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## Shetland & Scottish Mainland Rope Grown Enhanced Mussel



### Surveillance Report

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Lloyd's Register
Assessment team	Rod Cappell & Bert Keus
Fishery client	The Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group & Seafood Shetland
Assessment Type	Second Surveillance



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## 1 Glossary

ASSG	Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers
FCP	Fisheries Certification Process
FCR	Fisheries Certification Requirements
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas
PISG	Performance Indicator Scoring Guideline
RBF	Risk Based Framework
SIC	Shetland Islands Council
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SOTEAG	Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group
SSMG	Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group

## 2 Executive summary

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual surveillance audit for the MSC-Certified Shetland & Scottish Mainland Rope Grown Enhanced Mussel fishery. The audit was carried out in June 2019 under v2.1 of the Fishery Certification Process (FCP) by two assessors and was conducted “off-site”.

The Shetland & Scottish Mainland Rope Grown Enhanced Mussel fishery was first certified against the MSC Standard in 2012 and was re-certified in 2017 following a re-assessment of the fishery. No conditions of certification were raised by the assessment team when the fishery was re-certified.

This surveillance audit found that no relevant changes in this fishery, its management system, regulations, personnel involved, scientific base of information nor its position in relation to scope criteria have taken place.

Seafood Shetland continues to collate reporting of eider sightings at farms, which is contributing to research on the species.

The team found no information that would warrant re-scoring of performance indicators.

We conclude that the fishery meets the requirements of the MSC Standard, and that **MSC Certification should continue with annual audits.**

### 2.1 Scope of Surveillance

This report outlines the findings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Surveillance of the Shetland and Scottish mainland rope grown mussel enhanced fishery. The scope of the certified fishery and therefore of this surveillance is specified in the Units of Certification (UoC) set out below:

UoA 1:

<b>Species:</b>	Blue Mussel ( <i>Mytilus spp.</i> )
<b>Stock:</b>	Blue Mussel (spp.) wild stock of the Shetland Islands
<b>Geographical area:</b>	The Shetland Islands, North-east Atlantic, within FAO Statistical Area 27 and ICES area IVa.
<b>Harvest method:</b>	Rope
<b>Client Group:</b>	Seafood Shetland (incorporating Shetland Fish Processors and Shellfish Growers) members harvesting rope grown mussels in the Shetland Islands.
<b>Other Eligible Fishers:</b>	None

UoA 2:

<b>Species:</b>	Blue Mussel ( <i>Mytilus spp.</i> )
<b>Stock:</b>	Blue Mussel (spp.) wild stock in Scottish waters
<b>Geographical area:</b>	Scottish coastal waters ranging from Argyll to Sutherland, within FAO Statistical Area 27 and ICES area VIa
<b>Harvest method:</b>	Rope
<b>Client Group:</b>	Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG) members harvesting rope grown mussels in Scottish coastal waters.
<b>Other Eligible Fishers:</b>	None

#### 2.1.1 Confirmation of Scope

The fishery was considered to be “in scope” for MSC certification during its initial assessment (see MSC FCR at section 3.2). The surveillance team made enquiries during this audit to confirm that the fishery remains in scope. The findings are listed in the contents of this report.

#### 2.1.2 Destructive fishing practices

The client confirmed that no destructive fishing practices (explosives or poisons) are used in this fishery.

#### 2.1.3 Controversial unilateral exemptions

No indication was given during the site visit that the fishery is subject to any controversial unilateral exemptions.

#### 2.1.4 Forced Labour

The assessment team confirmed that fishery operators have not been prosecuted for any violations against forced labour laws. Both Seafood Shetland and SSMG have submitted a Declaration on Forced and Child Labour to the MSC as required by §7.4.4.2 *et seq* of FCR v2.1. All fishery related documents are available to view on the MSC Track a Fishery webpage here: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/shetland-scottish-mainland-rope-grown-mussel-enhanced-fishery/@assessments>.

