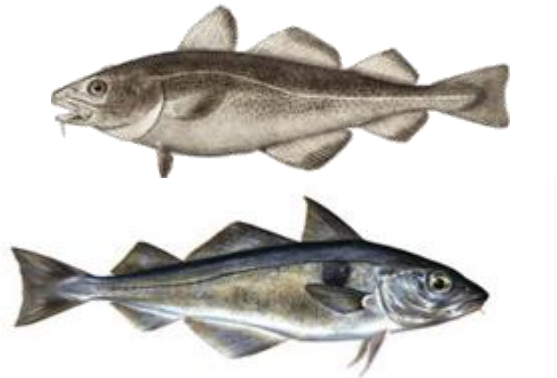
Fisheries Department
6 Redheughs Rigg
South Gyle
Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ

T: 0131 335 6662
E: fisheries@acoura.com

MSC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

Onsite Surveillance Visit - Report for FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock Fishery



2nd Surveillance Audit

May 2016

Certificate Code	F-FCI-0032 (Cod) F-FCI-0033 (Haddock)
Prepared For:	The Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN)
Prepared By:	**Acoura Marine**
Authors:	Geir Hønneland,Lucia Revenga

Assessment Data Sheet

Certified Fishery	FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock Fishery
Fishery Management Agency	Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission
Species	Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua**)**
	Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)
Fishing Method	Longline & Demersal Trawl
Certificate Code	F-FCI-0032 (Cod) F-FCI-0033 (Haddock)
Certification Date	25/06/13
Certification Expiration Date	24/06/18
Certification Body	**Acoura Marine Ltd** 6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ, Scotland, UK
	Tel: +44(0)131 335 6601
	MSC Fisheries Department
	Email: fisheries@Acoura.com
	Web: www.Acoura.com
Surveillance Stage:	2nd Annual Surveillance
Surveillance Date:	11/11/15

Contents

Introduction

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 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.

1 General Information

1.1 Certificate Holder details

Fishery name	FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock Fishery		
Unit(s) of assessment	A statement of the current UoC is given the subsequent tables below		
Date certified	25/06/13	Date of expiry	24/06/18
Surveillance level and type	2nd Surveillance Onsite.		
Date of surveillance audit	11/11/15		
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance	✓	
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Geir Hønneland Assessor(s): Lucia Revenga		
CAB name	Acoura Marine		
CAB contact details	Address	6 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9DQ	
	Phone/Fax	+44(0)131 335 6662	
	Email	fisheries@Acoura.com	
	Contact name(s)	Billy Hynes	
Client contact details	Address	Egorova Str. 6 183038 Murmansk Russia	
	Phone/Fax	+7 (921) 273 19 10	
	Email	ilyasov.artur@gmail.com	
	Contact name(s)	Artur Ilyasov	

Statement of the unit (s) of Certification (UoC)

UoC 1

Species	Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*)
Geographical area	North East Arctic cod
Method of capture	Barents and Norwegian seas - ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb: Coastal waters, within Norwegian and Russian EEZ and International Waters
Stock	Demersal trawl
Management	Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission
Client Group	Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN) vessels targetting North East Arctic cod in ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb using demersal traw

UoC 2

Species	Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*)
Geographical area	North East Arctic cod
Method of capture	Barents and Norwegian seas - ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb: Coastal waters, within Norwegian and Russian EEZ and International Waters
Stock	Longline
Management	Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission
Client Group	Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN) vessels targetting North East Arctic cod in ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb using demersal traw

UoC 3

Species	Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)
Geographical area	North East Arctic cod
Method of capture	Barents and Norwegian seas - ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb: Coastal waters, within Norwegian and Russian EEZ and International Waters
Stock	Demersal trawl
Management	Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission
Client Group	Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN) vessels targetting North East Arctic cod in ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb using demersal traw

UoC 4

Species	Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*)
Geographical area	North East Arctic cod
Method of capture	Barents and Norwegian seas - ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb: Coastal waters, within Norwegian and Russian EEZ and International Waters
Stock	Longline

Management	Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission
Client Group	Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN) vessels targetting North East Arctic cod in ICES Areas Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb using demersal traw

2 Background

The Fishing Industry Union of the North (FIUN) was established in December 1992. The Union has become one of the leading fishing associations in the Russian northern basin, and the largest union of small and medium fishing enterprises in Russia. Today the FIUN includes 88 enterprises of small and medium sized business; 62 of these companies are involved in catch and transport of fish, while 4 are involved in small-scale fish processing. The remaining member companies are engaged in fish breeding, vessel repair and sale of fish.

Geographically, fishing takes place within Russian, Norwegian and international waters (ICES Sub-area I and II, beyond 12 nm).

The companies have 107 fishing vessels, 20 small-sized vessels for in-shore fishing and 12 transport vessels. Modernization and renovation of the fleet has been going on for some years. The total number of employees in the FIUN companies is 6,450. The main fishing ground for the fleet is the Russian economic zone as well as 200-miles zones of other states in the North-East and the North-West Atlantic. From 1993 to 2010, catches increased 6.5 times, and the production of fish increased by 5 times. Catches in 2010 reached more than 224,000 tonnes and made up 37 per cent of the total fishery volume of the Murmansk region.

Significant parts of fishing vessels have been re-equipped in recent years, have sanitary certificates and deliver their products to the European market. Currently around 100,000 tonnes of fish (mainly pelagic species) are annually sold on the international market. Compared with the 1990s, catches of pelagic fish had in 2010 increased by 12 times and reached 120,000 tonnes. The FIUN participates in improving branch management structure, in carrying out social programmes in the region, supports scientific research and survey work of several academic Institutes (PINRO, SevPINRO, MMBI and others).

The Barents Sea groundfish fishery has a long and important heritage. Coastal longline fishing of cod and haddock dates back to the 16th century, while trawl fishery commenced around 1920. Historically, landings of cod and haddock from the Barents Sea have fluctuated, mainly reflecting stock status. For cod, landings of 900,000t were experienced in the 1970s, but landings dropped considerably as stock status declined (landings fell to 212,000t in 1990), before recovering steadily since then. Landings of haddock have seen perhaps a smaller degree of fluctuation in recent decades when compared with cod, although there have been periods of very low landings, corresponding to poor stock status, notably in the 1980s (landings falling as low as 20,000t in 1984), prior to the more recent recovery. TAC has increased steadily since the turn of the century, with a TAC for cod at 894,000 tonnes and for haddock of 178,500 tonnes set for 2015.

2.1 Changes in the management system

The management structure remains the same as previous years as the vessels are operated by Russian fishing companies united in one association. FIUN acts as an umbrella organization for these companies. Since the first surveillance audit, the Union has engaged a MSC scheme implementation officer in order to facilitate communication and collaboration between the fishery and various relevant agencies to ensure the work needed to address the conditions attached to the certificate is done to the highest possible standard.

As noted in section 4.1.3, there are no changes in the overarching management structure either (JNRFC and management system at national level).

2.2 Changes in relevant regulations

There are no substantial changes in relevant regulations since the last surveillance audit.

