among species and should not lead to trophic cascades or ecosystem state changes.		
2.1.1		There is adequate understanding of ecosystem factors relevant to the distribution and life history strategy of the target species.		
2.1.1.1	Are the nature, sensitivity and distribution of habitats relevant to the fishing operations known?	Information exists on the main habitat types but may not be comprehensive or up to date. The seasonal distribution of fishing operations is known.	The nature and distribution of all main habitat types are known in moderate detail. Information is recent. The distribution of fishing operations is monitored and the sensitivity of key habitats is understood.	The nature, sensitivity and the distribution of all habitats relevant to the fishing operations are known in detail. Information is recent. The distribution of fishing operations and their effort is monitored.

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2.1.1.2	Is information available on non-target species directly affected by the fishery?	The main non-target species affected have been identified.	Information is available on non-target species directly affected by the fishery including some information on their distribution and ecology.	Information is available on all non-target species directly affected by the fishery including their distribution and ecology.
2.1.1.3	Is information available on the trophic position, status and relationships of the target species within the food web?	Key prey, predators and competitors are known.	Information is available on significant aspects of the position, relationships and importance of target species in the food web at key life stages.	Information is available on the position and importance of the target species and their relationships within the food web at key life stages. Qualitative information is available on major interactions.
2.1.1.4	Is there information on the potential for the ecosystem to recover from fishery related impacts?	Key elements of the functioning of the ecosystem, relevant to the fishery, are identified.	The main elements of the functioning of the ecosystem, relevant to the fishery, are understood.	Detailed information is available on the potential for affected elements of the ecosystem to recover from fishery related impacts.
2.1.2		General risk factors are adequately determined.		
2.1.2.1	Is information available on the nature and extent of the by-catch (capture of non-target species)?	Qualitative information is available on significant by-catch species.	Quantitative information is available on significant by-catch. If obtained by sampling, this is considered sufficient to provide adequate information.	Accurate records are kept on the nature and extent of all by-catch species.
2.1.2.2	Is information available on the extent of discard (the proportion of the catch not landed)?	Information is available of the extent of discarding.	Information is available to allow estimates of discard to be calculated and interpreted.	Accurate and verifiable information is available on the extent of all discards, and the consequences of these. Or the entire catch is landed.
2.1.3		There is adequate knowledge of the effects of gear-use on the receiving ecosystem and extent and type of gear losses.		
2.1.3.1	Is there adequate knowledge of the physical impacts on habitat due to use of gear?	Main impacts of gear use on habitat are identified including extent and locations of use. Effects of habitat perturbations estimated and appear stable.	Impacts of gear use on the habitat are identified including extent, timing and location of use. Habitat perturbations appear sustainable.	The physical impacts on the habitat due to use of gear have been studied and quantified, including details of any irreversible changes.

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2.1.3.2	Is any gear lost during fishing operations and can 'ghost fishing' occur?	Some recording of gear losses takes place and an assessment can be made of possible 'ghost fishing'.	There is knowledge of the type, quantity and location of gear lost during fishing operations. Estimates made show that losses do not cause unacceptable effects on the ecosystem through for example 'ghost fishing'.	There is detailed knowledge of the type, quantity and location of gear types lost during fishing operations. The impact of gear loss on target and non-target species has been shown to have negligible effects on habitats, ecosystems or species of concern through for example 'ghost fishing'.
2.1.4		Assessments of impacts associated with the fishery including the significance and risk of each impact show no unacceptable impacts on the ecosystem structure and/or function, on habitats or on the populations of associated species.		
2.1.4.1	Does the removal of target stocks have unacceptable impacts on ecosystem structure and function?	The removal of target stocks could lead to impacts upon ecological systems (applying the precautionary approach where necessary). A programme is in development to identify these and, if appropriate, reduce mortality to acceptable limits.	Some information is available on consequences of current levels of removal of target species. These suggest no unacceptable impacts of the fishery on ecological systems within major fishing areas.	The ecological consequences of current levels of removal of target stocks have been evaluated and determined to be within acceptable limits.
2.1.4.2	Does the removal of non-target stocks have unacceptable impacts on ecosystem structure and function?	The removal of non-target stocks could lead to impacts upon ecological systems (applying the precautionary approach where necessary). A program is in development to identify these and, if appropriate, reduce these to acceptable, defined limits.	Some information is available on consequences of current levels of removal of non-target species. These suggest no unacceptable impacts of the fishery on ecological systems within major fishing areas.	The ecological consequences of current levels of removal of non-target stocks have been evaluated and determined to be within acceptable limits.
2.1.4.3	Does the fishery have unacceptable impacts on habitat structure?	There is no evidence that the fishery is having unacceptable impacts, although the issue has not been directly studied.	It can be demonstrated that the fishery does not have unacceptable impacts upon habitats within major fishing areas or on sensitive habitats elsewhere.	Effects on habitat structure are well documented and are within acceptable tested/justified limits.
2.1.4.4	Are associated biological diversity, community structure and productivity affected to unacceptable levels?	There is no evidence that the fishery is having unacceptable impacts, although the issue has not been directly studied.	The effects of the fishery on biological diversity, community structure and productivity have been considered and it can be demonstrated/justified that there are no unacceptable impacts.	The effects of the fishery on biological diversity, community structure and productivity have been quantified and are within acceptable tested/justified limits

