

3rd Surveillance report

FISF FAROE ISLANDS COD, HADDOCK, TUSK AND LING

Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments

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Assessment Type	3rd Surveillance Report
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MSC Derogations 6

The following **MSC derogations** have been applied to the present fishery:

- The timeline for this and the previous surveillance reports were subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 [Pandemic Derogation](#) 27 March 2020.
- In March 2021, MSC issued [Derogation 3](#) allowing for remote audits until March 2022. This derogation was later extended until March 2023.
- In March 2021, MSC issued [Derogation 6](#), the purpose of which was to provide a reprieve to fishery certificate holders that have the potential to face exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions raised against management and information Performance Indicators as a result of the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries management systems. The objective of the derogation was to extend existing deadlines on eligible conditions by 12 months and to revise condition milestones to account for the extended deadline. 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 was at the 2nd Surveillance audit for the Ling and Tusk but not for the scope extension for cod and haddock, were it can not been used since the scope extension was published after Derogation 6 was published.

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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
SA	Surveillance Audit
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
FISF	FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
ICES	Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries
MSC	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
NEAFC	Marine Stewardship Council
	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

3 Executive summary

Table 1 General Information

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The Faroe Islands Ling and Tusk fishery was certified on 24 October 2018 and certificate expires on 24th April 2024. The name of the fishery was changed in May 2021 to Faroe Islands Sustainable Fisheries Faroe Islands Ling and Tusk fishery (FISF Faroe Islands Ling and Tusk). The certificate was extended on 1 September 2021 to also include the Faroe Plateau (ICES 5.b1) cod and the Faroe Islands Haddock.

Details of previous assessments are available at: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/faroe-islands-saithe/@@assessments>

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 2021.

For a complete picture of the fishery, this report should be read in conjunction with the latest Public Certification Report for the Faroe Islands ling and tusk fishery and the scope extension report for Faroe Islands cod and haddock. Also, all reports from previous assessments and surveillance audits should be consulted. All reports are available for download here: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/faroe-islands-saithe/@@assessments>.

The surveillance audit was carried out with remote off-site meetings conducted on 16th, 17th and 19th May 2022. The client, ministry of fisheries, VØRN Inspection services and Havstovan (science) were interviewed.

The main findings at the surveillance audit were:

- Stock status for Faroe Plateau cod has been revised downwards, see ICES (2021a) advice on Faroe Plateau cod, and PI 1.1.1 has been rescored. This shows that the PI 1.1.1 for **Faroe Plateau cod does not meet SG60 and therefore FAIL.**
- Stock status for haddock, ling and tusk remain unchanged with biomass well above BMY proxy. Fishing mortality is still declining by the 2021 revision of the assessment adjusted the fishing mortality generally upward
- Harvest strategy and harvest control rule remained unchanged
- The stock assessment approach was unchanged for cod and haddock. Ling was introduced to a full age-based assessment. The SpiCT assessment of the tusk stock was found to show deficiencies at a benchmark. These changes did not trigger revision of the scoring (PI 1.2.4)
- Catch composition remains comparable to previous years
- The fishery covered the same grounds as in previous years
- The management setup is unchanged

- There are 4 conditions: Condition 1 was found to be 'BEHIND TARGET' while Conditions 2, 3 and 4 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 only rescoring of PI 1.1.1 for Faroe Plateau cod which now fails MSC assessment.
- 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 21st July 2017, and the fishery received their certification on 24th 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. 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 at Initial assessment were set as 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	UoC	PCR 2018 Ling and Tusk	Scope extension 2021 Cod and Haddock	Status 3 rd SA
Principle 1- Target species	UoC1-3 (Ling)	81.7		Unchanged
	UoC 4-6 (Tusk)	82.5		Unchanged
	UoC 7-9 (Cod)		88.3	FAIL
	UoC 10-12 (Haddock)		90.0	Unchanged
Principle 2- Ecosystem	UoC-1&4 (Ling, Tusk) Dem Trawl	82.7		Unchanged
	UoC-2&5 (Ling, Tusk) LL	85.0		Unchanged
	UoC-3&6 (Ling, Tusk) Jigs	85.7		Unchanged

Principle 3- Management System	UoC-7&10 (Cod, Haddock) Dem. trawl		83.7	Unchanged
	UoC-8 & 11 (Cod, Haddock LL		86.0	Unchanged
	UoC-9 & 12 (Cod, haddock) Jigs		86.7	Unchanged
	UoC 1-6 (Ling, Tusk)	93.3		Unchanged
	UoC 7-12 (Cod, Haddock)		93.3	Unchanged

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 11th 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 17th and 19th 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 2SA report where derogation 6 was applied at 2nd surveillance audit and cannot be used again. No new conditions were set at this audit.

3.2.4 Scope extension with Faroe Plateau Cod and Faroe Haddock 2021

The scope extension was announced on 18 October 2018, a site visit in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands was held 18-22 November 2019 and the PCR was published 1 September 2021. The eligibility date was 9th June 2021.

The cod and haddock fishery achieved a score of 80 or more for each of the three MSC Principles and did not score under 60 for any of the set MSC criteria. FCP v2.1 and FS v2.01 were used.

The cod and haddock fishery achieved a score of below 80 against 2 scoring indicators and 1 condition was set for all UoAs. The assessment team did not identify any issues that prevent the fishery from continuing with the scope extension of the cod and haddock fishery and the assessment team recommended the scope extension of cod and haddock to the tusk and ling certificate.

Derogation 6 can not be applied to the UoAs under the scope extension since the Scope extension was published after Derogation 6 was released.

3.2.5 Third annual surveillance 2022

The third surveillance audit was announced on the MSC website 12 April 2022 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.

The surveillance audit was carried out with remote off-site meetings conducted on 16th, 17th and 19th May 2022. The client, ministry of fisheries, VØRN Inspection services and Havstovan (science) were interviewed. No NGO had announced their interest.

Anniversary date for the certificate is 24th October, however certificate was extended and expires on 24th April. Timing for 3rd SA has been decided taking into consideration the timing of when the certificate expire and that date has been considered as “anniversary” date, as per requirements at FCPv2.2 Section 7.28.8.

The audit was performed as an offsite audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Process, version 2.2. The default assessment tree set out in the MSC Standard v 2.01 annex SA was used.