2.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

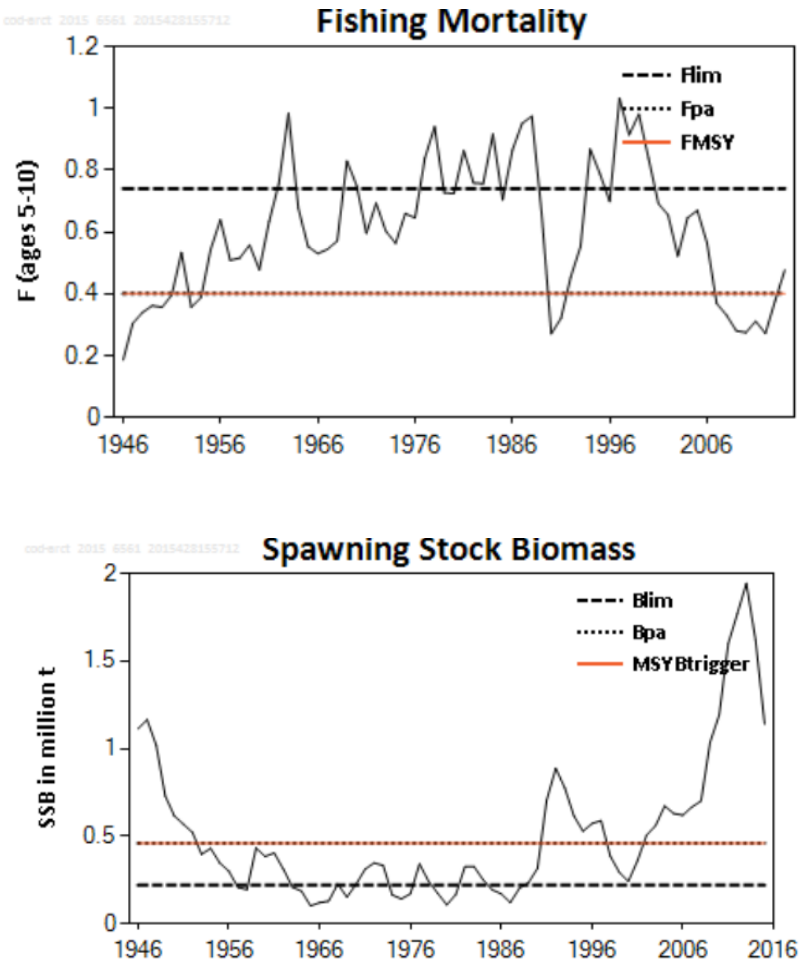
There are no substantial changes in personnel involved in science, management or industry since the last surveillance audit.

2.4 Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments

Stock status for cod determined from 2015 ICES stock assessment indicates that the stock is well above the MSY reference point, and is likely to remain at this high level for the next few years. The SSB has been above MSY $B_{trigger}$ since 2002 and is still high, although there has been a decrease in recent years. (See Fig. 2.4-1)

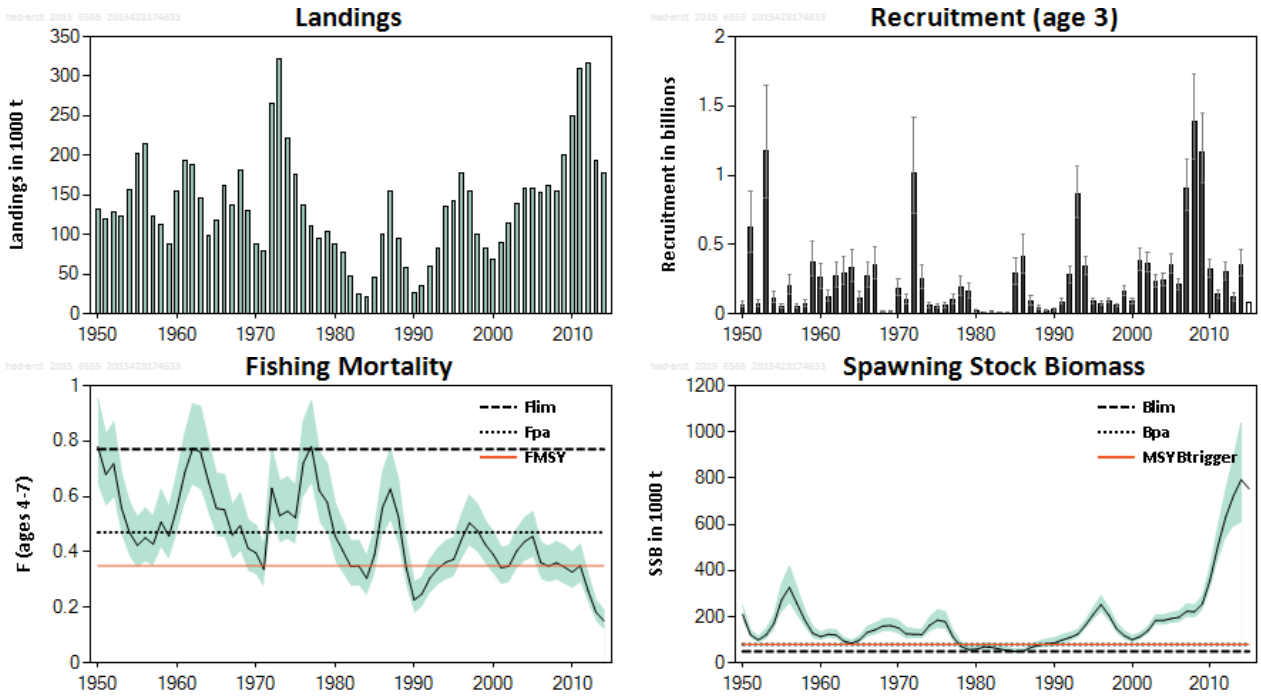
Fishing mortality has been reduced from well above F_{lim} in 1997 to below F_{MSY} in 2007. In the past few years it has increased from the lowest value in the time-series and is now just above F_{MSY}. Surveys indicate that year classes 2010–2014 are slightly above the long term average and therefore biomass is likely to remain high in the short term.

Fig 2.4-1 - Fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass relative to reference points for Barents Sea cod based on 2015 stock assessment. Source: ICES 2015 Advice



Stock status for haddock determined from the 2015 stock assessment indicates that the stock is well above the MSY reference point (Fig 2.4-2. The SSB has been above MSY $B_{trigger}$ since 1990, reaching the series maximum in 2014. Fishing mortality was around F_{MSY} from the mid-1990s to 2011, but has declined substantially since then. Landings showed a peak in 2010 but are decreasing since then. Recruitment-at-age 3 has been at or above the long-term average since 2000. Year classes 2004–2006 are estimated to be very strong and are still dominating the spawning stock. The year classes after 2006 have been around average, so the stock biomass is likely to decline over the next few years.(See Fig. 2.4.2)

Fig 2.4-2 - Fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass relative to reference points for Barents Sea haddock based on 2015 stock assessment. Source: ICES 2015 Advice.



2.5 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 are no known changes affecting traceability.