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2.1.4.5	Are management objectives set in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction?	Management systems include some impact identification and avoidance/reduction.	Management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts, although these may not have been fully tested. These are designed to adequately protect key aspects of the ecosystem within main fishing areas.	Tested management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect ecosystems, habitats and populations of target and non-target species.
2.2 (MSC Criterion 2)		The fishery is conducted in a manner that does not threaten biological diversity (at the genetic, species or population levels and avoids or minimises mortality of, or injuries to endangered, threatened or protected species.		
2.2.1		Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not have unacceptable impacts on recognised protected, endangered or threatened species.		
2.2.1.1	Is there information on the presence and populations of protected, endangered or threatened species?	There is a programme in place to identify protected, threatened and endangered species directly related to the fishery. There is periodic monitoring of the main population trends and status of protected, endangered and threatened species.	Key protected, threatened and endangered species directly related to the fishery have been identified. Populations are monitored on a regular basis.	There is knowledge of all populations of protected species directly or indirectly related to the fishery including their dynamics. Regular monitoring of protected, endangered and threatened species is undertaken, supported by research programmes to assess threats and promote their conservation. The type and distribution of critical habitats have been identified.
2.2.1.2	Are interactions of the fishery with such species adequately determined?	The main interactions directly related to the fishery are known.	Estimates are made of the effects of interactions directly related to the fishery. There is a requirement to record and report all incidental mortalities.	Reliable quantitative estimates are made of the interactions of all populations directly related to the fishery, and qualitative information is available on indirect impacts. Incidental mortalities are recorded and reported.
2.2.1.3	Do interactions pose an unacceptable risk to such species?	Known effects are within acceptable limits of national and international legislative requirements and are believed to create no biological threats to the species concerned.	Critical interactions are well estimated and do not threaten protected species.	It is known that the direct and indirect effects of fishing on threatened and endangered species are within acceptable limits.
2.2.2		Strategies have been developed within the fisheries management system to address and restrain any significant impacts of the fishery on recognised protected, endangered or threatened species.		
2.2.2.1	Are management objectives set in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction?	Some management systems exist in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction.	Management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect endangered and threatened species within main fishing areas.	Tested management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect endangered and threatened species.

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2.3 (MSC Criterion 3)		Where exploited populations (of non-target species) are depleted, the fishery will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level within specified time frames, consistent with the precautionary approach and considering the ability of the population to produce long-term potential yields.		
2.3.1		There are management measures in place that allow for the rebuilding of affected populations.		
2.3.1.1	Is there sufficient information to allow determination of necessary changes in fishery management to allow recovery of depleted populations?	There is some information on functional relationships, sufficient to allow alterations to be made to fishing to recover and rebuild depleted species.	There is adequate information, combined with a precautionary approach wherever necessary, to allow alterations to be made to fishing that would be expected to recover and rebuild depleted species.	There is a clear understanding of functional relationships between the impacted population and the fishery. Intervention measures based on this understanding have been tested.
2.3.1.2	Are management measures in place to modify fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts?	A mechanism exists for the modification of fishing practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts.	Effective management measures are in place to modify fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts.	Monitoring programs are in place within the management system to allow modification of fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. Objectives and limits for environmental change are used to guide operational practices. It is demonstrated that these are effective.
2.3.1.3	Do management measures allow for recovery of affected populations?	Rebuilding measures exist and are being implemented. Measures may not have been tested.	Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented. Measures have been tested and can be shown to be rebuilding the affected populations.	Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery as quickly as is possible. Additional measures are being implemented to prevent problems in the future.