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 3rd surveillance audit include:

- The fisheries, in 2021 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
- Stock status for Faroe Plateau cod has been revised downwards, ICES (2021a) and PI 1.1.1 has been rescored. This shows that the **PI 1.1.1 for Faroe Plateau cod scores below the SG60 threshold and therefore fails.**
- Stock status for haddock, ling and tusk remain unchanged with biomass well above BMY proxy. Fishing mortality is still declining by the 2021 revision of the assessment adjusted the fishing mortality generally upward
- Harvest strategy and harvest control rule remained unchanged
- The stock assessment approach was unchanged for cod and haddock. Ling was introduced to a full age-based assessment. The SpiCT assessment of the tusk stock was found to show deficiencies at a benchmark. These changes did not trigger revision of the scoring (PI 1.2.4)
- Catch composition remains comparable to previous years
- The management setup is unchanged
- There are 4 conditions Condition 1 on Cod and haddock was found to be 'BEHIND TARGET' while the three other conditions 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 only rescoring of PI 1.1.1 for Faroe Plateau cod.
- Traceability issues are unchanged

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

The certificate for the Faroe Plateau cod is suspended.

Table 3 Conclusion

Fishery	FISF Faroe Islands cod, haddock, tusk and ling
Status of certification	Certified with the exception of the Faroe Plateau cod for which the certificate is suspended
Comment	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. The certificate for the Faroe Plateau cod is suspended

4 Report details

4.1 Surveillance information

Table 4 Surveillance information

1	Fishery name	
	FISF Faroe Islands cod, haddock, tusk and ling	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	UoA 1	Description
	Species	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)
	Stock	Ling in 5.b1 and 5.b2 (Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal trawl
	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
	Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: Faroese fishing zone: ICES division 5b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ. Stock region: ICES Division 5b
	UoA 2	Description
	Species	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)
	Stock	Ling in 5.b1 and 5.b2 (Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Long lines
	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
	Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: Faroese fishing zone: ICES division 5b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ Stock region: ICES Division 5b
	UoA 3	Description
	Species	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)
	Stock	Ling in 5.b1 and 5.b2 (Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Jigs
	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for ling within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.

Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: Faroese fishing zone: ICES division 5b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ. Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 4	Description
Species	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)
Stock	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in 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	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: Faroese fishing zone: ICES division 5b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 5	Description
Species	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)
Stock	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in 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	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: Faroese fishing zone: ICES division 5b, and a minute sector of ICES 6.a, all of which fall inside Faroese EEZ. Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 6	Description
Species	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>)
Stock	Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in 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)	Jigs
Client group	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Tusk within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds

	Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 7	Description
Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal trawl
Client group	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Cod within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 8	Description
Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Long line
Client group	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Cod within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 9	Description
Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Stock	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Jigs
Client group	FISF
Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Cod within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
UoA 10	Description
Species	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)
Stock	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal trawl

	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Haddock within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
	Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
	UoA 11	Description
	Species	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)
	Stock	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Long line
	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Haddock within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
	Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
	UoA 12	Description
	Species	Haddock (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
	Stock	Haddock (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)
	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Jigs
	Client group	FISF
	Other eligible fishers	Other eligible fishers are Faroese vessels fishing for Haddock within ICES Division 5.b1 and 5.b2 – Faroe Bank and Faroe Plateau and using the gears defined above. Only vessels who enter into the certificate sharing agreement with FISF could be allowed to use the certificate.
	Geographical area	FAO area: Northeast Atlantic area 27 Common name of the body of water: Faroe Grounds Local fisheries management area: ICES division 5b Stock region: ICES Division 5b
All UoAs are managed by Fisheries management authorities in Faroe Islands.		
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	24 October 2018	24 April 2024 (certificate extended 6 months by MSC Covid derogation 1, effective 27th March 2020)
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Surveillance level 3 (reduced surveillance), originally entailing 2 on-site and 2 off-site audits. 3rd surveillance was originally scheduled as on-site however MSC derogation 3 and COVID related travel restrictions allowed for an off-site audit.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	

	3rd Surveillance	X
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	
6	Surveillance team leader	
	<p>Lucia Revenga (Team leader, CoC responsible): 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • She has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment. • She understand the CoC standard and CoC certification requirements- pass MC's Traceability training module every 5 years. <p>She will participate in the off- site audit. Full CV is available upon request.</p>	
7	Surveillance team members	
	<p>Hans Lassen: Team member Principle 1, 2 and 3 (Fish stock assessment and biology/ Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems/ country knowledge).</p> <p>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 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 West Greenland shrimp, Greenland halibut and lumpfish, for Barents Sea 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>	

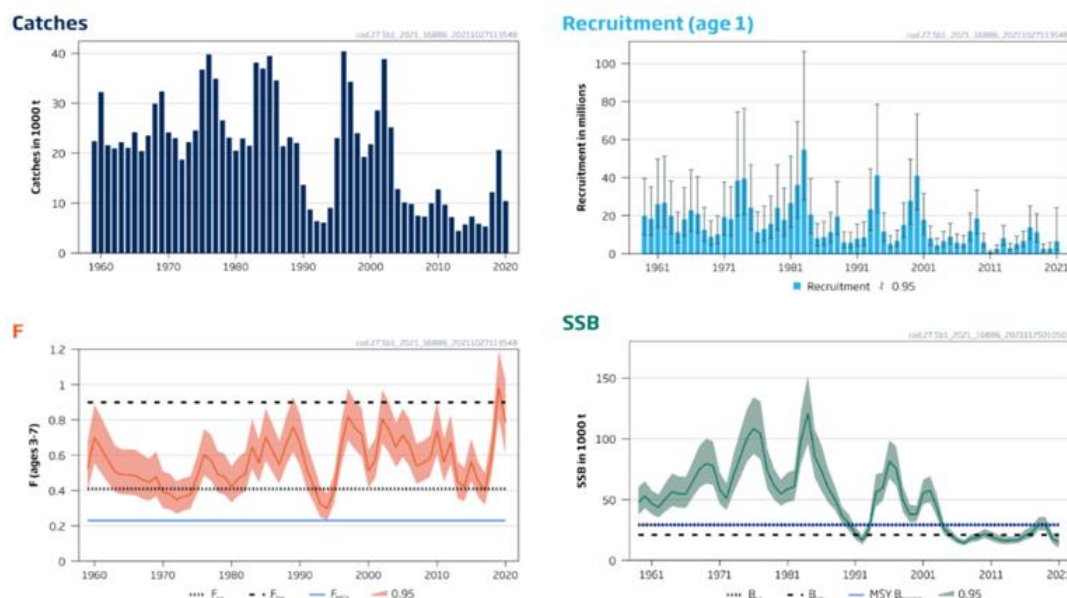
	<p>Team member's qualifications meet the competence criteria defined in Annex PC for the Team-member with expertise in Fish stock assessment and biology and country knowledge.</p> <p>Principle 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has a degree in a relevant subject. • He has passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years. • He has passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules. • He has 3 years' or more experience in stock assessment techniques comparable with techniques used by the fishery under assessment. • He is primary authorship of 2 peer-reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment. • He has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment. <p>Principle 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has a degree in a relevant subject. • He passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years. • He passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules. • He has 3 years' or more experience in the biology and population dynamics of the target species or species with similar biology. • He 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. <p>Principle 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has a degree in a relevant subject. • He has passed MSC's online training for fisheries team member within the last 5 years. • He has passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules. • He has 3 years' or more experience a practising fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant. • He has no conflict of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment. <p>Hans Lassen also meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • 2 assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years. <p>Team member will participate in the audit off-site. Full CV is available upon request.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	The remote off-site interviews by the assessment team were held on 16 th , 17 th and 19 th May 2022 via Microsoft TEAMS.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The key purpose of this surveillance audit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to review and evaluate the progress of the fishery against Conditions of Certification raised during the full assessment. • review any potential or actual changes in the management systems • review changes or additions / deletions to regulations • review any personnel changes in scientific staff, key management or industry to evaluate impact on the management of the fishery • review any potential changes to the scientific basis of information, including stock assessments. • Review any changes affecting traceability
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input to the annual surveillance process, were invited to contact DNV by 5 PM UTC on 14th May and provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Name and contact details b) Association with the fishery c) The issues they would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation) d) When they would like to meet <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: https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents/Index?search=stakeholder+input</p> <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 12 April 2022.</p>