2.6 TAC and catch data

Table 2.6-1 Cod TAC and Catch Data

TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**1,000,000t**
UoA share of TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**N/A**
UoC share of TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**198,080t**
Total green weight catch by UoC	**Year (most recent)**	**2014**	**Amount**	**194,905t**
	Year (second most recent)	**2013**	**Amount**	**194,129t**

Table 2.6-2 Haddock TAC & Catch Data

TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**170,500t**
UoA share of TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**N/A**
UoC share of TAC	**Year**	**2014**	**Amount**	**34,676t**
Total green weight catch by UoC	**Year (most recent)**	**2014**	**Amount**	**34,095t**
	Year (second most recent)	**2013**	**Amount**	**36,921t**

2.7 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Table 2.7-1 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	PI 2.1.1 & 2.1.2	On target	65 (2.1.1 longline) 70 (2.1.1 trawl) 75 (2.1.2 trawl and longline)	N/A
2	PI 2.4.1 & 2.4.2	On target	60 (2.4.1 trawl) 65 (2.4.2 trawl)	N/A
3	PI 3.1.2	On target	75	N/A
Recommendation 1	PI 3.1.3	On Target	N/A	N/A

3 Assessment Process

3.1 Details of 2nd Surveillance Audit Process

As a result of the assessment, a number of conditions of certification were raised by the assessment team, and maintenance of the MSC certificate is contingent on the FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas Cod and Haddock Fishery moving to comply with these conditions within the time-scales set at the time the certificate was issued. In addition, one Recommendation was made which, whilst not obligatory, the client is encouraged to act upon within the spirit of the certification.

3.2 Scope & History of the Assessment

Table 3.2-1 Cod, Trawl

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
One	1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	100
			1.1.2	Reference points	80
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	N/A
		Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	85
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	80
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	90
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	90
Two	1	Retained species	2.1.1	Outcome	70
			2.1.2	Management	75
			2.1.3	Information	80
		Bycatch species	2.2.1	Outcome	80
			2.2.2	Management	90
			2.2.3	Information	90
		ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	85
			2.3.2	Management	80
			2.3.3	Information	80
		Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	60
			2.4.2	Management	65
			2.4.3	Information	90
		Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	90
			2.5.2	Management	85
			2.5.3	Information	90
Three	1	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal & customary framework	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	75
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	80
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainable fishing	80
		Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	80
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	80

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
			3.2.4	Research plan	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	80

Table 3.2-2 Haddock, Trawl

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
One	1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	100
			1.1.2	Reference points	80
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	N/A
		Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	80
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	80
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	80
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	85
Two	1	Retained species	2.1.1	Outcome	70
			2.1.2	Management	75
			2.1.3	Information	80
		Bycatch species	2.2.1	Outcome	80
			2.2.2	Management	90
			2.2.3	Information	90
		ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	85
			2.3.2	Management	80
			2.3.3	Information	80
		Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	60
			2.4.2	Management	65
			2.4.3	Information	90
		Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	90
			2.5.2	Management	85
			2.5.3	Information	90
Three	1	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal & customary framework	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	75
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	80
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainable fishing	80
		Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	80
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	80
			3.2.4	Research plan	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	80

Table 3.2-3 Cod, Longline

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
One	1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	100
			1.1.2	Reference points	80
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	N/A
		Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	85
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	80
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	90
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	90
Two	1	Retained species	2.1.1	Outcome	65
			2.1.2	Management	75
			2.1.3	Information	80
		Bycatch species	2.2.1	Outcome	80
			2.2.2	Management	90
			2.2.3	Information	90
		ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	85
			2.3.2	Management	80
			2.3.3	Information	80
		Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	100
			2.4.2	Management	90
			2.4.3	Information	95
		Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	90
			2.5.2	Management	85
			2.5.3	Information	90
Three	1	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal & customary framework	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	75
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	80
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainable fishing	80
		Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	80
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	80
			3.2.4	Research plan	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	80

Table 3.2-4 Haddock, Longline

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
One	1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	100
			1.1.2	Reference points	80
			1.1.3	Stock rebuilding	N/A

Principle	Wt (L1)	Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)	Score
		Management	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	80
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	80
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	80
			1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	85
Two	1	Retained species	2.1.1	Outcome	65
			2.1.2	Management	75
			2.1.3	Information	80
		Bycatch species	2.2.1	Outcome	80
			2.2.2	Management	90
			2.2.3	Information	90
		ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	85
			2.3.2	Management	80
			2.3.3	Information	80
		Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	100
			2.4.2	Management	90
			2.4.3	Information	95
		Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	90
			2.5.2	Management	85
			2.5.3	Information	90
Three	1	Governance and policy	3.1.1	Legal & customary framework	95
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	75
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	80
			3.1.4	Incentives for sustainable fishing	80
		Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	80
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	80
			3.2.4	Research plan	80
			3.2.5	Management performance evaluation	80

3.2.1 Surveillance team details

The original assessment team for this fishery assessment comprised of Dr Geir Hønneland who acted as Team Leader and primary Principle 3 specialist, Dr Paul Medley who was primarily responsible for evaluation of Principal 1 and Dr John Hambrey who was responsible for evaluation of Principle 2. Paul MacIntrye was responsible for traceability/chain of custody.

This on-site surveillance audit was carried out by Geir Hønneland and Lucia Revenga. The Team Leader and P3 expert was Geir Hønneland and Lucia Revenga was responsible for P1 & P2. Summaries of the team's CVs can be found in the announcement for the surveillance.

3.2.2 Date & Location of surveillance audit

A site visit was carried out in Kirkenes, Norway, on 11 November 2015. Both team members were present, along with Olga Pokrovskaya who represented the client. WWF participated on Skype.

3.2.3 Stakeholder consultation & meetings

See 3.2.2 and 3.2.5 In addition, MSC organised a meeting to discuss harmonisation in relation to habitat impacts on 10th March 2016. Lucia Revenga (P2 expert) participated in this call along with representation from Acoura. The call discussed the differences and different scoring across all the Barents Sea fisheries but resulted in no material impact on the FIUN Barents Sea Cod & Haddock Fishery.

3.2.4 What was inspected

Besides the site visit, the client has been consulted through extensive email correspondence and has submitted written material on progress against milestones for the conditions, including reports from the scientific research institute PINRO, records on species composition of the catch, report by WWF on the impact of the trawl fishery on the benthic ecosystems in the Barents Sea, records on vessels positions and letters from FIUN (Vasiliy Nikitin) to PINRO and to other fishing companies in the area.

3.2.5 Stakeholder Consultation

A total of 53 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.

Documents referred to

See **Appendix 4**.

3.3 Surveillance Standards

3.3.1 MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used

This surveillance audit was carried out according to the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements FAM v1.3 using 2.0 procedures

3.3.2 Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced

No indication was given or suggested during the surveillance audit to suggest that either of these practices is in evidence for this fishery

4 Results

4.1 Condition 1

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="3">Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)</th><th>Relevant PI number(s)</th><th>Scoring guidepost text</th><th>Score</th></tr>
<tr><td>PI2.1.1 The fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to the retained species and does not hinder recovery of depleted retained species</td><td rowspan="2">The catch of Golden Redfish (Sebastes marinus) and wolfish (Anarhichas minor, A. denticulatus, and A. lupus) are both significant in the long-line fishery (with the latter comprising 45% of total catch). Although these species are less important in the trawl fishery, the total amount taken is nonetheless significant. The status of the stock of Golden redfish is very poor and that of all three wolfish species largely unknown. All are vulnerable species with slow growth and low population doubling time. Wolfish are also susceptible to direct interference of trawling with reproductive behaviour. Current knowledge and management strategy are inadequate to ensure that the fishery (trawl and long-line) does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm, and it is possible that current fishing practice may hinder recovery of Golden redfish.

