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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Pacific Hake Mid-Water Trawl

MSC Surveillance Announcement

December 10, 2021

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Pacific hake mid-water trawl	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	North Pacific hake (<i>Merluccius productus</i>), offshore stock Mid-water trawl US federal EEZ waters off Washington, Oregon and California, and the Canadian EEZ waters off the British Columbia coast, not including the Gulf of Georgia. FAO 67	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	21/11/2019	20/05/2025
4	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 1 – On-site	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	X
	3rd Surveillance	

	4th Surveillance	
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	<p>Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot will serve as team leader for the assessment. Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has passed the MSC team leader training; • She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module; • She meets ISO 19011 training requirements; • She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>	
7	Proposed team members	
	<p>Dr. Stocker is a scientist with over 38 years of extensive experience in fisheries science. He is currently proprietor of Stocker & Associates Consultants conducting Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification projects. Since 2009 he has worked as a team member for both principles 1 and 3 on a number of tuna and groundfish MSC assessments in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Dr. Stocker has conducted many surveillance audits, several MSC peer reviews, and has also been involved in the development and evaluation of new MSC P1 assessment methodology. He is an MSC certified Fishery Team Member.</p> <p>Dr. Stocker acted as marine fisheries consultant under contract with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to provide scientific advice on highly migratory species in the Pacific Ocean. He was the lead Canadian scientist for highly migratory species for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). He served as co-chair of the Stock Assessment Working Group of the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC and chaired the ISC Albacore Working Group.</p> <p>From 1978-2006 Dr. Stocker held the position of research scientist with DFO at the Pacific biological Station conducting population dynamic studies, conducting peer reviewed stock assessments of many marine species, and communicating results to fisheries managers and stakeholders. He authored and co-authored</p>	

	<p>over 90 scientific papers and reports, and made over 50 presentations in national and international scientific meetings.</p> <p>Dr. Stocker chaired the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) for many years and edited and published over 30 advisory documents on the stock status of marine species and the implications of harvest management on these stocks. Additionally, Dr. Stocker served as in-house stock assessment consultant to the New Zealand Fishing Industry Board in the early 1990s conducting peer reviewed stock assessments, participating in the peer review process, and advising the Board on inshore and deepwater fisheries.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Stocker meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years’ experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Dr. Susan Hanna is professor emeritus of marine economics at Oregon State University. Her research and publications are in the area of marine economics and policy, with an emphasis on fishery management, ecosystem-based fishery management, property rights and institutional design. Dr. Hanna has served as a scientific advisor to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Minerals Management Service, Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. She served on the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council (NRC), National Academy of Sciences, and several NRC Committees, including the Committee to Review Individual Quotas in Fisheries and the Committee on Protection and Management of Pacific Northwest Anadromous Salmonids.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Hanna meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years’ experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.</p>
8	Audit/review time and location
	A surveillance audit will occur the week of January 10, 2022 in Seattle, WA
9	Assessment and review activities
	The surveillance will review any changes in science and management and will monitor progress in closing out conditions.

10	Stakeholder opportunities
	Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet remotely (FCP v2.2 7.28.15.b). Provide input or comments to the team regarding the Surveillance Audit. Stakeholders must use the MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Surveillance Audits v1.0 (Ctrl+click to follow link).

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery, to the surveillance and expedited assessments of the fisheries. Unless covered by FCP 4.3.3 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the surveillance audit, used to determine the surveillance audit outcome or used as the basis for an objection to certification. The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template ([MSC template for stakeholder input into a surveillance audit](#)) for stakeholder response available at [MSC program supporting documents](#). Stakeholders are encouraged not to withhold information, including concerns and knowledge about the fishery.

You must use the template to provide your response. All comments and inquiries should be directed to MRAG Americas. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm UTC on January 3, 2022.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/pacific-hake-mid-water-trawl/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: December 9, 2021

Appendix 1: Summary of CVs of team leader and team member(s)

Ms. Amanda Stern-Piriot will serve as team leader for the assessment. Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Piriot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.

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Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

Table 2 – Surveillance level justification			
Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
2	On-site audit	2 auditors on-site, 1 remote	The site visit is being held in conjunction with the fishery's RFM assessment allowing the assessment teams to coordinate and streamline meetings.

Table3 – Timing of surveillance audit			
Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
2	May 2022	January 2022	Due to the Covid-19 derogation the certificate anniversary date moved from November 2021 to May 2022. The clients elected to keep to the original surveillance schedule as much as possible because it works well with planning and the release of scientific information.

Table 3 – Fishery surveillance program				
Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 1	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site review of information	On-site audit with reassessment site visit