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Principle 3		The fishery is subject to an effective management system that respects local, national and international laws and standards and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require use of the resource to be responsible and sustainable		
3.A		Management System Criteria		
3A.1 (<i>MSC Principle 3 Intent and Criterion 3</i>)		A management system containing an institutional and operational framework exists with clear lines of responsibility.		
3A.1.1	Are organisations with management responsibility clearly defined including areas of responsibility and interactions?	Organisations with management responsibility are known. Responsibilities and interactions require clarification.	Organisations with management responsibility have been defined including key areas of responsibility and interaction	Organisations with management responsibility are clearly defined including all areas of responsibility and interaction. Interactions are demonstrably effective
3A.1.2	Is the system consistent with the cultural context, scale and intensity of the fishery?	Inconsistencies may arise in some key areas but a programme is in place to address these.	The system is consistent with key elements of the cultural context, scale and intensity of the fishery.	The system is entirely consistent with the cultural context, scale and intensity of the fishery.
3A.1.3	Is the management system subject to internal review?	There are mechanisms in place to allow for internal review.	The management system is subject to internal review.	The management system is subject to regular and frequent internal review. Monitoring and evaluation are ongoing and improvements quickly tested and implemented.
3A.1.4	Is the management system subject to external review?	There are mechanisms in place to allow for external review.	The management system is subject to external review.	The management system is subject to regular and frequent external review.
3 A.2 (<i>MSC Criteria 1, 2, 4</i>)		The management system has a clear legal basis.		
3A.2.1	Is the fishery consistent with International Conventions and Agreements?	The management system operates under relevant international conventions and agreements, but some management actions may be questionable in relation to the terms of these.	The management system appears to be in full compliance with international conventions and agreements.	The management system is demonstrably compliant with all relevant international conventions and agreements.

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3A.2.2	Is the fishery consistent with EU and national legislation?	The management system operates under relevant EU and national legislation, but some management actions may be questionable in relation to the terms of these.	The management system appears to be in full compliance with EU and national legislation.	The management system is demonstrably compliant with all relevant EU and national legislation.
3A.2.3	Does the system observe the legal and customary rights of people dependent upon fishing?	The customary and legal rights of the people dependent upon fishing are known and no major conflicts have occurred.	The system observes the legal and customary rights of people dependent upon fishing but does not necessarily have a formal codified system.	The system observes all legal and customary rights of people dependent upon fishing under a formal codified system.
3A.3 (MSC Criteria 2, 5, 7)		The management system includes strategies to meet objectives including consultative procedures and dispute resolutions.		
3A.3.1	Does the management system contain clear short and long-term objectives?	Short and long-term resource and environment objectives are implicit within the management system.	The management system contains short and long-term resource and environment objectives.	The management system contains clear and explicit short and long-term resource and environment objectives that can be measured by performance indicators.
3A.3.2	Do operational procedures exist for meeting objectives?	Operational procedures exist which are applied to the meeting of objectives.	Transparent operational procedures are applied to the meeting of objectives. These procedures can be shown to support the objectives.	Operational procedures are transparent and clearly applied. There is a feedback mechanism testing effective application.
3A.3.3	Are there procedures for measuring performance relative to the objectives?	Operational procedures exist which can be used to measure performance relative to the objectives.	There are procedures used for measuring performance relative to the objectives.	Tested procedures are used for regular measurement of performance relative to the objectives.
3A.3.4	Does the system include a consultative process including relevant and affected parties?	The system includes a consultative process including key stakeholders within the fishery.	The system includes a consultative process including all main public and private stakeholders and can demonstrate consideration of representations made.	The system includes a consultative process including all affected stakeholders. Decisions specifically discuss and/or address stakeholder concerns.
3A.3.5	Is there an appropriate mechanism for the resolution of disputes within the system?	Mechanisms are theoretically adequate but have not been consistently applied or tested.	There is an appropriate and established mechanism for the resolution of disputes within the system.	There is an appropriate and tested mechanism within the system for the documentation and resolution of disputes of varying magnitude.