Although not necessarily “main” components of the catch, elasmobranch species, including ETP species, are also vulnerable and may be at risk.</td><td>65 Longline

70 Trawl</td></tr>
<tr><td>PI2.1.2 There is a strategy in place for managing retained species that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to retained species</td><td>75</td></tr>
<tr><td>Condition</td><td colspan="3">Ensure a partial strategy of demonstrably effective management measures for retained species (with objective basis for confidence).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Milestones</td><td colspan="3">By the first surveillance audit: A report on wolfish stock status, using survey data on wolfish biomass trends and size composition to assess risks to stock from the current fishery (useful data may already be available from longliners catch data). Determine an appropriate level of S. marinus fishing mortality which can be taken by the client vessels which will allow the population to rebuild.

By the second surveillance audit: If the current contribution of bycatch is too high to allow the stock to recover, determine a method for the client vessel to reduce bycatch of S. marinus to the target level.

By the third surveillance audit: If survey data are unavailable to determine status, obtain longline data and submit these to the assessment team. Note that longliners will be part of another certification, so these data should become available if wolfish status cannot be determined in other ways. The length-weight relationship and size at 50% female maturity would also be required.

Develop an assessment and strategy to address retained or discarded bycatch of other vulnerable species.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">The client agreed the following activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting annual milestones set by the assessment team and contributing in a stepwise approach to meeting the condition within the specified period. The following sets out the client’s progress against the activities. Those activities that are scheduled to</td></tr>
</table>

Client action plan	report progress in this years audit have been highlighted and an activity that has been amended with the agreement of the audit team has been highlighted: **Activities:** » 1.1: Generate data on wolfish biomass trends and length-weight/size distribution to assess risks to stock from the current fisheries Timeframe: By the first audit, By the second audit, By the third audit Outcomes: Report on wolfish stock status **Activities:** » 1.2a: Develop and implement measures to keep wolfish by-catch at safety level Timeframe: By the second audit Outcomes: Evidences of method implementation **Activities:** » 1.2b: Develop and implement measures to keep wolfish by-catch at safety level. Timeframe: By the third audit, By the forth audit, By the fifth audit. Outcomes: Evidences of wolfish stock good condition. **Activities:** » 1.3: Determine an appropriate level of *S. marinus* fishing mortality which can be taken by vessels which will allow the population to rebuild Timeframe: By the first audit Outcomes: Report on *S. marinus* status and fishing mortality level **Activities:** » 1.4: Determine a method for vessels to reduce by-catch of *S. marinus* to the target level (if the current contribution of by-catch is too high to allow the stock to recover) Timeframe: By the second audit Outcomes: Report on method description **Activities:** » 1.5a: Implement method for vessels to reduce by-catch of *S. marinus* Timeframe: By the third audit Outcomes: Evidences of method implementation **Activities:** » 1.5b: Implement method for vessels to reduce by-catch of *S. marinus* Timeframe: By the fourth audit (previously by third audit) Outcomes: Evidences of *S.marinus* by-catch reduction **Changes to Activity 1.5 for all UoC:** By the 3rd and 4th audit client shall demonstrate continued recording of *Sebastes marinus* catch data and maintain the same bycatch levels or lower. By the 4th audit client shall provide a scientific report on *Sebastes marinus* stock status. **Activities:** » 1.6a: Develop an assessment and strategy to address retained or discarded by-catch of other vulnerable species Timeframe: By the second audit Outcomes: Strategy and assessment

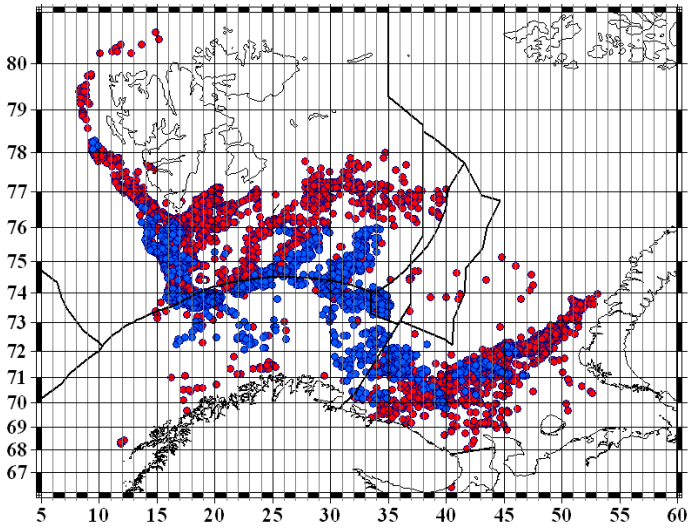
	Activities: » 1.6b: Develop an assessment and strategy to address retained or discarded by-catch of other vulnerable species Timeframe: By the third audit, By the forth audit, Outcomes: Evidences of Strategy implementation
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Progress against each activity highlighted above is reported here: **<u>Activity 1.1</u>** The catches of *Anarhichas denticulatus*, *Anarhichas minor* and *Anarhichas lupus*, along with other non-quota demersal species, have been taken in compliance with the fishery regulations of both the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Russian Economic Zone. Based on PINRO's 2014 report, bycatch levels of wolfish species remains low in the trawling fishery, adding up to 1.2% of the total catch. This is in agreement with wolfish records provided by the client, which also show a small bycatch of wolfish species in the trawl fishery. Therefore, it can be concluded that the bottom trawl fishery for cod and haddock currently has no significant effect on the state of stocks of wolfish in the Barents Sea. However, wolfish is the second most abundant catch in the longline fishery, after cod, reaching up to 30% of the catch (see table 4.1-2). Despite the small scale of the longline fleet, it represents a high impact (both proportionally and quantitatively) on the wolfish species stock status. Total catch of wolfish taken by trawlers and longliners of the FIUN fleet during 2015 was 8,857 tonnes and 6,705 tonnes in 2014. Of those, trawlers took 2,274.8 tonnes in 2014 and 3,913.8 tonnes from January to November 2015. Longliners took 4,430.6 tonnes in 2014 and 4,943.2 tonnes from January to November 2015. Reports provided by the client gives information on length, size and sex distribution. More information on weight/size distribution can be found on PINRO's 2014 report, provided during the first surveillance. As regards distribution maps, FIUN has provided vessels distribution maps which show the areas where the catch of these species has taken place. Figures 5, 6 and 7 show fishing positions of trawlers and longliners catching wolfish as bycatch in year 2014. **Fig 5: 2014 FIUN vessels position fishing *Anarhichas denticulatus* as bycatch (trawlers in red and longliners in blue). 4117.9 tonnes.** 

Fig 6: 2014 FIUN vessels position fishing *Anarhichas lupus* as bycatch (trawlers in red and longliners in blue). 567.2 tonnes.

