

SAI Global

Ireland rope grown mussel

MSC Surveillance Announcement

1. Introduction

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

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

2. Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name
	Ireland rope grown mussel
2	Surveillance level and type
	Surveillance level 4, off-site surveillance audit. The surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR or a previous surveillance report. An updated surveillance programme has been provided in Appendix 2.
3	Surveillance number
	1 st Surveillance X
	2 nd Surveillance
	3 rd Surveillance
	4 th Surveillance
	Other (expedited etc)
4	Proposed team leader
	<p>Conor Donnelly – Lead Assessor with responsibility for Principle 3 and traceability It is proposed that Conor Donnelly, a member of SAI Global’s internal staff will lead the Assessment Team. Conor meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject ▪ 3+ years’ fisheries experience ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually ▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team leader training course within the last 5 years. ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant. ▪ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years. ▪ Experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders ▪ Two years fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years. <p>Conor will be responsible for coordinating the Assessment Team, participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures.</p> <p>In addition to leading the Assessment Team Conor will be the team’s expert on Principle 3. To that end, he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst. <p>He will be responsible for traceability assessment and accordingly has passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The MSC’s Traceability training module within the last 5 years. ▪ New versions of the training when new traceability requirements are published prior to undertaking assessments against the new requirements. ▪ Reviewed any updates to the traceability requirements at least annually. <p>Conor does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A summary of Conor’s CV is provided in Appendix 1. Conor will be off-site during the audit.</p>
5	Proposed team members
	<p>Sam Dignan – Assessor with responsibility for Principle 2 and Risk Based Framework (RBF) Sam meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCP Annex PC; he has:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject ▪ 3 years' fisheries experience ▪ Reviewed any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually ▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 5 years ▪ Passed new versions of the compulsory online training modules where relevant <p>With respect to his additional duties under Principle 2, Sam has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years' or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems including the following topics: i) bycatch and ii) habitats. <p>Sam has also passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The MSC's RBF training course in the last 5 years ▪ New versions of the training when new RBF requirements are published prior to undertaking assessments against the new requirements ▪ Reviewed any updates to the RBF requirements at least annually. <p>And he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders ▪ Two years fishery work experience in the country or in a relevant fishery in the last 15 years. <p>Sam does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. A summary of Sam's CV is provided in Appendix 1. Sam will be off-site during the audit.</p>
6	Audit/review time and location
	<p>The 'site visit' portion of this audit will take place remotely between Monday 6th and Friday 10th July. As this is a remote site visit, Conor and Sam will participate from their offices at home.</p>
7	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The following will be assessed/reviewed during this audit (Note this may not be an exhaustive list):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the fishery and its management. 2. Any developments or changes within the fishery that impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products. 3. Any other significant changes in the fishery.

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Surveillance Audits

During each surveillance audit, SAI Global is required to hold interviews and actively seek the views of stakeholders to ensure that the Audit Team is aware of stakeholders' concerns. Therefore, SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to meet with the Audit Team and/or provide information relevant to the surveillance process.

SAI Global would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. At the same time we must inform you that we are unable to reference or use information that cannot be shared with all stakeholders. An exception may be possible where the information relates to either; 1) financial transactions about certification; 2) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or; 3) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the Client's country.

Prior to becoming involved, and to ensure your effective participation, SAI Global would encourage stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the process using the resources provided on the MSC's website (<https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>).

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

If you would like to speak with the audit team, please advise us of your interest by 17:00 UTC on 5th July 2020, providing the following details when doing so:

- Your name and contact details.
- Your association with the fishery.
- The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

If you do not wish to be interviewed, or if you are unavailable during the timeframe outlined in Table 1 above, you may instead make a written submission to the audit team, providing objective evidence and references in support of any claims or claimed error of fact, and using the "MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments", which can be found on the MSC website here: <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>.

IMPORTANT NOTE

According to MSC FCP v.2.1 §7.15.3, SAI Global is only permitted to accept stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the aforementioned "MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments", or if raised at the same visit in person or remotely; therefore, SAI Global is unable to consider written submissions not made in the correct format and these will be returned until the issue is rectified.

Comments/responses should be sent to:

SAI Global Ireland Client Services

E: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Team's CVs

Assessment Team Leader: Conor Donnelly, Primary Responsibility for P3 and Traceability.

Conor is an experienced marine ecologist and environmental manager with a background of over 17 years at the UK statutory nature conservation body, Natural England, where he was Senior Marine Adviser responsible for marine delivery across the East Midlands, Norfolk and Suffolk. He has a BSc. in Environmental Science from King's College, University of London and an MRes. in Marine and Coastal Ecology and Environmental Management from the University of York. Conor has particular experience of shellfisheries and their management, in particular the mussel, cockle and shrimp fisheries of The Wash, UK, where he has extensive experience of working with fisheries managers, the fishing sector, local communities and eNGOs to assess the environmental impacts of these fisheries and provide advice on their management. He was Natural England's representative on the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and its predecessor. He also advised and supported the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on fisheries casework in the southern North Sea under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) including meetings with other member states. Other experience includes Marine Protected Area designation, conservation advice and condition assessment; conservation legislation and policy; and working with partners and stakeholders to deliver positive environmental outcomes. Conor is an ISO lead auditor.

Assessment Team Member: Sam Dignan, Primary Responsibility for P2 and RBF.

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

Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency

As noted previously, the surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR.

The first surveillance was originally scheduled as an on-site audit. However, in response to the current COVID pandemic the MSC issued a derogation on the 27th March 2020 which stated that the requirements for in-person site visits do not apply during the period of the derogation. Consequently, this surveillance is being undertaken as an off-site audit. The derogation also automatically extended all fishery certificates and associated timelines. However, the client has opted to proceed as closely to the original schedule as possible. The updated derogation (20th May 2020) has been released as an interpretation by the MSC and is available at the following link:

<https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/Covid-19-pandemic-derogation-March-2020>

As the surveillance programme for this fishery has changed from that previously indicated in the PCR, the following is presented below:

1. A rationale for any reduction from the default surveillance level following FCP v2.1 7.28.4–7.28.7.
2. A rationale for any deviations from carrying out the surveillance audit before or after the anniversary date of certification.
3. A completed revised fishery surveillance programme.

Table 2. Surveillance level rationale.			
Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
1	Off-site audit	2 auditors off-site	<p>This visit was originally scheduled as an in-person site visit. However, as noted above, in line with the MSC's COVID-19 derogation, this visit has been changed to a remote audit.</p> <p>One of the original reasons for an on-site audit was to facilitate access to information on progress in implementing license review and post-license monitoring. However, there was an opportunity to gather this information in person earlier in the year as part of the site visit for the associated Ireland bottom grown mussel scope extension. Furthermore, there are no conditions on this fishery and the required information is likely to be able to be provided remotely.</p> <p>Surveillance 2 was originally scheduled as an off-site audit and has been amended to an on-site audit. Consequently the surveillance level remains the same for this fishery at level 4.</p>

Table 3. Timing of surveillance audit.

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
1	July 2019	July 2020	The audit is being undertaken a couple of days after the anniversary date of the certificate (4 th July) to allow for availability of stakeholders.

Table 4. Fishery surveillance programme.

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

4. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Announcement Template v2.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
1.1	12 June 2015	Appendix 2 with surveillance frequency Table added
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1

A controlled document list of MSC programme documents is available on the [MSC website \(www.msc.org\)](http://www.msc.org).

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