## 2.2 Aims of the Surveillance

The purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is fourfold:

1. to establish and report on whether or not there have been any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
2. to monitor the progress made to improve those practices that have been scored as below “good practice” (a score of 80 or above) but above “minimum acceptable practice” (a score of 60 or above) – as captured in any “conditions” raised and described in the Public Report and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client;
3. to monitor any actions taken in response to any (non-binding) “recommendations” made in the Public Report;
4. to re-score any Performance Indicators (PIs) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of any “conditions” raised.

**Please note:** The primary focus of this surveillance audit is to assess changes made in the previous year. For a complete picture, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report for this fishery assessment which can be found on the MSC website here: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/shetland-scottish-mainland-rope-grown-mussel-enhanced-fishery/@assessments>.

## 2.3 Details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Surveillance Audit Process

Notice of this year's off-site surveillance audit was announced on the MSC website on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on that date. Direct e-mail notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

This surveillance audit was carried out off-site. During the surveillance audit, the members of the assessment team conducted an interview with the client at which the following items were discussed:

- Changes in the fishery and its management;
- Performance of the fishery in relation to the conditions of certification;
- Any changes within the fishery that may impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products; and
- Any other significant changes in the fishery.

Following this interview, the assessment team has carried out a review of whether there have been changes to management systems; changes to regulations; personnel changes that could impact the management of the fishery; changes to the scientific base of information (including stock assessments) and any changes affect traceability. We have considered whether it is necessary to re-score any PIs in response to changes in the fishery.

## 2.4 Summary of Findings

No significant changes in the fishery and its management have been found. We conclude that the fishery meets the requirements of the MSC Standard, and that **MSC Certification should continue with annual audits**.

## 3 Report details

### 3.1 Surveillance information

Table 1. Surveillance information

1	Fishery name	
	Shetland & Scottish Mainland Rope Grown Enhanced Mussel	
2	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 1 off-site surveillance audit	
3	Surveillance number	
	2nd Surveillance	X
4	Proposed team leader	
	<p><b>Rod Cappell</b> – Team Lead and principle 3 expert</p> <p>Rod Cappell is an experienced, qualified MSC auditor with over 15 years of industry experience, including 10 years as project leader and project manager. Fisheries &amp; aquaculture industry analysis;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port infrastructure and regeneration: feasibility &amp; business planning for port infrastructure investment.</li> <li>• Coastal management: development &amp; implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning.</li> <li>• Economic appraisal &amp; environmental economics: Economic and socio-economic analysis, options appraisal &amp; Cost Benefit Analysis.</li> <li>• Fisheries policy, legislation and management: Provision of policy research, legislative review and development of fisheries management plans.</li> <li>• Sector planning: industry development, strategic reviews and plans.</li> <li>• Environmental Assessment: experienced practitioner and project manager for Environmental Impact Assessment, SEA, and Appropriate Assessment &amp; MSC certification.</li> <li>• Aquaculture: strategic and technical development of sustainable aquaculture.</li> <li>• Fish processing &amp; marketing: investigations into global seafood trade including price analysis, eco-labelling, certification and use of Life Cycle Assessment.</li> <li>• Project &amp; public expenditure design &amp; evaluation: programme design and ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>Rod has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Rod has completed the MSC RBF training in the past 3 years. Full CV available upon request</p> <p>Team Leadership experience – Rod has undertaken multiple MSC surveillance assessments as Team Lead in the past 3 years.</p>	
5	Proposed team members	
	<p><b>Bert Keus</b> – Principle 2 expert</p> <p>Bert Keus is an independent consultant based in Leiden, the Netherlands. He holds degrees in biology and law and has previously held the position of Head of the Environmental Division of the Dutch Fisheries Board, and research fellow with the fisheries division of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute of Holland (LEI-DLO).</p>	