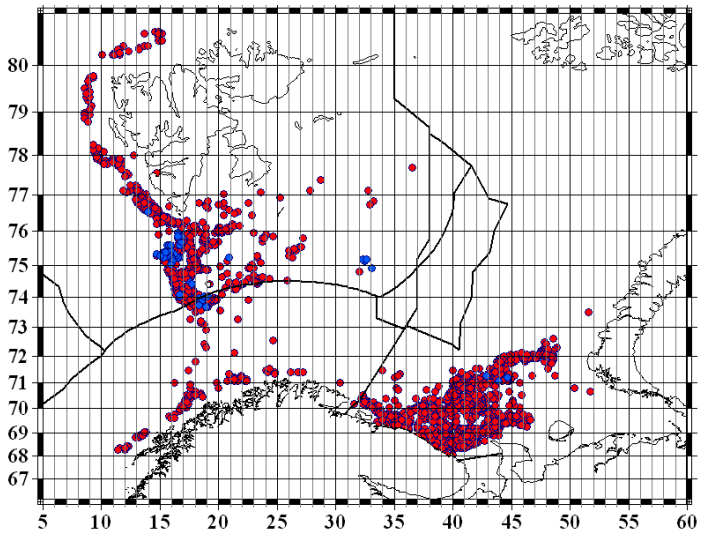
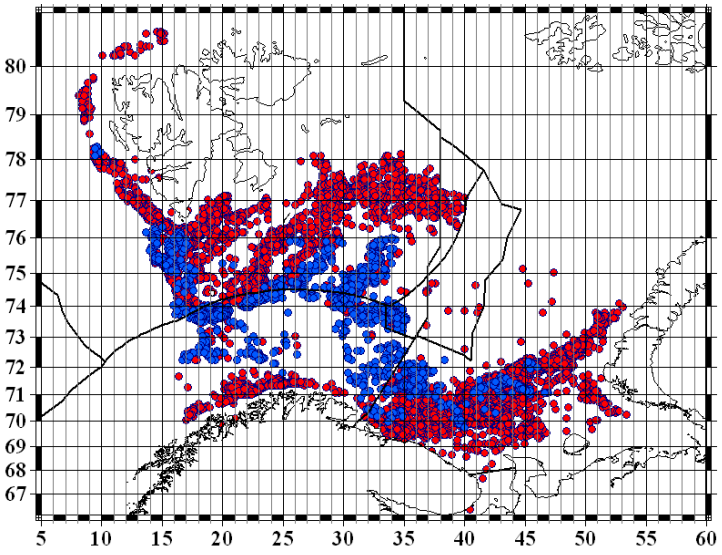


Figure 7: 2014 FIUN vessels position fishing *Anarhichas minor* as bycatch (trawlers in red and longliners in blue). 2020.3 tonnes.



As Activity 1.1 only refers to the generation of reports on wolfish stock status, the client shall continue to record quantities and location on the bycatch of wolfish, and continue with data gathering. The Client shall also continue to provide reports on the stock status of wolfish in future years.

Activity 1.2a & 1.2b

As highlighted in the Public Certification Report, wolfish species have similar life history characteristics and are vulnerable to overfishing (due to slow growing and late maturation, and secondary impacts of trawling on spawning/breeding behaviour, with male guarding of eggs on the seabed). Beyond the usual measures of grid separator and mesh size to protect young fish, there are no specific measures in place to conserve wolfish. The client provided data on wolfish species catches for 2014 and 2015 (Tables 4.1-1 and 4.1-2).

Table 4.1-1: Trawlers catch data and proportion of total catch for wolfish species for 2014 and 2015.

Trawlers total catch	Jan - Dec 2014	2014%	Jan – Nov 2015	2015%
Gadus morhua	186574,6	76,68	189594,4	73,21
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	32923,7	13,53	40057,2	15,47
Pollachius pollachius	9059	3,72	10226	3,95
Anarhichas lupus	548,5	**0,23**	699,8	**0,27**
Anarhichas minor	1214,1	**0,50**	1270,8	**0,49**
Anarhichas denticulatus	512,2	**0,21**	1943,2	**0,75**
Hippoglossoides platessoides platessoides	697,6	0,29	1026,4	0,40
Pleuronectes platessa	3710,8	1,53	3360	1,30
Sebastes marinus	377,7	**0,16**	382,4	**0,15**
Sebastes mentella	902,6	0,37	2405,1	0,93
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	6804,9	2,80	8001,5	3,09
TOTAL (tonnes)	243325,7	100,00	258966,8	100,00

Table 4.1-2: Longliners catch data and proportion of total catch for wolfish species for 2014 and 2015.

Longliners total catch	Jan - Dec 2014	2014%	Jan - Nov 2015	2015%
Gadus morhua	8330,2	56,42	7543,6	51,01
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	1171,6	7,94	1440,8	9,74
Pollachius pollachius	0,2	0,00	0	0,00
Anarhichas lupus	18,7	**0,13**	15,2	**0,10**
Anarhichas minor	806,2	**5,46**	825,2	**5,58**
Anarhichas denticulatus	3605,7	**24,42**	4102,8	**27,74**
Hippoglossoides platessoides platessoides	26,4	0,18	12,6	0,09
Sebastes marinus	41,9	**0,28**	50,6	**0,34**
Sebastes mentella	0,4	0,00	5,9	0,04
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	762,1	5,16	791,2	5,35
TOTAL (tonnes)	14763,4	100,00	14787,9	100,00

Source: FIUN

These tables show a small percentage of wolfish bycatch in the trawl fishery (UoC 1 and UoC3), and a high bycatch percentage of wolfish in the longline fishery (UoC2 and UoC4), representing a 32% of the total catch, most of which is Northern wolfish, whose stock status, as reported by PINRO, has been declining in recent years.

Activity 1.3

	Activity 1.3, which required the determination of an appropriate level of *Sebastes marinus* fishing mortality that would allow the population to rebuild was achieved at the 1st surveillance audit. **Activity 1.4** As mentioned in Activity 1.3 in the 1st surveillance report, directed trawling for this species is not allowed. There are regulations on minimum size and no more than 20% redfish (*Sebastes mentella* and *Sebastes marinus*) by weight can be taken as retained bycatch when fishing for other species. In the Norwegian Economic Zone Russian vessels can take 4,000 tonnes of redfish as retained bycatch in other fisheries. So far FIUN complies with this regulation as retained bycatch of Golden redfish is less than 0.5 % for both trawlers and longliners, maintaining a similar bycatch proportion since 2010. The client has provided a report on Golden redfish stock status. Information provided is similar to that provided on last year's report, ""Materials to a condition of stocks of a perch of golden (*Sebastes marinus*) and catfishes (*Anarhichas minor, Anarhichas denticulatus and Anarhicas lupus*) and their trade in the Barents Sea and adjacent waters", by PINRO. Acording to PINRO's report, fishing mortality of the *Sebastes marinus* stock is at present around 0.41, which is much higher than the value of the precautionary Fpa 5% of the stock, which is about 1,500 tonnes. This volume of catch of 1,500 tonnes is optimal for the current stock status and replenishment. Therefore, considerable effort is required to reduce fishing mortality by all fleets operating in the area to levels indicated by the precautionary reference point for fishing mortality (Fpa). It is notable that, according to http://www.mosj.no/en/fauna/marine/common-redfish.html, around 80-90% of Golden Redfish catch is attributable to Norway. ICES Advice June 2013 for *Sebastes marinus* states that modelling simulations suggest that at current recruitment levels, a sustainable FMSY may lie around F = 0.08. However, this would require a stabilization of the stock before it could apply, and the priority is to stop (and reverse) the ongoing decline in the stock. The aggregated catch of Golden redfish by the Russian fleet was 770 tonnes for trawlers and longliners, of which 430 tonnes were taken by FIUN in 2015. In any case, it comprises less than the 1,500 tonnes which are considered a precautionary catch, and most of the catch of this stock is known to be taken by Norwegian trawl, gill net and longline fisheries. In harmonization with the 4th annual surveillance report of Ocean Trawlers' Barents Sea cod and haddock fishery, and with a similar level of *Sebastes marinus* bycatch (0.3%), it can be considered that the catch of this species taken by FIUN is not responsible for the poor status of the fishery and is highly unlikely to be hindering recovery. It is important to note here that there is still a directed fishery on *Sebastes marinus* which has not been banned as recommended by ICES Advice June 2013. . Activity 1.4 required the client to determine a method for vessels to reduce bycatch of *S. marinus* to the target level (if the current contribution of bycatch is too high to allow the stock to recover) and describe this method in a report. However, it is considered that the current contribution of bycatch won't hinder the recovery of the stock, and therefore there's no need to determine nor implement specific methods to reduce it. However, the client is encouraged to continue recording *Sebastes marinus* bycatch and to maintain it at this low level or lower it if possible. **Activity 1.5a & 1.5b** According to the Client's Action Plan published in the Public Certification Report, the client is encouraged to implement a method for vessels to reduce by-catch of *Sebastes marinus* by the 3rd audit and show evidences of bycatch reduction by the 4th and 5th audit.