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3A.4 (MSC Criterion 6)		The management system operates in a manner appropriate to the objectives of the fishery.		
3A.4.1	Does the system include subsidies that contribute to unsustainable fishing?	Subsidies exist that may contribute indirectly to unsustainable fishing. These are short-term and are in the process of being removed within acceptable timescales.	The system is essentially free from subsidies that contribute to unsustainable fishing or ecosystem degradation.	The system has no subsidies that contribute to unsustainable fishing or ecosystem degradation.
3A.4.2	Does the system include economic/social incentives that contribute to sustainable fishing?	Measures to allocate fishing opportunities and/or entry to the fishery, or other incentives, are generally supportive of achieving fishery objectives.	Allocations of fishing opportunities and/or entry to the fishery, and/or other incentives, promote fishery and ecosystem management goals.	The system has established economic and social incentives that contribute to sustainable fishing and ecosystem management.
3A.5 (MSC Criterion 8)		A research plan exists in line with the management system to address information needs.		
3A.5.1	Have key research areas requiring further information been identified?	Major areas requiring further research have been identified.	Key areas requiring further research have been identified.	A comprehensive review of information requirements has been undertaken.
3A.5.2	Is research planned/undertaken by the scientific advisers to meet the specific requirements of the management plan?	Research is planned for highest priority information needs.	Research is planned and undertaken to provide necessary scientific support to the plan. There are demonstrable resources to allow implementation of the programme.	There is an ongoing, funded, comprehensive and balanced research programme, linking research to the management plan.
3A.5.3	Is relevant research carried out by other organizations (eg Universities) and is this taken into consideration?	The management system is aware of research carried out by other organisations and elements of this are taken into consideration.	Appropriate research carried out by other organisations is taken into consideration, although there is not necessarily any proactive co-ordination between organisations.	Relevant research carried out by other organisations is taken into account for management considerations. This research is often co-ordinated with existing research plans of the management system.
3A.6 (MSC Criteria 7, 9, 10)		The management system includes measures to achieve objectives for the stock.		
3A.6.1	Are the resource and effects of the fishery monitored?	A monitoring programme is in place that addresses some aspects of resource and effects and which can be extended.	A monitoring programme is in place that addresses all key aspects of resource and effects at appropriate intervals and results are recorded.	The resource and effects of the fishery are closely monitored over appropriate geographical areas and time periods. Full records are kept of monitoring results and these are made available to relevant research and management bodies.

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3A.6.2	Are results of monitoring evaluated against appropriate reference point(s)?	Reference points exist and some level of evaluation against these is possible.	Results of monitoring are regularly interpreted in relation to reference points	Results of monitoring are quantitatively evaluated against precautionary reference points on a regular and timely basis.
3A.6.3	Do procedures exist for reductions in harvest in light of monitoring results and how quickly and effectively can these be implemented?	Practical procedures exist to reduce harvest. Programmes to link these with monitoring results are underway.	Practical procedures exist to reduce harvest in the light of monitoring results and provide for stock recovery to specified levels. Measures can be implemented speedily	Practical procedures exist to reduce harvest in light of monitoring results and provide for stock recovery to specified levels within specified time frames. There are well documented procedures to implement changes and these can be introduced with immediate effect.
3A.7(MSC Criterion 10)		The management system includes measures to achieve objectives for the affected ecosystem.		
3A.7.1	Are measures in place to address (avoid or minimise) significant environmental impacts?	Significant environmental impacts are known and measures are being applied to reduce key impacts.	Environmental impacts are known. Measures are being applied to minimise all significant ones and there is evidence that the measures are working.	Measures are in place to avoid all significant environmental impacts and are subject to monitoring and periodic review.
3A.7.2	Are no take zones, Marine Protected Areas or closed areas for specific periods appropriate and, if so, are these established and enforced?	Suitability of no-take zones and/or closed areas / seasons has been reviewed against objective biological criteria. Plans are in place to implement some or all of these as appropriate.	Suitability of no-take zones and closed areas / seasons has been reviewed and these have been or are currently being implemented and enforced if and where appropriate.	No-take zones and closed areas / seasons are established and enforced if and where appropriate and, if implemented, the consequences are being monitored.
3 A.8 (MSC Criterion 11)		There are control measures in place to ensure the management system is effectively implemented.		
3A.8.1	Are information, instruction and/or training provided to fishery operatives in the aims and methods of the management system?	Mechanisms exist for the dissemination of information, instruction and training of fishery operatives. Implementation of these mechanisms may not be universally implemented.	Information, instruction and training are provided to fishery operatives in the aims and methods of the management system allowing effective management of the system.	Information, instruction and training are provided to fishery operatives in the aims and methods of the management system allowing effective management of the fishery and operatives demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of this information.
3A.8.2	Is surveillance and monitoring in place to ensure that requirements of the management system are complied with?	An enforcement system has been implemented; however, its effectiveness and/or compliance has not been fully demonstrated relative to conservation objectives.	An effective enforcement system has been implemented and there is an appropriate degree of control and compliance.	An effective enforcement system has been implemented and there is a high degree of control and compliance.