	<p>Over the years 2003 and 2004 he managed fishing and processing companies in the Gambia handling fish from industrial and artisanal fisheries, and he maintains his contacts with the Gambian seafood industry.</p> <p>In addition, however, he has long association with the shellfish fisheries of the Wadden Sea and neighbouring areas of northwest Europe, and he has been involved in efforts to achieve MSC certification of the North Sea brown shrimp fishery – acting as technical advisor to this multi-stakeholder initiative, and sitting on the project's management board.</p> <p>Through this work and several other MSC certifications he has become particularly familiar with the MSC certification process (and indirectly with the GASS/DD assessment methodology). Between the years 1998 and 2003 he was a Member of the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group, Fisheries Working Group of IUCN.</p> <p>Bert has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request</p>
<b>Local Context</b>	Both Rod and Bert have had assignments in the region in the last 10 years.
<b>Traceability</b>	Rod has completed the MSC traceability module in the last 3 years.
<b>RBF</b>	Rod and Bert have completed the RBF training.
6	Audit/review time and location
	Surveillance activities were carried out week commencing 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2019. Activities were carried out off-site remotely from auditors' offices.
7	Assessment and review activities
	All relevant data and new information were reviewed.

## 3.2 Background

### 3.2.1 General Background about the fishery

#### 3.2.1.1 Area Under Evaluation

The fishery takes place in the Shetland Islands and Scottish coastal waters ranging from Argyll to Sutherland.

#### 3.2.1.2 Fishery Ownership & Organisational Structure

Mussel farming was encouraged by the Shetland County Council, now Shetland Islands Council (SIC) and the Highlands and Islands Development Board in the mid-1970s. Early experiments revealed that mussels could grow in Shetland, quality was good and the product marketable. In the early 1980s, SIC established a grant support scheme which garnered further interest. A growers' association which was established in 1984/85 became involved in supplying product to mainland customers, principally high-end restaurants.

Mussel farming methods and technology did not overcome the labour-intensive nature of harvesting and grading and consequently interest waned as more lucrative job opportunities became available in the oil and salmon farming industries. Some sites continued to produce stock, however, and interest resumed in the early 1990s, with those who had been involved in early experimental mussel farming realising the business potential. Others became involved and the industry was reborn.

Operators invested in longline culture systems, larger harvesting workboats, shore-based handling facilities and mussel cleaning machinery. The Shetland farmers became professional and efficient quickly and developments continue today through the adoption of other methods (notably continuous culture systems common in New Zealand) and adaptation and development of skills and knowledge gained by being involved in fishing or salmon farming.



Mainland production developed along similar lines around the same time with the SSMG being formed in 1992. The mainland mussel farming industry is located in many rural communities on the West Coast of Scotland.

### 3.2.1.3 Organisational Structure

Seafood Shetland was formed in 2003 following the merger of Shetland Fish Processors' Association and Shetland Shellfish Growers' Association and represents the interests of Shetland's fish processing and shellfish growing companies. It comprises a fish processors' sub-committee and a shellfish growers' sub-committee, both with Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Seafood Shetland employs two staff and operates from an office in the Shetland Seafood Centre, Stewart Building in Lerwick, Shetland.

Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group Ltd (SSMG) was incorporated as an Industrial & Provident Society in 1992. SSMG is the marketing and processing arm of a cooperative group of mussel and oyster farmers, supplying shellfish products to a range of customers including UK supermarket retailers, Food Service and Export.

### 3.2.1.3 Code of Conduct

In 2005 the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) developed a code of good practice with the objective of ensuring that activities are managed in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner that is in harmony with the needs of other marine and shoreline users.

Seafood Shetland and the Scottish Shellfish Marketing group are members of the ASSG and enjoy a close working relationship with the ASSG.

### 3.2.1.4 Fishing Method and Farm sites

Catch and Grow fisheries are defined as fishery production systems that involve wild harvest followed by a grow-out phase. Mussel farming in Scotland mainland and Shetland Islands sites collects stock from the wild spat-fall and the settled spat is grown on ropes suspended from longlines. A typical longline would consist of either a single or double head-rope supported by plastic floats at regular intervals.

