Global Trust Certification

Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine

MSC Surveillance Announcement

16 July 2021

1. Introduction

MSC certification requires regular surveillance audits of all certified fisheries and this Announcement marks the start of a surveillance audit of the above fishery. Global Trust Certification (hereafter Global Trust) is required to submit this announcement for posting on the MSC website at least 30 days before the audit activities are carried out.

The information Global Trust is required to provide when formally announcing annual surveillance activities, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

2. Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Unit of Assessment (UoA) 1 (of 1)	
	Common across all UoAs	
	Species:	*Brevoortia tyrannus*
	Common name(s):	Atlantic menhaden
	Geographical Area:	US EEZ Atlantic Coast (Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware Maryland, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida)
	Stock(s):	Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) in western coastal Atlantic waters (Nova Scotia to Florida)
	Fishing methods:	Purse seine
	Management System:	When operating in State waters, the fishery is managed by the respective state authorities with inter-state coordination via the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). ▪ **Virginia (VA) –** Virginia General Assembly. ▪ **North Carolina (NC) –** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Division of Marine Fisheries. ▪ **New Jersey (NJ) –** Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Fish and Wildlife. ▪ **Maine (ME) –** Department of Marine Resources (DMR)**.** ▪ **New Hampshire (NH) –** Fish and Game Department, Division of Marine Fisheries. ▪ **Massachusetts (MA) –** Department of Fish and Game, Division of Marine Fisheries. ▪ **Rhode Island (RI) –** Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Fish and Wildlife. ▪ **Connecticut (CT) –** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries. ▪ **New York (NY) –** Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Marine Resources. ▪ **Delaware (DE) –** Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish and Wildlife. ▪ **Maryland (MD) –** Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries and Boating Services. ▪ **Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC)** ▪ **South Carolina (SC) –** Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Marine Resources ▪ **Georgia (GA) –** Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Coastal Resources ▪ **Florida (FL) –** Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Division of Marine Fisheries Management.
	Client Group and other eligible fishers*:	Omega Protein Corporation, Alpha VesselCo Holdings, Inc. vessels and other named bait vessels. Other eligible fishers are other professional fishermen in the US Atlantic entitled to fish Atlantic menhaden with purse seines.
	*Includes any other eligible fishers that are outside the Unit of Certification	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	03/09/2019	03/03/2025
4	Surveillance level and type	

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

	Surveillance level: Surveillance level 6 *'Default* surveillance' **Surveillance type:** Off-site surveillance audit While the surveillance level for the fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the PCR, the programme has changed slightly in that the site visit will be conducted remotely due to travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. As this is the only amendment, an updated surveillance programme has not been provided.	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	X
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	Sam Dignan ***(Team leader and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 2: Environmental impact of fishing and Traceability)*** Sam meets the competency criteria for team leaders outlined in MSC FCP v2.2 7.28.14.1 – 7.28.14.3; he has: ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ >3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team leader training within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Passed an appropriate ISO Lead Auditor training course as required by MSC requirements. With respect to his additional duties under Principle 2, he has: ▪ >3 years' experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) Bycatch and ii) Habitats. With respect to his additional duties as the team member with primary responsibility for Traceability, he has: ▪ Passed the MSC's traceability module within the last 5 years as well as new versions of online training modules where relevant. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC's traceability requirements at least annually where relevant. A summary of Sam's CV is provided in Appendix 1. Sam does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be off-site during this assessment.	
7	Proposed team members	
	Maciej Tomczak ***(Team member and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 1: Sustainable target fish stocks)*** Maciej meets the fishery team member qualification and competency criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has: ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. With respect to his additional duties under Principle 1, Maciej has: ▪ >3 years' experience applying relevant stock assessment techniques used by the fishery under assessment. ▪ >3 years' experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or similar species. A summary of Maciej's CV is provided in Appendix 1. Maciej does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be off-site during this assessment.	