4.2 Background

4.2.1 Stock Status

a. Cod in ICES 5.b1 (Faroe Plateau)

The most recent stock assessment was published in November (ICES 2021a), ICES (2021a). ICES (2021a) assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and between F_{pa} and F_{lim} , while spawning stock size is below MSY trigger, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} , Figure 1. The recruitment estimates for 2018-2020 have been revised downwards compared to the assessment published in 2020. The estimate of F in 2019 has been revised upwards in the 2021 assessment.



Cod in Subdivision 5.b.1. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches, recruitment, fishing mortality (F), and spawning-stock biomass (SSB).

Figure 1 Cod in ICES 5.b1 (Faroe Plateau). Stock status and stock trends. Source: ICES (2021a)

Stock status is assessed to be poorer than assessed at DNV (2021). **The stock is below B_{lim} and PI 1.1.1 is rescored.**

b. Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)

As for cod the most recent stock assessment was published in November 2021 (ICES 2021b). ICES (2021b) assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and between F_{pa} and F_{lim} ; spawning-stock size is above MSY trigger, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} , Figure 2. The estimates of F in recent years have been revised upwards, and the estimates of SSB have been revised downwards compared to the assessment conducted in 2020.

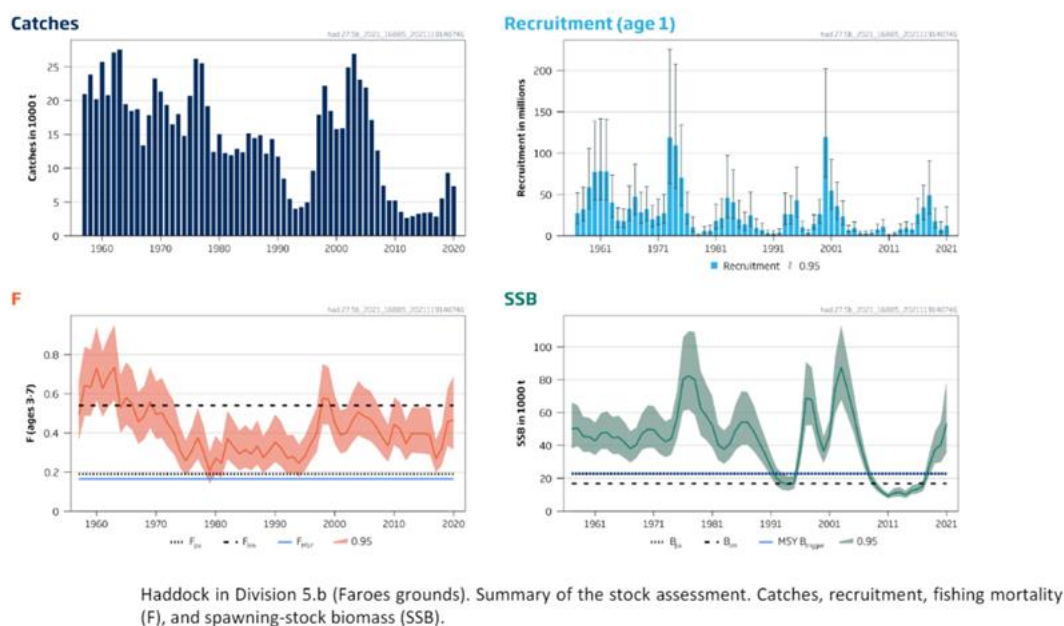


Figure 2 . Haddock in Faroe Grounds. Stock status and stock trends. Source: ICES (2021b).

The stock status is unchanged to that assessed at DNV (2021).

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

The Faroese ling stock is assessed a biennial schedule and the most recent ICES Advice is dated June 2022, ICES (2022). ICES (2022) finds that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY but below Fpa and Flim; spawning-stock size is above MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. Figure 3.