The overall dimension of each production area (number of sites and number of lines per site) is tailored to the license condition. The length of the line is generally between 200– 400 m. The spacing of the plastic floats (buoys) depends upon their buoyancy and the expected load upon the line. Generally, they are spaced at up to 3 m apart. Rope of between 20 – 32 mm diameter is commonly used for the headlines. The separation between long-lines is largely dependent upon the size of the servicing vessel. The overall dimension of each site is also tailored to the license condition.

The rope droppers, on which the mussels are grown, are usually 12 mm in diameter although there are a wide variety of designs available on the market. Plastic-pegs or discs may be inserted through the twist of the rope to provide additional support for the mussels. Droppers are generally between 6 – 10 m in length, depending on the depth of the water. Droppers may be tied to the headlines at between 0.45 – 1 m apart, depending upon local tidal conditions.

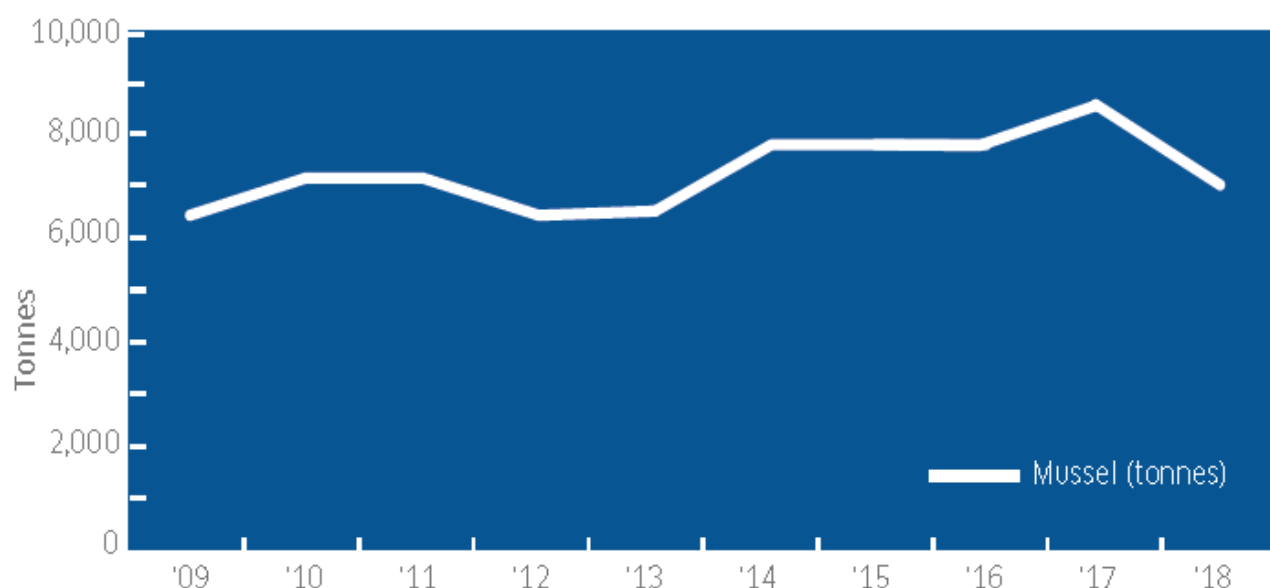
Rope-grown mussel cultivators collect their own stock from the wild spat-fall. The rope droppers are coiled so that they remain in the top 2-3 m of the water column and they are placed on the line in time to collect the natural spat. Spat settlement occurs generally in April-May in Scotland mainland and Shetland Islands (although earlier and later spawning also may take place). Mussels can spawn several times during the year. Depending upon the location and size at harvest, the first 'crop' of rope-grown mussels can be obtained in 2-3 years when mussels attain marketable size.

