



## Eastern Baltic Cod Fisheries

**DFPO Denmark Eastern Baltic Cod, Germany Eastern Baltic Cod, Swedish Fisherman's Producer Organisation (SFPO) Eastern Baltic cod, LFA Latvia Trawl Eastern Baltic Cod, Poland Eastern Baltic Cod**

### Notice of Suspension of MSC Certificates

**17 December 2015 until Further Notice**

Harmonization of the DFPO Denmark Eastern Baltic Cod, Germany Eastern Baltic Cod, Swedish Fisherman's Producer Organisation (SFPO) Eastern Baltic Cod, LFA Latvia Trawl Eastern Baltic cod, Poland Eastern Baltic Cod has occurred following a surveillance audit site visit conducted by MRAG Americas for DFPO Denmark Eastern Baltic Cod, Germany Eastern Baltic Cod, Swedish Fisherman's Producer Organisation (SFPO) Eastern Baltic Cod between the 7-9 October 2015. MRAG Americas, Acoura, and Bureau Veritas have concluded that the certified fisheries for the certified eastern Baltic cod should be suspended with immediate effect and until further notice. The reason for suspending the fisheries is that the 2015 benchmark stock assessment provided no advice on stock status or reference points, and is not robust or appropriate for a harvest control rule; this has implications for the harvest strategy and harvest control rule. As such, Principle 1 scores less than 80, and the fisheries do not currently meet the requirements set out in the MSC Principles and Criteria. This suspension will remain in force until the cause of suspension has been addressed.

### Eligibility of eastern Baltic cod to use MSC ecolabel

The MSC requires that a certificate holder not sell any fish caught after the day of suspension, and until such time that the suspension is lifted, as MSC-certified. To comply with this requirement, the **DFPO Denmark Eastern Baltic Cod, Germany Eastern Baltic Cod, and Swedish Fisherman's Producer Organisation (SFPO) Eastern Baltic cod, LFA Latvia Trawl Eastern Baltic Cod, and Poland Eastern Baltic Cod** have determined that any eastern Baltic cod landed from these fisheries on or after the date of this notice and until such time that the suspension is lifted are not eligible to use the MSC ecolabel. Eastern Baltic cod that were landed within these certified Units of Certification prior to the date of this suspension, purchased/sold as MSC certified and stored in a facility with a valid MSC chain of custody certificate with eastern Baltic cod within scope, can be sold as MSC certified if the date of landing can be confirmed.

### Future updates

Further details of the suspension will be included in surveillance reports which will be submitted to the MSC for publication. The clients of the respective fisheries are working to prepare a

Corrective Action Plan to address this issue. Details of this plan will be published on the MSC website for each fishery in due course.

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