SCORING CRITERIA		SCORING GUIDEPOST 60	SCORING GUIDEPOST 80	SCORING GUIDEPOST 100
3A.8.3	Can corrective actions be applied in the event of non-compliance and is there evidence of their effectiveness?	Mechanisms exist or are being developed which can be implemented or applied to deal with non-compliance.	There are set measures that can be applied in the event of non-compliance although these may not be included in a formal or codified system.	Agreed and tested corrective actions can be applied in the event of non-compliance.

3.B	Operational Criteria
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3B.1(MSC Criterion 12)	There are management measures that include practices to reduce impacts on non-target species and inadvertent impacts upon target species.
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3B.1.1	Do management measures, principally through the use of gear and other fishing practices, include avoidance of impacts on non-target species and inadvertent impacts upon target species? These would include by-catch, discard, slippage and high grading.	Measures have been implemented that are intended to reduce the major impacts on non-target species and inadvertent impacts on target species, but their effectiveness is uncertain.	Measures have been implemented to reduce the major impacts on non-target species and inadvertent impacts on target species and there is evidence that they are having the desired effect.	Measures have been implemented to reduce the major impacts on non-target species and inadvertent impacts on target species, and their effectiveness is clearly demonstrated.
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3B.2 (MSC Criterion 13)	There are management systems in place that encourage fishing methods that minimise adverse impacts on habitat.
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3B.2.1	Do fishing operations implement appropriate fishing methods designed to minimise adverse impacts on habitat, especially in critical or sensitive zones such as spawning or nursery areas?	Fishing operations use measures to reduce major impacts on habitat, especially in critical or sensitive zones such as spawning or nursery areas.	There is evidence that fishing operations are effective in avoiding significant adverse effects on the environment, especially in critical or sensitive zones such as spawning or nursery areas.	There is direct evidence that fishing operations implement appropriate methods to avoid significant adverse impacts on all habitats.
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3B.3 (MSC Criterion 14)	The management system incorporates measures that discourage destructive practices.
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3B.3.1	Does the fishery employ destructive fishing practices (such as poisons or explosives)?	The fishery does not allow any such destructive fishing practices.	The fishery does not employ any such destructive fishing practices and enforcement is considered sufficient to prevent their use.	The fishery does not employ any destructive fishing practices. There is a code of conduct for responsible fishing, prohibiting these, that is fully supported by fishers.
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SCORING CRITERIA		SCORING GUIDEPOST 60	SCORING GUIDEPOST 80	SCORING GUIDEPOST 100
3B.4 (MSC Criterion 15)		The management system incorporates measures that reduce operational waste.		
3B.4.1	Do measures exist to reduce operational waste?	Measures/facilities are in place to reduce sources of operational waste that are known to have detrimental environmental consequences, but further reductions may be possible.	Measures/facilities are in place to reduce all sources of operational waste that are known to have detrimental environmental consequences, and there is evidence they are effective.	Measures/facilities are in place to reduce all sources of operational waste that are known to have detrimental environmental consequences, and there is evidence they are effective and these measures are supported by the fishers.
3B.5 (MSC Criterion 16)		Fishing operations are conducted in compliance with the management system and legal and administrative requirements.		
3B.5.1	Are fishers aware of management system, legal and administrative requirements	Fishers are aware of key management and legal requirements.	Fishers are aware of management and legal requirements upon them and are kept up to date with new developments.	All fishers are aware of management legal requirements through a clearly documented and communicated mechanism such as a code of conduct.
3B.5.2	Do fishers comply with management system, legal and administrative requirements?	Fishers appear generally to comply with requirements, but there is incomplete information o the actual extent of compliance.	Fishers appear compliant with relevant management and legal requirements and there are no indications of consistent violations.	Fishers are fully compliant with, and fully supportive of, legal, and administrative requirements, such as through a code of conduct.
3B.5.3	What is the record of enforcement of regulations in the fishery: quota control, by-catch limits, MLS, mesh regulations and closed areas?	There is information on breaches of regulations and on corrective action to prevent or curtail.	Evidence of rigorous monitoring of all the enforcement measures and evidence of actions taken in the event of breaches is available.	Strong evidence of rigorous monitoring and control of the enforcement measures through for example satellite monitoring, shipboard observers and nominated landing ports. Strong evidence of firm action taken in the event of breaches
3B.6 (MSC Criterion 17)		The management system involves fishers in data collection.		
3B.6.1	Do fishery operatives assist in the collection of catch, discard and other relevant data?	Fishery operatives are involved in the collection of some catch, discard and other information.	Fishery operatives are regularly involved in the collection and recording of relevant catch, discard and other information.	Fishery operatives assist significantly in the collection and recording of all appropriate catch, discard and other information.