Each dropper is raised from the water and the mussels removed either by hand or by machine. They may then be transferred to a shore-based facility or the next stages may take place on-board the harvesting vessel. The mussels are separated, washed and graded, again by hand or automated line. Each dropper may yield between 5 – 7 kg of marketable mussels. Small mussels may be re-tubed and returned to the sea for further growth.

## 3.2.2 Updated fishery background

There have been no changes in the fishery since re-certification. Mussel production has grown significantly since 1986. Shetland mussel harvesting now represents the majority of Scottish mussel production. Figure 1 shows trend in total mussel production from Shetland and Scotland.





**Figure 1. Mussel production in Shetland and Scotland from 2009 to 2018 Source: Marine Scotland Science, 2019.**

There have been no changes in membership of Seafood Shetland or SSMG. In Shetland one new site for mussel farming (Suthra Voe Shellfish; Treawick - Vementry) has been allocated to an existing member of Seafood Shetland following standard procedures of terrestrial planning and including consultation of statutory consultees.

### 3.2.3 Changes in management system

There have been no infringements, complaints, issues or actions against the client group.

There have been no complaints by SNH or RSPB about any intimidation by mussel farmers of eider ducks.

There have been no changes in the management system concerning mussel farming.

### 3.2.4 Changes in relevant regulations

There have been no changes in relevant regulations concerning mussel farming since re-assessment.

The ASSG Code of Practice remains under review, with re-issue anticipated towards the end of 2019/early 2020.

### 3.2.5 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

There have been no (relevant) changes in personnel involved in science or management since re-assessment. Within SSMG the tasks concerning MSC certification have been taken over from Gillian Dicky by Sarah Evans.

### 3.2.6 Changes to scientific base of information, including stock assessments

No significant changes in scientific knowledge concerning ecosystem issues relating to the fishery have been identified.

The University of St Andrews has published the annual report of the Ornithological Monitoring Programme in Shetland to the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group (SOTEAG). The report shows that the numbers of eider ducks in the Yell Sound and Sullom Voe in 2018 was 297 birds, an increase since 2017 when 201 birds were counted (Mellor & Miles, 2018).

Shetland mussel farmers report eider sightings to Seafood Shetland from production sites covering a larger area than the SOTEAG survey. Evidence of the sightings data from 2016 to 2019 was shared with the surveillance team. This important data set is shared with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to inform monitoring and management of the species. It is to be considered by the researchers undertaking the next SOTEAG survey.

A Shetland-wide census of moulting Common Eiders in August 2015 located a total of 4,610 birds (including juveniles). The next census is scheduled for August 2019. In the years between the Shetland-wide censuses, counts of moulting Common Eiders are limited to South and North Yell Sound and Sullom Voe (i.e. the Sullom Voe Harbour Oil Spill Plan area).

There have been no reports of entanglement of marine mammals.

Enhanced fisheries without translocation no longer require Principle 1 to be scored as part of MSC assessments.

### **3.2.7 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)**

There have been no changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish).

### **3.3 Version details**

**Table 2. Fisheries program documents used**

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	<b>Version 2.1</b>
MSC Fisheries Standard	<b>Version 1.3</b>
MSC General Certification Requirements	<b>Version 2.3</b>
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	<b>Version 2.01</b>

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Surveillance results overview

#### 4.1.1 Summary of conditions

There are no conditions formulated for this fishery.

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

Table 3. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

Total Scottish mussel production for most recent fishing year (2018):		6,874 tonnes
Unit of Certification share of the total Scottish mussel production established for the fishery in most recent fishing year*		
Shetlands Islands	UoC 1	5,160 tonnes
Scottish coastal waters ranging from Argyll to Sutherland	UoC 2	1,034 tonnes
Client share of the total Scottish mussel production in most recent fishing year:		6, 194 tonnes (90%)
Total green weight catch taken by the client group in the two most recent calendar years:		2017: 7,520 tonnes 2018: 6,194 tonnes

#### 4.1.3 Recommendations

No recommendations have been formulated for this fishery.

### 4.2 Conditions

There are no conditions formulated for this fishery.