However, it was determined in Activity 1.4, above, that there is currently no need to implement any specific methods to reduce bycatch of *Sebastes marinus*, and therefore the team considers that Activity 1.5 should be modified as follows:

By the 3rd and 4th audit the client shall continue recording *Sebastes marinus* bycatch data and maintain the same bycatch levels or lower. By the 4th audit the client shall provide a scientific report on *Sebastes marinus* stock status.

Activity 1.6a & 1.6b

Activity 1.6 commits the client to develop, by the 2nd audit, an assessment and strategy to address retained or discarded bycatch of other vulnerable species, apart from wolfish species and golden redfish (those discussed in activities above).

To date, the client has provided catch data on wolfish species, redfish species, Greenland halibut, plaice and European plaice (see Table 4.1-1 and Table 4.1-2 above, which show the catch of major species of FIUN trawl and longline fishery). The proportion of bycatch of mentioned species is low, with only Greenland halibut reaching a 5% of the total catch in the longline fishery and a 3% in the trawl fishery (see Table 4.1-1 and Table 4.1-2 above).

Table 4.1-3 shows retained catch composition for aggregated FIUN vessels in 2014.

Table 4.1-3: Retained catch for aggregated FIUN vessels in 2014

FIUN 2014 total catch	Tonnes	%
Atlantic cod	194.905,0	55%
Haddock	34.095,0	10%
Anarhichas lupus	567,0	0,2%
Anarhichas minor	2.020,0	1%
Anarhichas denticulatus	4.118,0	1%
Flatfish	143,0	0,04%
Atlantic flatfish	54,0	0,02%
Flounder	80,0	0,02%
Sand-dab	724,0	0,2%
Plaice	3.711,0	1%
King crab	5.187,0	1%
Opilio crab	590,0	0,2%
Capelin	6.024,0	1,71%
Molva (blue lings)	50,0	0,01%
Perch	3.443,0	0,98%
Redfish	420,0	0,1%
Sebastes mentella	5.732,0	1,6%
Halibut	9.209,0	2,6%
Whiting	31.244,0	8,9%
Pollock	9.059,0	2,6%
Herring	13.413,0	3,8%
Skate ray	75,0	0,02%
Mackerel	27.738,0	7,9%
Hake	36,0	0,01%
Others	139,0	0,04%
TOTAL	352.776,0	100%

Source: Fishery client

However, FIUN hasn't, aside from recording catches, developed any assessment nor strategy to address the bycatch of these or others vulnerable species. The activity is therefore behind schedule.

Status of condition	**On Target** As indicated above, the client agreed activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting annual milestones set by the assessment team and contributing in a stepwise approach to meeting the condition within the specified period. The following summarises the progress against the activities: **Activity 1.1** is on schedule for UoC1, UoC2, UoC3 and UoC4. **Activity 1.2a** is on schedule for UoC1 and UoC3 (trawlers) due to the small proportion of wolfish bycatch. The client is encouraged to continue recording wolfish bycatch and maintain it at a low level. **Activity 1.2b** It is behind schedule for UoC 2 and UoC4 (longliners), as wolfish bycatch represents a high proportion of the catch and, moreover, it has increased from 2014 to 2015. So far the client has neither developed nor implemented any measures to reduce wolfish bycatch. Action should therefore be taken by the client to reduce the catch of wolfish by the next annual audit. **Activity 1.3** was achieved at the first annual audit. **Activity 1.4** is considered to have been achieved as the current contribution of bycatch is not considered to hinder the recovery of the *S. marinus* stock, and so there is no need to determine nor implement specific methods to reduce it. **Activity 1.5a & 1.5b** have been amended and are on schedule **Activity 1.6a & 1.6b** are behind schedule for all UoC. The 2nd year milestone set for Condition 1 states, "By the second surveillance audit: If the current contribution of bycatch is too high to allow the stock to recover, determine a method for the client vessel to reduce bycatch of *S. marinus* to the target level." Activity 1.4 specifically deals with this milestone and with the audit team concluding that this had been met the condition is on target to be met. It is highlighted that the client has yet to present evidence of developing or implementing measures to reduce wolfish bycatch. Moreover, the bycatch of these species increased from 2014 to 2015. Activity 1.2 relates to this. The client will need to be able to demonstrate methods have been implemented to reduce their catch and provide evidence that the wolfish stock is in good condition at the next surveillance audit. Activity 1.6 commits the client to develop an assessment and strategy to address retained or discarded bycatch of other vulnerable species. The client did not present evidence of any assessment or strategy to address the bycatch. The client will need to be able to demonstrate this has happened at the next surveillance audit.

4.2 Condition 2

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)</th><th>PI number(s)</th><th>Scoring guidepost text</th><th>Score</th></tr>
<tr><td>2.4.1 The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis and function</td><td rowspan="2">There are significant concerns about the impact of the FIUN trawl fleet on benthic habitat:
» a strong coincidence of FIUN trawl fishing patterns and vulnerable/valuable habitat, and known encounters with sponge beds and abundant benthic organisms;
» the obvious potential of heavy trawl gear to have an impact;
» historic studies showing negative impacts of trawling on benthic biodiversity:
» limited measures to protect vulnerable/valuable habitat, especially in the North (Svalbard/Bear Island) and within the Russian jurisdiction (especially sponge fields and biogenic reefs/corals on the continental slope).
Despite these concerns objective data on the frequency and severity of encounters with important benthic habitat are not available and/or are not rigorously or routinely analysed. As a result, it cannot be concluded that the fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.</td><td>60 (Trawl)</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>2.4.2 There is a strategy in place that is designed to ensure the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to habitat types</td><td>65 (Trawl)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Condition</td><td colspan="3">Either:
» Demonstrate that the fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm; or
» Put in place a strategy that is designed to ensure that the fishery does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to benthic habitat</td></tr>
<tr><td>Milestones</td><td colspan="3">By the first surveillance audit: Put in place a system on client trawl vessels to record location and nature of FAO/NEAFC/CITES and including biogenic reefs and sponge fields.
By the third surveillance audit: Prepare an analysis of data as collected above to inform the development of a strategy. Participate in discussions with Russian and Norwegian authorities and other stakeholders to explore the need and opportunity to identify and regulate closed areas and/or low usage areas or areas where only lighter gear may be used.
By the fourth surveillance audit: Meet the condition</td></tr>
<tr><td>Client action plan</td><td colspan="3">The client agreed the following activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting annual milestones set by the assessment team and contributing in a stepwise approach to meeting the condition within the specified period. The following sets out the client’s progress against the activities. Those activities that are scheduled to report progress in this years audit are highlighted:
Activities:</td></tr>
</table>