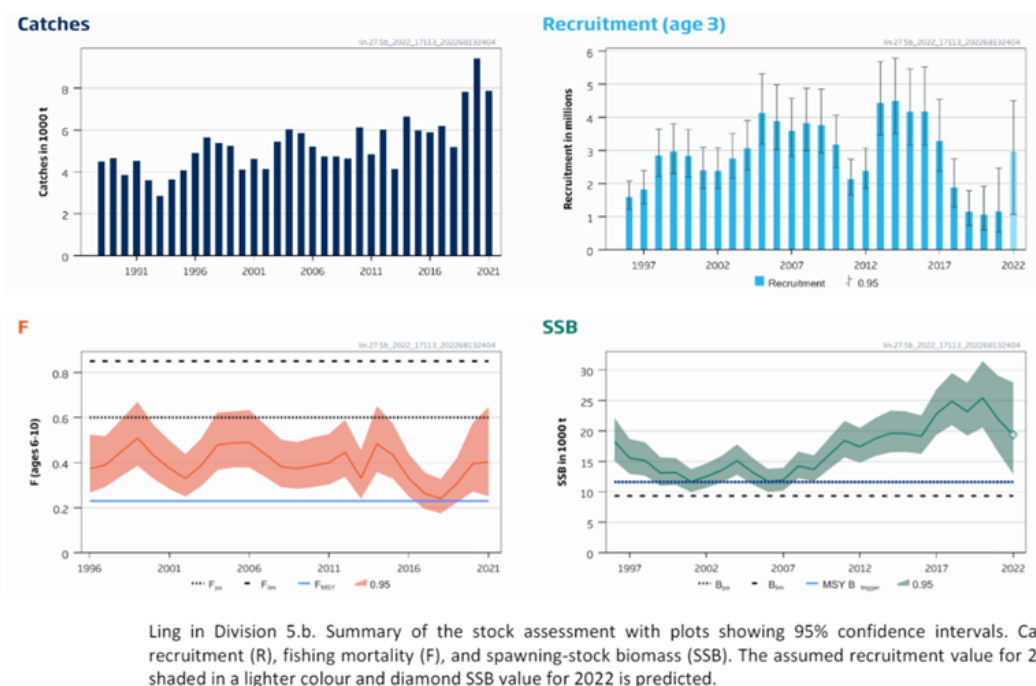


Figure 3 Ling in ICES 5.b. Stock status and trends. Source: ICES (2022a)

The stock assessment approach was changed and reference points were defined (see Table 5, ICES 2022a). The stock biomass remains at a high level, stock status is unchanged. The perception of stock status is unchanged of the revision of the assessment approach.

Table 5 Reference points for Ling in ICES 5.b. Source ICES (2022a)

	Value	Current estimate for 2022	Conclusion
Pri (Blim)	9 340	SSB 2022 = 15 125	SSB > Blim with a high degree of certainty
MSY	Bpa = 11 627	SSB 2022 = 15 125	Stock fluctuation around MSY
	FMSY = 0.23	F = 0.40	Fishing mortality above FMSY

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

As for ling, the tusk is assessed on a biennial schedule the most recent assessment was released June 2021, ICES (2021c). The stock assessment was benchmarked ICES (2021) ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because the reference points are undefined. The current assessment is based on a CPUE trends-based assessment (ICES, 2021c). The index applied by ICES, see Figure 4 and below section 4.2.3, is estimated to have increased by less than 20%. Stock status is unchanged.

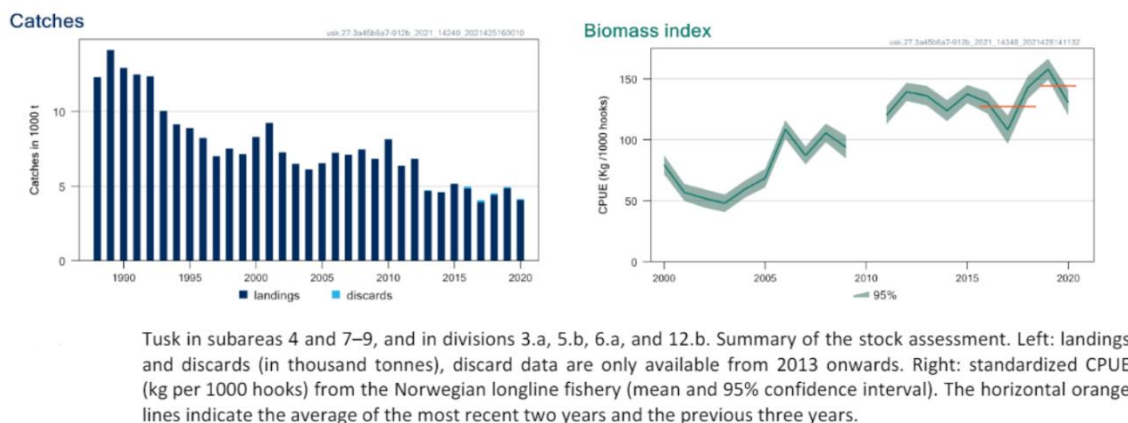


Figure 4 Tusk in the Northeast Atlantic. Stock status and stock trend. Source: ICES. (2021c)

4.2.2 Harvest Strategy and Harvest Control Rule

- a. Cod and Haddock

Faroe Plateau cod and Faroe haddock are caught in a mixed fishery. The application of the MSY approach as done by ICES implies reductions in fishing effort for both stocks in 2022 relative to recent years. Faroe Plateau cod is assessed to be below Blim in 2021, and the MSY approach implies a much larger reduction in fishing effort for cod than for haddock. The advice for 2022 for cod is based on a fishing mortality of 0.13. Fishing mortality on the stock has rarely been less than 0.4 in the past 60 years and was larger than 0.7 in the last three years. In 2021 the Faroese authorities implemented a management plan (Anon.,2019) with a control rule that regulates the number of fishing days for cod, haddock, and saithe in the Faroe Plateau fishery. The management plan has not been evaluated by ICES and therefore ICES bases its advice on the MSY approach.

There is no change in the Harvest strategy nor in the Harvest control rule as applied for cod and haddock.

- b. Ling and Tusk

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 and applied also in 2022. This limitation will affect the tusk and ling fisheries as well since the limitations are imposed on the vessel categories

There is no change in the Harvest strategy as applied for ling and tusk.

4.2.3 Stock assessment and Data

- a. Cod and Haddock

The assessment methodology remained unchanged based on an age-based analytical model SAM with catch-at-age data and age-disaggregated indices, using catches in the model and in the forecast (ICES, 2021d). The stock assessment for Faroe Plateau Cod is analytical, based on catch-at-age data and age-disaggregated indices, using catches in the model and in the forecast. The analytical approach is SAM (ICES, 2018). The assessment is based on Commercial catches, ages, and length frequencies from catch sampling; survey indices (FO-GFS-Q1 and FO-GFS-Q3); annual maturity data from FO-GFS-Q1; natural mortalities set at 0.2.

There is no change in the basis for the stock assessment nor in the assessment methodology.

b. Ling

The stock assessment of ling in 5b and 6a has been through an ICES benchmark, ICES (2021) and the results of the benchmark was adopted in the following advice process. This review also includes reconsiderations of the reference points. The stock assessment is now based on an Age-based analytical assessment (SAM; ICES, 2022d) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. This implies that a set of reference points has been defined. Figure 3, above, shows the results of stock status and stock trends. Reference points were defined, see Table 6.