### 4.3 Client Action Plan

There are no conditions formulated for this fishery and consequently there is no client action plan.

### 4.4 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

No performance indicators have been rescored.

## 5 Appendices

### 5.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

#### 5.1.1 Site visits

There has been no site visit. The surveillance audit was conducted off-site on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### 5.1.2 Surveillance team details

This off-site surveillance visit was carried out by Rod Cappell and Bert Keus. Both auditors were members of the original assessment team.

Lloyd's Register has determined that both Rod Cappell and Bert Keus meet the relevant competency criteria in Annex PC of the MSC Certification Requirements and that they have no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

A brief resume of the surveillance team members' experience is given in **Error! Reference source not found..**

#### 5.1.3 Date & location of Surveillance Audit

This surveillance audit was conducted off-site, remotely via skype on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### 5.1.4 What was inspected

See section 3.2 of this report.

#### 5.1.5 Stakeholder participation

Lloyd's Register have actively sought the views of client and stakeholders (including managers, scientists, industry and environmental NGOs) with regards to this fishery and its performance in relation to its sustainability certification and issues relevant to the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance audit was announced on the MSC website on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Direct email notifications were sent to stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the assessment team.

A total of 25 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and consulted during this surveillance audit. The interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website. All stakeholders were given the opportunity to request an onsite meeting with a locally based member of the team if necessary. No such requests were received, and no verbal or written stakeholder submissions were received other than from the client in support of the surveillance audit process.

#### 5.1.6 Stakeholder meetings

Stakeholder consultations & meetings were carried out as follows: -

27<sup>th</sup> June 2019: Skype interview with Ruth Henderson (Seafood Shetland) Sarah Evans (Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG)), Bert Keus.

### 5.2 Stakeholder input

There have been no reactions nor inputs from stakeholders.

### 5.3 Revised surveillance program

No revisions are proposed for the surveillance programme, which remains as follows:

**Table 4. Fishery surveillance program**

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 1	Review of Information	Off-site Surveillance	Review of Information	On-site surveillance & re-certification site visit

**Table 5. Timing of surveillance audit**

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
3	26 <sup>th</sup> June	June 2020	Keep surveillance in line with the certificate anniversary date.

**Table 6. Surveillance level rationale**

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
3	Review of Information	One auditor off-site to conduct a review of information	No conditions and fishery updates can be provided remotely.

### 5.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

**Table 7. Overlapping fisheries**

Fishery name	Certification status and date	Performance Indicators to harmonise
Limfjord Blue Shell Mussel (Rope grown)	Certified 20 April 2017	None.
SSPO Swedish West Coast Rope-grown mussel	Certified 29 January 2019	None.
Scanfjord Swedish rope-grown mussel fishery	Certified 10 April 2019	None.
Netherlands blue shell mussel	Certified 26 July 2011	None.

**Table 8. Overlapping fisheries supporting information**

Supporting information	
<p>At the time of writing four MSC assessments overlap with this assessment in terms of sea area or production method (Fisheries targeting blue mussel with other methods (demersal trawl) are not listed since P1 is not scored in this fishery.)</p> <p>» Limfjord Blue Shell Mussel (Rope grown)  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/limfjord-blue-shell-mussel-rope-grown/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/limfjord-blue-shell-mussel-rope-grown/@@assessments</a></p> <p>» SSPO Swedish West Coast Rope-grown mussel  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/sspo-swedish-west-coast-rope-grown-mussel/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/sspo-swedish-west-coast-rope-grown-mussel/@@assessments</a></p> <p>» Scanfjord Swedish rope-grown mussel fishery  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/scanfjord-swedish-rope-grown-mussel-fishery/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/scanfjord-swedish-rope-grown-mussel-fishery/@@assessments</a></p> <p>» Netherlands blue shell mussel  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/netherlands-blue-shell-mussel/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/netherlands-blue-shell-mussel/@@assessments</a></p>	
Was either FCP v2.1 Annex PB1.3.3.4 or PB1.3.4.5 applied when harmonising?	Yes