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.	
	R.J. (Bob) Allain ***(Team member and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 3: Effective management)*** Bob meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has: ▪ A degree in a relevant subject ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 3 years ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. With respect to his additional duties under Principle 3, Bob has: ▪ 5 years or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst. ▪ 2 assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years. A summary of Bob's CV is provided in Appendix 1. Bob does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be off-site during this assessment.
8	Audit/review time and location
	Dates of surveillance activities Global Trust is required to allow at least 30 days for stakeholders to provide comments prior to conducting the actual audit activities. Additionally, the various time zones for the participating parties (UTC+2 – UTC-5) mean that on any particular there is only a short 'window' that falls within normal business hours for all parties. Given the above, it is Global Trust's intention to conduct the audit activities within a 2-week window from **Monday, 16 – Friday, 27 August 2021**. **Dates of surveillance activities** Within the above window, Global Trust will endeavour to schedule meetings at times that are mutually acceptable to all parties. In this regard, Global Trust will try not to schedule meetings to begin before 09:00 hrs or end after 18:00 hrs for any party. Where necessary, assessment team members may be required to work later to facilitate stakeholder engagement. **Location activities will be carried out** Audit activities will be carried out remotely from the home offices/offices of the assessment team members. Activities will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or other conferencing programmes as appropriate.
9	Assessment and review activities
	During the assessment, the team will review: – Any potential or actual changes in management systems. – Any changes or additions/deletions to regulations. – Any personnel changes in science, management or industry with the potential to impact the management of the fishery. – Any potential changes to scientific information, including stock assessments. – Any changes affecting traceability. The team will also evaluate progress against any open conditions and, if necessary, rescore relevant Performance Indicator(s).
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	As part of this surveillance audit, the following stakeholder opportunities are available: ▪ Stakeholders may submit written input using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which is available here. ▪ Stakeholders may also consult directly with the assessment team during the period specified in 8. Audit/review time and location above. Further information on Stakeholder input opportunities is provided in 3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits opportunities below.

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits

During surveillance audits, CABs are required to seek the views of relevant parties. With this in mind, Global Trust wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to provide written information relevant to the surveillance audit process and/or consult directly with the audit team.

Prior to participating, stakeholders should familiarise themselves with the MSC process using the resources provided on the MSC's website: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment.

Global Trust would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. With this being said, information that they cannot be shared with all stakeholders cannot be referenced in an assessment or used in determining assessment outcomes unless it relates to; a) financial transactions about certification, b) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or c) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client's country.

3.1 Submitting written information

Please note that Global Trust can only accept written stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' which can be found on the MSC website here: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment.

When submitting information, stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact.

In order for your written submissions to be considered as part of this audit, you must:

1. Use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments.
2. Submit it by **17:00 UTC** on **Sunday, 15 August 2021**.
3. Send it to Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org

3.2 Consulting directly with the audit team

As part of this audit, the audit team will be available for direct consultations with stakeholders during the period specified in the "Audit/review time and location" Section of Table 1 above.

If you would like to consult directly with the audit team during this period, please advise us of your interest in doing so by:

1. Contact us at Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org.
2. **17:00 UTC** on **Sunday, 15 August 2021**.
3. Provide at least the following details when doing so:
   - Your name and contact details.
   - Your association with the fishery.
   - The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Surveillance Audit Team Leader: Sam Dignan (Team leader and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 2: Environmental impact of fishing and Traceability)

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a BSc in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organizations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions. Sam is an ISO approved lead auditor and is Global Trust's Scheme Manager for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seaweed.

Sam was the Lead Assessor for the initial assessment of this fishery so is already very familiar with the specifics of the fishery.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: Dr. Maciej Tomczak (Team member and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 1: Sustainable target fish stocks)

Maciej T. Tomczak has over 15 years' experience in fisheries research, stock assessment, food-web modelling and ecosystem-based fisheries management. Through his work as chair of ICES Working Group of Integrated Assessment of the Baltic Sea, membership of number of other ICES EG, he has a vital role in the provision of scientific advice to the ICES. His work also includes innovative analysis and synthesis of scientific knowledge and communication it into the right place in the management process as well as intergradation of scientific data and expertise to evaluate fisheries management plans and processes in a broader ecosystem context. He has worked closely with ICES, HELCOM and Swedish HaV as they progress ecosystem-based fisheries management. Maciej Tomczak has previously carried out MSC assessment work for a fishery in Iceland and has been heavily involved in assisting the North Sea herring fishery audits as an MSC P1 assessor. M.T. Tomczak has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery.

Surveillance Audit Team Member: R.J. (Bob) Allain, Team member and assessor with primary responsibility for Principle 3: Effective management

R. J. (Bob) Allain is the president and principal consultant of OceanIQ Management Services Inc. He is a former senior executive with over 30 years' experience with Canada's Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in fisheries management, strategic policy development and analysis, program design and delivery, human and financial resources management, media and inter-governmental relations, facilitation and conflict resolution, and mentoring. He has consulted internationally for the Canadian International Development Agency, the (former) International Centre for Ocean Development, the World Bank, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Bob has participated in several Atlantic Canadian pelagic, demersal, and crustacean fishery assessments under the MSC Standard since 2010 as a P3 expert, auditor, client representative and peer reviewer.

Bob was part of the assessment team for the initial assessment of this fishery and so is already very familiar with the specifics of the fishery.

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance programme for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the Public Certification Report. As such the most up-to-date fishery surveillance programme may be viewed in the Public Certification Report.

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification's corporate identity, Global Trust has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.1' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2020. All rights reserved.

Table 2. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue.
1.1	12 June 2015	Appendix 2 with surveillance frequency Table added.
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1.
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability.
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2.

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

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