Table 6 Reference points defined at Deep water stocks (including Faroese Ling) ICES (2021d)

Framework	Reference point		Value	Technical basis
MSY approach	MSY		11 627	Bpa; in tonnes
	Btrigger			
	FMSY		0.23	Stochastic simulations (EqSim) with segmented regression fixed at Blim
Precautionary Approach	Blim		9 340	Blim= Bpa/exp ($\sigma \times \text{SSB} \times 1.645$), $\sigma = 0.13$; in tonnes
	Bpa		11 627	Bpa=Bloss lowest observed SSB (2001) from benchmark; assessment; in tonnes
	Flim		0.85	The F that on average leads to Blim from Eqsim
	Fpa		0.60	The F that leads to SSB \geq Blim with 95% probability

The input data include as in previous years Commercial catches (mainly Faroese catches, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling); survey indices from the Faroese groundfish spring survey (G1264) and the Faroese groundfish summer survey (G3284); time invariant maturity ogive; natural mortalities set at 0.15

The change in the assessment methodology did not trigger a revision of the score for PI 1.2.4.

c. Tusk

The stock assessment was benchmark, ICES (2021) and the assessment based on the SPiCT model was found to be lacking and therefore the benchmark concluded that the reference points defined by WGDEEP based on the SPiCT assessment would not be adequate for advice on fisheries management.

The basis for the stock assessment was found to remain unchanged based on total international commercial catches and standardized CPUE data from the Norwegian longline fishery. ICES framework for category 3 stocks [Data poor stocks] was applied. The standardized CPUE series from the Norwegian longline fleet was used as index for the stock development. The advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with the three preceding values (index B), multiplied by the recent (2020–2020) advised catch.

The input data include as in previous years Total international commercial catches and standardized CPUE data from the Norwegian longline fishery

The change in the assessment methodology did not trigger a revision of the score for PI 1.2.4.

4.2.4 Impact on the ecosystem

The fishery is a mixed fishery targeting a range of demersal species (cod, haddock, ling tusk, saithe) where the mix varies with vessel group, see Table 10. The access to the fishing grounds varies with vessels group and the access rules have been unchanged for many years. No change was introduced in 2021 and the operation characteristics remained unchanged.

The catch composition remained as in previous years, see Table 10.

There are no reports of interactions with sea birds, marine mammals or sharks. 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 longlines was 12,864 t, which gives an estimate of 643 t of bait used in the same year. 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 as these fisheries account for landings > 500,000 tons each.

4.2.5 Impact on ETP on the Faroese Grounds

There are no reports of catch of ETP species in this fishery in 2021.

The investigation project in 2021 of impact on sea birds was implemented with observers on three trips on two long lining vessels; preliminary results suggests that the only species impacted in large numbers (app 95% of the birds impacted by long liners at the Faroese are fulmars with a total mortality in the range 2,000-10,000 birds. This is to be compared to an estimate of approx 600,000 pairs at the Faroe Islands.

The data do not include observations from the coastal fleet (Day boats, group 5).

4.2.6 Impact on habitats

The fishery fished the same grounds as in previous years, The system of grounds allowed for large trawlers and long-lines remained unchanged. The gears are unchanged.

4.2.7 Changes to the management system

After the change in 2019/2020 the management system has remained unchanged based on an effort control through fishing days. And described in detail by Anon (2019). Other aspects of the fisheries management, MCS activities, technical measures, reporting obligations remained as in previous years.

Compliance remained good (VØRN, pers. Comm.)

4.2.8 Changes to relevant regulations

Regulations pertaining to the Faroese Cod, haddock, ling and tusk fisheries remained unchanged

4.2.9 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry.

There is no change in key personnel involved with this fishery. Havstovan have taken over the responsibility for also the cetacean research from the Museum and the key researcher Bjarni Mikkelsen has followed the transfer.

4.2.10 Changes that impact Traceability

There are no changes in Traceability nor in Chain of Custody.

4.2.11 Status of Inseparable or practically inseparable stock (IPI)

Not relevant

4.3 Version details

Table 7 Fisheries program documents versions

Fisheries program documents versions	
Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	Version 2.2
MSC Fisheries Standard	Version 2.01
MSC General Certification Requirements	Version 2.4.1
Assessment tree version	Version 2.01
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	Version 2.1

5 Results

5.1 Surveillance results overview

5.1.1 Summary of conditions

The conditions deadline were subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation (27 March 2020) at 2nd Surveillance audit. Also, at 2nd SA MSC Derogation 6 was used allowing for certain conditions (as those in this fishery) to extend the timeframe to be met for 12 additional months. For this reason, milestone for year 2 has been evaluated at this 3rd SA for Conditions 2, 3 and 4.

Table 8 Summary of conditions

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	Well defined HCRs shall be implemented that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, so that the stock is expected to be kept fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY	PI 1.2.2.a	Behind target	75	Not revised
2	Ling: The effectiveness of the Harvest strategy shall be tested and it shall be demonstrated that the ling fishery will be conducted within sustainable limits	PI 1.2.2.a.b.c	On target	60	Not revised
3	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	60	Not revised
4	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 9 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data (N/R: Not relevant)

TAC		kg		
		2019	2020	2021
Cod	N/R	23.810.259	10.982.553	6.238.894
Haddock	N/R	9.374.472	7.272.620	6.963.685
Saithe	N/R	22.579.108	24.543.956	18.007.522
Ling	N/R	1.670.059	6.505.596	6.109.808
Tusk	N/R	5.193.652	1.499.360	1.359.246

Table 10 Catch composition for 2021 by gear. Source: Client

2021 - tons	Pair trawler (>500 HP)		Longliners (>110GT)		Smaller trawlers	Longliners & Jigs	Day Boats		Netting vessel	Total tons	%
Species	Gr 2	%	Gr 3	%	Gr 4T	Gr 4	Gr 5A	Gr 5B			
Cod	1229	4,9	1547	17,3	750	944	1472	298	0	6239	13,6
Haddock	714	2,8	1808	20,3	459	2085	1653	245	0	6964	15,2
Saithe	17507	69,5	48	0,5	143	31	228	50	0	18008	39,4
Redfish	1202	4,8	6	0,1	4	2	0	0	6	1220	2,7
Ling	1913	7,6	3511	39,4	136	487	46	13	3	6110	13,4
Tusk	96	0,4	1130	12,7	4	112	13	4	0	1359	3,0
Blue ling	774	3,1	60	0,7	2	4	0	0	15	856	1,9
Wolf fish	9	0,0	1	0,0	21	1	1	0	0	34	0,1
Whiting	238	0,9	34	0,4	45	44	59	8	0	427	0,9
Monkfish	383	1,5	712	8,0	578	224	10	1	0	1908	4,2
Greenland halibut	1100	4,4	64	0,7	1	8	0	0	681	1854	4,1
Lemon Sole	6	0,0	0	0,0	359	0	0	0	0	365	0,8
Plaice	11	0,0	1	0,0	380	1	1	0	0	394	0,9
Grenadiers	13	0,1	0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0,0
Halibut	6	0,0	4	0,0	1	2	2	1	0	16	0,0
Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,0
Total	25196	100	8922	100	2882	3942	3483	619	706	45751	100
% of total catch	55,1%		19,5		6,3	8,6	7,6	1,4	1,5	100,0	
By-catch	3744	14,9	882		1391	285	73	10	702	7088	
By-catch (%)	14,9%		9,9		48,3	7,2	2,1	1,6	99,5	15,5	