Date of harmonisation meeting

n/a

If applicable, describe the meeting outcome

Not applicable – see Table 10. Rationale for scoring differences

**Table 9. Scoring differences**

Performance Indicators (PIs)	Limfjord Blue Shell Mussel (Rope grown)		SSPO Swedish West Coast Rope-grown mussel	Scanfjord Swedish rope-grown mussel fishery	Netherlands blue shell mussel	
	UoC 1	UoC 2	UoC 1	UoC 1	UoC 1, 3 & 4	UoC 2
2.1.1	100	100	n.a	n.a	100	100
2.1.2	85	85	n.a	n.a	100	100
2.1.3	85	85	n.a	n.a	100	100
2.2.1	100	100	n.a	n.a	80	80
2.2.2	95	95	n.a	n.a	80	80
2.2.3	95	95	n.a	n.a	80	80
2.3.1	80	80	80	80	100	85
2.3.2	90	90	80	80	90	90
2.3.3	90	90	80	80	95	95
2.4.1	100	100	85	85	100	100
2.4.2	95	95	80	80	100	100
2.4.3	95	95	80	80	95	95
2.5.1	80	80	100	100	100	100
2.5.2	90	90	85	85	95	95
2.5.3	90	90	90	90	100	100
3.1.1	100	100	100	100	100	100
3.1.2	95	95	100	100	85	85
3.1.3	90	90	100	100	100	100
3.1.4	80	80	n.a	n.a	90	90
3.2.1	80	80	80	80	90	90
3.2.2	85	85	95	95	85	85
3.2.3	100	100	95	95	95	95
3.2.4	90	90	80	80	80	80
3.2.5	100	100	n.a	n.a	90	90

**Table 10. Rationale for scoring differences**

If applicable, explain and justify any difference in scoring and rationale for the relevant Performance Indicators (FCP v2.1 Annex PB1.3.6)

The Limfjord Blue Shell Mussel fishery was re-assessed in 2017. No Conditions have been formulated. The scores awarded on PI 2.3.1 and PI 2.4.1 are slightly higher than those awarded in this fishery under evaluation but can be explained by differences in local circumstances regarding ETP species (Eider ducks) and presence of vulnerable habitats. It is therefore concluded that there is no need for harmonization of scores.

The SSPO Swedish West Coast Rope-grown mussel was re-assessed in 2019. The PCR shows that no conditions have been formulated. Scores for PI 2.3.1 and PI 2.4.1 are both 5 points lower than the scores of this fishery but can be explained by differences in local circumstances regarding indirect effects on ETP species and for 2.4.1 by a different version of the MSC standard used. The MSC standard used was Version 2.0 whereas the fishery under evaluation here was assessed against Version 1.3 – see section 3.3.

The Scanfjord Swedish rope-grown mussel fishery was recently (April 2019) assessed using Version 2.0. Scores for PI 2.3.1 and PI 2.4.1 are both 5 points lower than the scores of this fishery but can be explained by differences in local circumstances regarding indirect effects on ETP species and a different version of the MSC standard used. The MSC standard used was Version 2.0 whereas the fishery under evaluation here was assessed against Version 1.3 – see section 3.3.

The Netherlands blue shell mussel fishery was assessed using MSC standard Version 1.3. Scores for PI 2.3.1 and 2.4.1 are higher than the scores for this fishery. This can be explained by differences in local circumstances regarding effects on ETP species and differences in habitat sensitivity with regards to PI2.4.1. It is therefore concluded that there is no need for harmonization of scores.

If exceptional circumstances apply, outline the situation and whether there is agreement between or among teams on this determination

Not applicable to this fishery.



## 6 References

Marine Scotland Science, 2019. Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey 2018.

Mellor, M. & M. Miles, 2018. *SOTEAG Ornithological Monitoring Programme 2018 Report*. Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group, The Scottish Oceans Institute, School of Biology, University of St Andrews.