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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Schleswig-Holstein Blue Shell Mussel Fishery

MSC Surveillance Announcement

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel fishery	
2	Surveillance level and type	
	Level 4 – off-site audit	
3	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	X
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc)	
4	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</p>	

	<p>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 & 3 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>
5	Proposed team members
	<p>Julian Addison is an independent fisheries consultant specializing in shellfish and inshore fisheries. Until 2010 he served for 28 years at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), which is the UK Government's marine science agency for environment, fisheries and aquatic science, most recently as Senior Shellfish Advisor. Relevant skills and experience include 30 years' experience of stock assessment and provision of management advice on shellfish and inshore fisheries, extensive shellfish research primarily in the field of crustacean population dynamics and assessment, extensive knowledge of the UK shellfish and inshore fisheries industry and liaison with fishers and other stakeholder groups, knowledge of shellfisheries management regimes worldwide, effective oral and written communication skills and winning of contracts under competitive tender. He has conducted MSC full assessments for the Newfoundland and Labrador snow crab fishery, the Ireland and Northern Ireland bottom grown mussel fisheries, both the Estonia and Faroe Islands Barents Sea cold water prawn fisheries, the Nephrops fishery in the Skagerrak and Kattegat, separate assessments for the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian Skagerrak and Norwegian Deep cold water prawn fishery, the Eastern Canada offshore lobster fishery, Limfjord mussel and cockle fisheries and Chile squat lobster fisheries. Peer reviews of MSC assessments in both Europe and North America of lobster, cold water prawn, and razorfish, cockle and scallop fisheries.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Addison 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; • He has passed the MSC Traceability training module. <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>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p>

	A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.
6	Audit/review time and location
	A remote surveillance audit has been scheduled for 06 March 2020. The timing of the surveillance audit has deviated from the certificate anniversary date. See Appendix 1 for details.
7	Assessment and review activities
	The surveillance will review any changes in science and management, and will monitor progress in closing out conditions.

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 4.4.1 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 for stakeholder response available at [MSC program supporting documents](#). 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 GMT on 28 February 2020.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/schleswig-holstein-blue-shell-mussel/@@view>.

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

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: 03 February 2020

Appendix 1: Surveillance frequency

1. The announcement shall include a rationale for any reduction from the default surveillance level following FCP v2.1 7.28.4-7.28.7.
2. The announcement shall include a rationale for any deviations from carrying out the surveillance audit before or after the anniversary date of certification.
3. The announcement shall include a completed fishery surveillance program.

Table 2 – Surveillance level rationale			
Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
	There is no change in surveillance rationale.		

Table 3 – Timing of surveillance audit			
Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
3	October 2019	March 2020	It is efficient to time the surveillance audit with the annual Muschelmeeting of parties to the Framework Agreement

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