	» 2.1: Follow the development of lighter/less impacting fishing gears, support such development somehow and implement if any Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Evidences of such new fishing gears developments **Activities:** » 2.2: Develop and put in practice on trawl vessels a system to record location and nature of encounters with indicator species of "vulnerable marine ecosystems" as defined by FAO/NEAFC/CITES and including biogenic reefs and sponge fields Timeframe: By the first audit (This was behind schedule in year 1 and so will be reported at the second audit) Outcomes: Evidences of such system realization **Activities:** » 2.3: Continue recording and analyzing by-catch of sessile benthic species Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Reports Activities: » 2.4: Prepare an analysis of data collected under the system mentioned above Timeframe: By the second audit Outcomes: Report on data analysis **Activities:** » 2.5: Develop a Strategy to reduce trawl impact on seabed habitat Timeframe: By the third audit Outcomes: Strategy text **Activities:** » 2.6: Put in practice Strategy to reduce trawl impact on seabed habitat Timeframe: By the forth audit, By the fifth audit Outcomes: Evidences of Strategy realization **Activities:** » 2.7: Participate in discussions with Russian and Norwegian authorities and other stakeholders to explore the need and opportunity to identify and regulate closed areas and/or low usage areas or areas where only lighter gear may be used Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Protocols, resolutions, official letters, mass-media publications etc.
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	Progress against each activity highlighted above is reported here: **Activity 2.1** This activity is focused on the development of lighter/less impacting fishing gears, support of such technical development and possible implementation. On last year's 1st surveillance audit, FIUN informed the assessment team that they had signed an agreement with PINRO, MMBI (Murmansk Marine Biological Institute), and WWF Russia. This agreement was intended to start the development and testing of sparing models of bottom trawls, which included the

	creation of effective footropes with softer impact on the seabed and the development of a cable system for trawling boards. During this year FIUN has reached an agreement with other MSC certificate holders in the region (KARAT, ATF, Eurofish) in order to work together with PINRO and WWF on the development of less impacting trawling gears. The client has provided copy of this agreement and its involvement on the financial requirements of this research is more evident now. **Activity 2.2** This activity is focused on the development and implementation of a system to record location and nature of encounters with indicator species of "vulnerable marine ecosystems" as defined by FAO/NEAFC/CITES and including biogenic reefs and sponge fields. The client has provided the team with an Excel document called "Every day control" and also word sheets of records by ship owners of vulnerable species and their location. Moreover, the client has also provided both screenshots and the user manual of a software package (developed by "Sea Informatics") intended for the creation and further maintenance of a database with information on protected species and rare objects and their location. This package includes a reference book with images which serves as a visual tool for helping skippers identifying protected species. This software package is not fully implemented yet due to technical problems. However, at least 21 vessels are working on this activity by recording these species in paperwork. The reference book mentioned above has improved since last year with the inclusion of Iceland scallop and red king crab, but the client should work on the inclusion of more benthic species indicator of "Vulnerable marine ecosystems", some of which are already being recorded even though they are not included in the reference book (such as ophiurs and starfish). **Activity 2.2 - Remedial actions** By the third audit the client is required to include relevant benthic species in the Reference book, such as those defined by the OSPAR Commission (see the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats), as currently this identification guide only includes marine mammals, seabirds, sharks and skates and a few benthic species: cold water coral, *gorgonocephalus spp.*, sponges, Iceland scallop, snow crab and red king crab. FIUN should take special care in the recording of species such as large sea sponges, sea pens, mussels and mussel beds, reef species, sea urchins, sea-cucumbers and gastropods, among others. Furthermore, the assessment team would like to receive information on the expected implementation of the software package by the third audit. The efforts made thus far have not met the objective but demonstrate sufficient progress. This milestone is now moved to the third audit. **Activity 2.3** In this activity FIUN committed to continue recording and analyzing bycatch of/encounters with sessile benthic species. During last year's 1st surveillance audit, the client provided copies of these records from seven different vessels for periods from January to July 2014. These records were written (in paper form, in Russian) by skippers in separate log-books but did not include most of the benthic species under study. This year the client has provided paperwork records by 21 vessels and an excel table which gathers all the information recorded. **Activity 2.3 - Remedial actions** By the third audit he client shall work on the implementation of benthic species records on all vessels, and shall encourage fishermen to focus on the benthic

	species present in the catch, especially those mentioned in Activity 2.2, which shall be included in the reference book/identification guide (or poster) in order to help fishermen with the identification of the different species. In order to facilitate the process and future analysis of records, the client should progress from the paper log-sheet records to the use of the software package. The efforts made thus far have not met the objective but demonstrate sufficient progress. This milestone is now moved to the third audit **Activity 2.4** This activity committed the client to prepare a report on data analysis of benthic species encountered. The client hasn´t provided any report yet on these sessile benthic species interactions. **Activity 2.4 - Remedial actions** The client is encouraged to prepare a report on data analysis of these species and interactions. **Activity 2. 7** This activity required the participation of the client in discussions with Russian and Norwegian authorities and other stakeholders to explore the need and opportunity to identify and regulate closed areas and/or low usage areas or areas where only lighter gear may be used. As the timeframe for this activity included all the period of the certificate, and expected outcomes were protocols, resolutions, official letters, mass-media publications etc., the team considered whether there have been any such outcomes. This activity was behind schedule on the 1st surveillance. However, this year the client has listed a comprehensive list of contacts and meetings with other stakeholders such as other fishing companies, WWF, PINRO, the Russian Institute of Oceanology of P.P. Shirshov, the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, and also with the Russian Federal Fishery Agency and the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission. It is worth noting that the main purpose of these meetings is not always the identification of new possibly regulated or closed areas, however the topic is expected to be raised, among others. The client attended the MSC Workshop on Sustainable bottom trawl fishery in the Barents Sea and adjacent waters (held in Oslo, April 2016) which focused on the impact of bottom trawlers in the Barents Sea. The client shall continue to work in the promotion of closed areas in the Barents Sea, in order to protect habitats and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, and shall provide evidence of work and improvements towards this objective. The client is required to continue participating in discussions with Russian and Norwegian authorities and other stakeholders to explore the need and opportunity to identify and regulate closed areas and/or low usage areas or areas where only lighter gear may be used.
Status of condition	**On Target** As indicated above, the client agreed activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting annual milestones set by the assessment team and contributing in a stepwise approach to meeting the condition within the specified period. The following summarises the progress against the activities: **Activity 2.1** is on schedule. **Activity 2.2** is on schedule (milestone changed) **Activity 2.3** is on schedule (milestone changed). **Activity 2.4** is behind schedule. **Activity 2.7** is on schedule.