By-catch are species not bolded

Table 11 English and scientific names for species in catch statistics

English name	Scientific name
Cod	Gadus morhua
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus
Saithe	Pollachius virens
Redfish	Sebastes spp
Ling	Molva molva
Tusk	Brosme brosme
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia
Wolf fish	Anarchias spp
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus
Monkfish	Lophius piscatorius
Greenland halibut	Reinhardtius hippoglossoides
Lemon sole	Microstomus kitt
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa
Grenadiers	Coryphaenoides rupestris
Halibut	Hippoglossus hippoglossus
Porbeagle	Lamna nasus

5.1.3 Recommendations

Table 12 Recommendations

Number	Performance Indicator	Recommendation	Progress
1	2.1.3	It is recommended that catches of redfish and grenadiers are specified to the species level (if possible).	1SA (2020): There are no changes in the VØRN database. 2SA (2021): There are no change in the VØRN database 3SA There are no changes in the VØRN database
2	2.2.2	It is recommended that the client considers the sustainability of the bait stocks when purchasing bait species.	1SA (2020): The Client is considering the bait issue as part of its business strategy. 2SA (2021): Information on bait has been provided 3SA (2022). Status as in 2021
3	2.2.3	It is recommended that interactions with elasmobranchs (sharks, rays and skates) and with all bird species are recorded, and that information on the impact of the UoA on these species is updated.	1SA (2020): The general improvement of the statistics (Condition 2) includes also initiative to improve statistics for these species groups. 2SA (2021): No further action 3 SA (2022) No further action.

5.2 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Because of the revision of the stock assessment ICES (2021a) the scoring of PI 1.1.1 for Faroe Plateau cod is revised.

Table 13 PI 1.1.1 Cod at the Faroe Plateau – Stock status

PI 1.1.1		The stock is at a level which maintains high productivity and has low probability of recruitment overfishing		
Scoring issue		SG60	SG80	SG100
a	Guide post	It is likely that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired (PRI)	It is highly likely that the stock is above the PRI	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock is above the PRI
	Met?	Yes No	No	No
Rationale	<p>Original The stock status is assessed based on an analytical age-based assessment (SAM). The lower 2.5% limit (19,820 t) is found for the SSB (2020a) to be below Blim (21 kt). The SSB estimate is lognormal distributed with a S.E. of 0.185. Blim is used as the PRI reference point relevant for this stock. SG60 is met. SG80 is met. SG100 is met.</p> <p>Revised 2022 The stock status is based on an analytical age-based assessment (SAM). ICES (2021a) assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is above FMSY and between Fpa, and Flim, while spawning stock size is below MSY Btrigger, Bpa, and Blim. Blim is used as the PRI reference point relevant for this stock.</p> <p>The estimates are SSB(2022)= 17,289 tonnes and F(2021) = 0.43; to be compared to Blim = 21,000 tonnes and FMSY = 0.23. Discarding is considered negligible. SG60, SG80 and SG100 are not met.</p>			
b	Guide post		The stock is at or fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock has been fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY or has been above this level in recent years
	Met?		No	No
Rationale	<p>Unchanged scoring The BMSY reference point is not defined for the cod stock, ICES (2021a). The MSY Btrigger point (29,226 t) is set equal to Bpa. This suggests that the BMSY is around 41 kt (1.4*MSY Btrigger), see MSC interpretation, 30-Aug-2018, Scoring-stock-status-against-Bmsy-for-ICES-stocks-PI-1-1-1-1527262010506) and the 2022 estimate of SSB (28.5 kt) is below this point. The adopted management plan then prescribes a reduction of 5% of the number of fishing days. This was implemented for 2021 and 2022. The simulations that are presented as background for the proposed management plan Anon (2019) appendix 3, suggests that the fishing mortality may be used as a proxy for judging if the stock is at MSY level or not, cf FCR v2.01 SA 2.2.4. F has been constantly (1959-2020), above FMSY. The SSB reached in 2019 the likely BMSY level but in 2020 the SSB level is below this reference point and because the stock has been fished above FMSY levels for more than 50 years, Fishing mortality on the stock has rarely been less than 0.4 in the past 60 years and was larger than 0.7 in the last three years; the stock is not considered to be fluctuating at a level consistent with MSY. SG80 is not met. SG100 is not met.</p>			
References				
ICES (2021a) Faroe Plateau cod Advice Anon (2019) Report from the WG on Management Plan				
Stock status relative to reference points				

	Type of reference point	Value of Reference point	Current stock status relative to reference point
Reference point used in scoring stock relative to PRI (Sia)	Blim Flim	21,000 tonnes 0.90	SSB (2022) =17,289 tonnes CI [14,085; 22,323] tonnes F (2021) = 0.43
Reference point used in scoring stock relative to MSY (Sib)	MSY Btrigger Bpa FMSY Fpa	29,226 tonnes 29,226 tonnes 0.23 0.41	
Overall Performance Indicator scores			<60 FAIL
Condition number			

5.3 Conditions

5.3.1 Closed Conditions

N/A

5.3.2 Progress against conditions

Table 14 Condition 1: 1.2.2.a (Cod and Haddock)

