

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	Bahamian Spiny Lobster Fishery
Assessment number	Initial assessment
Reduced re-assessment	This is an initial assessment
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>The CAB confirms that the fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1]. The CAB further confirms the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery is within scope of the MSC standard, i.e. it does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute; • The certificate is open to certificate sharing; • IPI stocks are not caught; • The fishery is not enhanced; • This fishery does not overlap with any MSC fisheries; • The fishery is not based on an introduced species; <p>The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.</p>
Certificate sharing statement	This certificate is not open to certificate sharing

Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period
	Fishery announcement	12 th January 2017	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process
	Site visit	14 th February 2017	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit. Exact dates TBC.
	Peer Reviewer Announcement	1 st June 2017	Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment
	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	15 th July 2017	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	1 st October 2017	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination
	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	1 st November 2017	

<p>Name of proposed Team Leader</p>	<p>It is proposed that Dr Jo Gascoigne will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this assessment and Principle 2.</p> <p>Dr Joanna Gascoigne</p> <p>Dr Joanna Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales and a shellfisheries expert, with over 25 years' experience working in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne is a specific expert in bivalves and has a PhD from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in the USA, which was completed on the Allee effects of the queen conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i>. Between 2003 and 2007 Dr Gascoigne completed postdoctoral research looking at the Menai strait mussel. This work considered all areas mussel culture and specifically looked at the carrying capacity of the system for shellfish culture and effects on stock and reproduction relating to fishing effort. Dr Gascoigne's work also involved detailed study of the management and policies used in the fishery and its implications.</p> <p>Aside from the above experience Dr Gascoigne has also completed a large amount of work looking at bivalve fisheries around the world. This has included policy based analysis of the king scallop and whelk in UK waters. She has also worked on the creation of management plans and policies in countries including Guyana and Oman.</p> <p>Based on the above experience MEC is confident that Dr Gascoigne meets the 5-year competency requirement for Principle 1 and Principle 2 experience.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne's a fully qualified MSC Team Leader and has been involved as expert and lead auditor in over 15 MSC pre- and full assessments.</p> <p>She has also been involved in the use of the RBF on numerous occasions, having completed the required training, and this has also furthered her experience in specific stakeholder interview.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne has recently completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.0 Fisheries Certification Requirements.</p>
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Names of proposed assessors	<p>Professor Patricio Arana.</p> <p>Patricio achieved his first degree in 1967 and subsequently his Masters in the Management of Marine Resources in 1979 and has worked in fisheries ever since building a successful career. Currently, he is Professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the Catholic University of Valparaiso. He sits on the Chilean Commission for the Conservation of Living Marine Resources in the Antarctic and undertakes consultancy work on a wide range of issues. He has extensive research experience in stock assessments including rock lobster and other crustaceans, and the ecosystem implications of fishery practices. He undertook scientific research projects related to the Juan Fernández lobster fishery between 1969 and 2010. He was also P1 and P2 assessor for the initial certification of the Juan Fernández fishery in 2013 and its recent surveillance in 2016.</p> <p>Thomas Matthews</p> <p>Tom has worked almost exclusively with lobster research and management issues in Florida and the Caribbean for 27 years. He has worked on specific lobster management issues in Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. He has also consultation with lobster researchers and managers in most countries in the Caribbean and have organised or chaired several international meetings.</p> <p>Tom currently works as the lobster research programme administrator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in the Florida Keys. FWC is the lead agency responsible for management of the spiny lobster fishery in Florida. Here he is responsible for analysis of all lobster fishery research for management of the fishery.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	<p>Default Assessment Tree will be used</p>
Site visit	<p>14th – 17th February 2017 – Nassau, Grand Bahama, Bahamas</p> <p>The location is to be announced.</p> <p>The exact time will be announced shortly. MEC welcomes anyone who would like to participate. It is proposed that the complete assessment team will be on site.</p>

MEC would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the site visit. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Kat Collinson (kat.collinson@me-cert.com) or Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team in person, this can be arranged. Remote meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above-mentioned email addresses.

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.

Submitted by: Kat Collinson

Date: 30th January 2017