	No second year milestone was set by the assessment team. Activity 2.4 with respect to the client preparing a report on data analysis of benthic species encountered is considered to be behind schedule and the client should ensure that this does not compromise the achievement of the next scheduled milestone

4.3 Condition 3

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	PI number(s)	Scoring guidepost text	Score
	3.1.2 The management system has effective consultation processes that are open to interested and affected parties. The roles and responsibilities of organisations and individuals who are involved in the management process are clear and understood by all relevant parties.	A major shortcoming of the Russian system for fisheries management is that NGOs outside the traditional fisheries complex, notably environmental NGOs, are only included to a very limited extent, in spite of obvious interest and relevant expertise in issues relating to marine management. Despite certain recent improvements, the assessment team did not see evidence that there is any serious opportunity for environmental NGOs, or indeed any other interested parties to contribute as an active stakeholder in the management process. This is notable at the bilateral level with Norway, in the JNRFC and at regional level in Russia's northern fishery basin. It cannot therefore be concluded that the consultation process provides opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved.	**75**
Condition	Work with the authorities to ensure that all relevant consultation processes are open and actively seek and facilitate the participation of all interested parties – including those which may not traditionally have had a role in the consultation process. In particular, those with relevant expertise in areas relating to P2 issues should be engaged.		
Milestones	No particular milestones. It cannot be required of the client to actually change the Russian system for fisheries management, just to continue efforts to include all relevant stakeholders in the management process.		
Client action plan	The client agreed the following activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting the condition within the specified period. The following sets out the client's progress against the activities. Those activities that are scheduled to report progress in this year's audit are highlighted: **Activities:** » 3.1: Hold an educational course "Sustainable fishing" for captains and deck officers Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Course programs, protocols, mass-media publications etc. **Activities:** » 3.2: Take active part in events devoted to marine environmental issues Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Recommendations, protocols, mass-media publications etc.		

	Activities: » 3.3: Other activities to involve relevant stakeholders in fishery management process Timeframe: All period Outcomes: Recommendations, protocols, mass-media publications etc.
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	**Activity 3.1** There is still no evidence of educational courses being organized for captains and other crew members. **Activities 3.2 & 3.3** The client engaged actively with public organizations, including NGOs such as WWF, during the first surveillance period. A major outcome relevant to this condition, as well as the recommendation given for this fishery (see 4.4 below), is the initiative to set up a Russian Fund for Responsible Fisheries. Based on an overview of international best practice, it is proposed that WWF coordinates the activities of the fund and recommends various projects to be implemented, while the industry and authorities contribute financing. The client had also participated at seminars and workshops together with authorities, scientists and other stakeholders. The condition specifically encourages the client to cooperate with stakeholders in areas relating to P2 issues. During the second surveillance period, framework agreements for further cooperation on sustainable fisheries management, including coordination of support to research and measures to reduce harm on the ecosystem and bottom structures in the Barents Sea, were concluded between FIUN and WWF and between the four Russian companies that have so far been MSC certified. The four companies established a Coordinating Council lead by a representative of Ocean Trawlers, which was the first Russian company in the Barents Sea fishery to be certified. In April 2016, the Council requested PINRO to continue collaboration with the companies on the development and testing of new gear, and specifically asked for the costs of PINRO's further involvement. Further, FIUN has increased its engagements with both Russian and Norwegian stakeholders on issues related to sustainable fisheries management in general, and MSC P2 issues in particular. For instance, a week-long seminar was organized in Murmansk in February 2016, which included participants from the certified companies, two research institutes and other stakeholders, including WWF. Among the topics on the agenda were the development of new catch gear, vulnerable marine ecosystems, scientific observer schemes and MSC logs. In April 2006, FIUN participated at a workshop organized by MSC in Oslo, with a number of Norwegian and Russian stakeholders present. The new MSC requirements (FCR 2.0) were on the agenda, as well as a number of other issues, including the development of new catch methods.
Status of condition	**On Target** As indicated above, the client agreed activities in their action plan with the intent on meeting the condition. The following summarises the progress against the activities: **Activity 3.1** behind schedule. **Activity 3.2** on schedule. **Activity 3.3** on schedule Activity 3.1 with respect to holding educational courses "Sustainable fishing" for captains and deck officers is considered to be behind schedule and the client should ensure that this does not compromise the achievement of the condition.

4.4 Recommendation 1

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	PI number(s)	Scoring guidepost text	Score
	3.1.3 » Work with the authorities to clarify how questions of risk and uncertainty are approached in management decision-making, in particular in the absence of clear scientific evidence. Strive for such considerations to be given more explicit prominence in future drafts of federal acts or northern basin rules.	The rationale for this recommendation is that the precautionary principle is not explicitly laid down in Russian fisheries law (cf. PI 3.1.3). Although the Russian Federation has ratified international agreements which adopt this principle, which are legislatively superior to federal law in Russia, there remains some question over the practical application of the principle of protection and rational use, which is applied in the Russian Federal Fisheries Act and other legislative texts at lower levels. It is unclear to what extent this principle includes a presumption towards more precautionary decision making in the event of scientific uncertainty.	**N/A**
Recommendation	The assessment team would like to see the client encourage Russian fisheries management authorities to explicitly adopt the precautionary principle as such in Russian legislation.		
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	See 4.2.3 above (Activities 3.1-3.3) about the proposed Russian Fund for Responsible Fisheries. The background document to these plans specifically mentions the objective to influence Russian fisheries legislation to even better reflect the requirements of the precautionary approach, as reflected in international fisheries agreements and codes of conduct. Hence, work under this recommendation is deemed to be on target.		
Status of recommendation	On Target		

5 Conclusion

This fishery has three open conditions, progress against the milestones (where set) is on target. Even though some activities under all three conditions remain behind schedule, the condition milestones set by the assessment team have been met. It is recommended that the client re-double its efforts on its activities highlighted in their action plan to ensure that future milestones and conditions are met within the life of the certificate.

The FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas Cod & haddock fishery has its certificate anniversary on the 25th June and, although previous surveillances have been delayed due to logistical issues within the fishery we will insist upon the third Surveillance audit taking place as close to this date as possible.

6 Surveillance Schedule

Table A2.1: Fishery Surveillance Plan

Score from CR Table C3	Surveillance Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
2 or more	Normal Surveillance	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit

Rationale for determining surveillance score

The fishery meets the score for normal surveillance levels and there is no pressing reason to deviate from this course. Therefore the Normal Surveillance level is confirmed.

7 References

- Environmental Monitoring of Svalbard and Jan Mayen: http://www.mosj.no/en/fauna/marine/common-redfish.html
- FIUN bycatch distribution maps (*Sebastes marinus*, A*narhichas minor, Anarhichas denticulatus and Anarhicas lupus).*
- ICES (2014) 3.3.4 Haddock in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic). Advice June 2014.
- ICES (2015) advice for cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic).
- ICES (2015). Norway and Russia request to ICES for revised advice for Haddock in Subareas I and II.
- ICES Advice June 2013 (advice for 2014–2016) for Golden redfish (*Sebastes marinus*) in Subareas I and II (Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea).
- "Materials to a condition of stocks of a perch of golden (Sebastes marinus) and catfishes (Anarhichas minor, Anarhichas denticulatus and Anarhicas lupus) and their trade in the Barents Sea and adjacent waters". Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO).
- Protocol of the 45th session of the Joint Russian- Norwegian Fisheries Commission. http://www.jointfish.no/nno/OM-FISKERIKOMMISJONEN/PROTOKOLLER