Performance Indicator	PI 1.2.2.a 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.
Score	75
Justification	<p>The Harvest Control Rule embedded in the Management Plan is described in sections 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 and in justification for PI 1.2.2.a. There is a combined rule for cod and haddock. Furthermore, as the saithe targeting fleet (Bolkur 2) is taking significant by-catch of cod and haddock the management Plan and the Harvest Control Rule account for these by-catches.</p> <p>The Harvest Control Rule continues the 'fishing days' system that has been practised in the Faroese Fisheries since 1996.</p> <p>Havstovan has presented a computer simulation study of the performance of the harvest control rule. This study demonstrates that the HCR is precautionary in the ICES sense, i.e. the calculated probability that the SSB falls below Blim is less than 5%.</p> <p>The Plan is expected to reduce the exploitation rate as Blim is approached. This is done through regulation of the total number of allocation fishing days (as a proxy for fishing mortality) in response to the stock status as inferred by annual stock assessments of cod, haddock and saithe. SG60 is met.</p> <p>The plan is well-defined and computer simulations demonstrate that the stocks (cod, haddock and saithe) are expected to fluctuate around a level that is at or slightly below BMSY. However, the simulations do not account for uncertainties in the assessment process. The study indicates that the stock is fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY but because of the uncertainty with how the result is influenced by the assessment error the team concluded that SG80 is not met.</p>
Condition	Well defined HCRs shall be implemented that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, so that the stock is expected to be kept fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY
Condition start	2021
Condition deadline	4 th Surveillance after scope extension (this is, 2 nd surveillance after Reassessment). 4 th SA expected to take place in 2025.
Milestones	<p>Year 1 (2022): Present evidence that the peer review has been initiated. Interim score: 75.</p> <p>Year 2 (2023): Present the result of the peer review and potential consequences for the Management Plan. Interim score: 75.</p> <p>Year 3 (2024): Present the conclusions of the Faroes Authorities with respect to possible modifications of the management plan. Interim score: 75</p> <p>Year 4 (2025): Implement appropriate modifications to the harvest control rule, if deficiencies are identified. Score 80.</p>

	<p>If milestones are met at earlier stage the condition can be closed.</p> <p>The actions required to close the conditions lie with the Havstovan and Faroese relevant authorities and are therefore out of the client's direct control. Within that constraint the milestones will allow for an appropriate plan to close the conditions</p>	
Progress on Condition (Year 1)	<p><i>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.</i></p>	
	Year 1. 2022	Behind target. The peer review has not been initiated.
	Year 2	N/R
	Year 3	N/R
	Year 4	N/R
	Insert additional years if relevant	
Progress status	The condition is 'behind target' The required peer review has not been initiated	
<u>Revised milestones</u>	<p>Year 2 (2023) : The Client shall demonstrate that the peer reviews and an analysis of possible deficiencies in the harvest control rule has been initiated.</p> <p>Year 3: (2024): Present the result of the peer review and potential consequences for the Management Plan together with the conclusions of the Faroes Authorities with respect to possible modifications of the management plan. Interim score: 75</p> <p>Year 4 (2025): Implement if deficiencies are identified, appropriate modifications to the harvest control rule. Score 80.</p>	
Covid 19 derogation (if applicable)	The condition deadline was subject to a 6-month extension in accordance with Covid-19 Derogation 27 March 2020. Derogation 6 allowing for 12 extra months to meet certain conditions cannot be used for Condition 1 since the Scope extension was published after the release of MSC Derogation 6.	
Additional information	N/A	

Table 15 Condition 2 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 th Surveillance Revised as By 1st surveillance after re-certification (MSC Derogation 6 was applied at 2nd SA extending condition deadline).	
Original 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>	
Progress on Condition (Year X)	<p><i>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.</i></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 vessel groups 2-5. Has been active in progressing towards the management plan.</p> <p>Derogation 6 was applied. The condition is On Target.</p>
	Year 3	<p>Derogation 6 was applied at the 2nd surveillance audit. Therefore, the relevant milestone is the one for year 2. "Year 2: The HCR shall be consulted with all involved parties. The HCR shall be revised to reflect input from these hearings."</p> <p>No progress has been reported with management of the ling-tusk fisheries. since the implementation of the Cod-Haddock-Saithe plan for 2021 and 2022. Studies that might demonstrate that exploitation of ling is satisfactory covered by the management plan have not been presented.</p>
	Year 4	N/A
	Insert additional	

	years if relevant	
Progress status	<p>A management plan has been adopted after extensive consultations. This plan also covers the fishery for ling and tusk. The condition is 'ON TARGET'.</p> <p>However, it is not demonstrated that this plan will assure that the ling – tusk fishery is within sustainable limits and the condition will not be closed until there is evidence that the Management Plan is precautionary also for the Ling and Tusk fisheries.</p>	
Remedial action	N/R	
Additional information	N/R	

Table 16 Condition 3 Harvest Control Rule (Tusk)

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 tusk 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 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. 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 th Surveillance Revised as By 1st surveillance after re-certification (MSC Derogation 6 was applied at 2nd SA extending condition deadline).
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 tusk in 5.b.</p> <p>Year 4: The HCRs shall be implemented.</p>
Progress on Condition (Year X)	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	<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 ling and tusk 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 ling and tusk 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 Ling and tusk 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 vessel groups 2-5. Has been active in progressing towards the management plan.</p> <p>Derogation 6 was applied. The condition is On Target.</p>
	Year 3	<p>Derogation 6 was applied at the 2nd surveillance audit. Therefore, the relevant milestone is the one for year 2. "Year 2: The HCR shall be consulted with all involved parties. The HCR shall be revised to reflect input from these hearings. "</p> <p>No progress has been reported with management of the ling-tusk fisheries. since the implementation of the Cod-Haddock-Saithe plan for 2021 and 2022. Studies that might demonstrate that exploitation of tusk is satisfactory covered by the management plan have not been presented.</p>
	Year 4	N/A
	Insert additional years if relevant	
Progress status	<p>A management plan has been adopted that also covers the fishery for ling and tusk. The condition is 'ON TARGET'.</p> <p>However, it is not demonstrated that this plan will assure that the ling – tusk fishery is within sustainable limits and the condition will not be closed until there is evidence that the Management Plan is precautionary also for the Ling and Tusk fisheries.</p>	
Remedial action	N/R	
Additional information	N/R	

Table 17 Condition 4 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	<p>Original condition 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.</p> <p>Condition is reworded to better reflect the requirements by the Scoring Issue a.</p> <p>Revised Condition 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.</p>	
Condition start	December 2018	
Condition deadline	By 4 th Surveillance Audit	
Milestones	<p>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.</p> <p>Year 2-4: The Client shall present data collected from the fisheries together with an assessment of the impact on the ETP populations.</p>	
Progress on Condition (Year X)	<p><i>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.</i></p>	
	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</p>

		demersal fishery may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species. 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. The condition is on target
	<i>Year 3</i>	The group in the Nature Museum was transferred to Havstovan and the projects are running under the auspices of Havstovan and the Museum is no longer involved. Havstovan has run a project focusing on collecting information on by-catch of sea birds and have presented preliminary results. The condition is 'ON Target'
	<i>Year 4</i>	N/R
	<i>Insert additional years if relevant</i>	
Progress status	Preliminary results of Havstovan led project on documenting by-catch of sea birds was presented. The milestone requires "The Client shall present data collected from the fisheries together with an assessment of the impact on the ETP populations." The results showed that fulmars were far dominating the by-catches and the estimated by-catches were compared with estimates of the breeding populations of fulmars. The condition is 'ON TARGET'	
Remedial action	N/R	
Additional information	N/R.	

5.4 Client Action Plan

The Client Action Plan for condition 1 should be extended with a plan for remedial action of Condition 1 as this is scored 'behind target'.

Table 18 Original CAP

1	PI 1.2.2.a Harvest Control Plan Rule (Cod and Haddock)	Client Action	FISF as client will chase Havstovan and/or the Ministry to send the assessment model for cod, haddock and saithe to peer review by other scientific institution (as ICES) and to confirm if the management plan can be considered as sustainable and includes management measures to apply if/when the stock biomass is reduced.
		Actions	Year 1 (2022): FISF as client will chase Havstovan and/or the Ministry to send the assessment model for cod, haddock and saithe to peer review by other scientific institution (as ICES) and to confirm if the management plan can be considered as sustainable and includes management measures to apply if/when the stock biomass is reduced. Document letter/meeting with Havstovan and/or the Ministry of Fishery. Year 2 (2023): Results from assessment from a scientific institution. Year 3 (2024): Finally adopted management plan, accepted by scientific institution and/or a modified management plan adopted.
2	PI 1.2.2.a.b.c Harvest Control Plan Rule (Ling)	Client Action	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)
		Actions	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. 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 PI 1.2.2b will be rescored and the condition hopefully closed.
3	PI 1.2.2.a.b.c Harvest Control Plan Rule (Tusk)	Client Action	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)
		Actions	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. 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 PI 1.2.2b will be rescored and the condition hopefully closed.
4	PI 2.3.3.a ETP species information	Client Action Plan	Initiate actions with Havstovan and the fishing fleet to improve data collection.

Actions	<p>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 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>
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5.5 Revised CAP for Condition 1.

Condition 1: Well defined HCRs shall be implemented that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, so that the stock is expected to be kept fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. Applies to cod and haddock stocks.

Revised milestones for Condition 1:

- **Year 2 (2023) :** The Client shall demonstrate that the peer reviews and an analysis of possible deficiencies in the harvest control rule has been initiated.
- **Year 3: (2024):** Present the result of the peer review and potential consequences for the Management Plan together with the conclusions of the Faroes Authorities with respect to possible modifications of the management plan. Interim score: 75
- **Year 4 (2025):** Implement if deficiencies are identified, appropriate modifications to the harvest control rule. Score 80.

Revised CAP for Condition 1:

- **Year 2 (2023):** Client will seek cooperation with authorities to establish regular cooperation with ICES for review of management plans.
- **Year 3 (2024):** Present the result of the peer review and potential consequences for the Management Plan together with the conclusions of the Faroes Authorities with respect to possible modifications of the management plan.
- **Year 4 (2025):** Implement, if deficiencies are identified, appropriate modifications to the harvest control rule.

6 Appendices

6.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

6.1.1 Site visits

The surveillance audit was carried out with remote off-site meetings conducted on 16th, 17th and 19th May 2022. The client, ministry of fisheries, VØRN Inspection services and Havstovan (science) were interviewed. No NGO had announced their interest.

The surveillance audit was conducted covering several surveillance audits in relation to 3 different Faroese MSC fisheries:

- Faroe Islands NEA cold water prawn fishery (bottom trawling in the Barents Sea)
- FISF Faroe Islands saithe fishery (trawling, longline and jigging vessels in Faroese waters)
- FISF Faroe Islands cod, haddock, ling and tusk fishery (trawling, longline and jigging vessels in Faroese waters)

Hans Lassen is the expert hired for the projects on saithe, cod, haddock, tusk and ling, and Julian Addison is the expert hired for the project of Barents Sea prawn.

Stakeholder meetings are listed in Table 19.

Table 19 Stakeholder meetings

Date	Meeting	Participants
16 th May 2022 10.30-11.30	Client (FISF) Opening	Durita í Grótinum (client representative)
17 th May 2022 10.30-11.30	Ministry of Fisheries Fishing Inspections Services	Ulla Svarrer Wang: Ministry of Fisheries Meinhard Gaardlykke: Fishing Inspection Services (VØRN)
19 th May 2022 10.30-12.00	Havstovan (Research institution)	Petur Steingrund (Havstovan researcher on demersal species) Jóhannis Danielsen (Havstovan, seabird ecologist)
19 th May 2022 12.30-13.30	Client (FISF) Closing	Durita í Grótinum (client representative)

6.1.2 Stakeholder participation

Neither written nor oral stakeholder submissions were received during consultation opportunities after announcement.

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 Revised surveillance program

N/A

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 20 Overlapping fisheries

Fishery name	Certification status and date	Performance Indicators to harmonise
FISF saithe	Certified 15.06.2013	Principle 2 Principle 3
FISF Greater silver smelt	Certified	Principle 3

6.5 References

- Act on the Management of Marine Resources, 2019. Løgtingslóg um sjófeingi, sum seinast broytt við løgtingslóg nr. 152 frá 23. desember 2019 (Sjófeingislógin). Latest change Løgtingslóg nr. 186 frá 18. desember 2020 um sjófeingi [Faroe law on exploitation of the commercial marine resources] <https://logir.fo/Logtingslog/152-fra-23-12-2019-um-sjofeingi>
- Anon. 2019. Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarætlan. Frágreiðing og tilmæli frá arbeiðsbólkinum at gera uppskot til umsitingarætlan og at eftirmeta skipanina í fiskiskapinum eftir botnfiski undir Føroyum (Fisheries management plan and harvest control rule for cod, haddock and saithe in Faroese waters) (in Faroese). https://lms.cdn.fo/media/12444/fiskidagaskipan-og-umsitingar%C3%A6tlan-fr%C3%A1grei%C3%B0ing-fr%C3%A1-arbei%C3%B0sb%C3%B3lki-mai-2019.pdf?s=k4aSmLc1W4eXb_RidnITC-WYwDA
- DNV. 2021. FISF Faroe Islands Ling and Tusk, scope extension with cod and haddock fisheries. Public Certification Report. Authors: Anna Kiseleva, Hans Lassen, Lucia Revenga. 1 September 2021.
- ICES. 2018. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Faroese Stocks (WKFAROE 2017), 13–17 February 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:33. 239 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5687>.
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7 Template information and copyright

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A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (msc.org).

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