

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
Year 4 Surveillance Report**

**Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo cod and
haddock fishery**

On behalf of Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo

Prepared by ME Certification Ltd

November 2016

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Dr Jo Gascoigne**

Contents

CONTENTS	1
1. GENERAL INFORMATION	2
2. BACKGROUND	4
2.1. PRINCIPLE 1	5
2.1.1. COD (<i>GADUS MORHUA</i>) IN SUBAREAS I AND II (NORTHEAST ARCTIC)	5
2.1.2. HADDOCK (<i>MELANOGRAMMUS AEGLEFINUS</i>) IN SUBAREAS I AND II (NORTHEAST ARCTIC)	6
2.2. PRINCIPLE 2	7
2.3. PRINCIPLE 3	8
2.4. TRACEABILITY	9
2.5. ASSESSMENT PROCESS	9
3. RESULTS.....	11
3.1. CONDITIONS	11
4. CONCLUSION.....	12
5. REFERENCES	13
6. APPENDIX 1. BARENTS SEA TRAWL HABITATS HARMONISATION MEETING – MEETING NOTES	14
7. APPENDIX 2. PI 2.4.1 RESCORING.....	17

1. General Information

Fishery name	Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo cod and haddock fishery		
Units of assessment	Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	
	Geographical range	Northeast Atlantic and Northeast Arctic	
	Method of capture	Otter trawl	
	Stock	Northeast Arctic stocks (ICES Sub Areas I, IIa, IIb)	
	Management Systems	Common Fisheries Policy; French National management system; EU-Norway agreement; Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs.	
	Client group	Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo member vessels in ICES Subareas I & II fishing for Northeast Arctic cod.	
	Species	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	
	Geographical range	Northeast Atlantic and Northeast Arctic	
	Method of capture	Otter trawl	
	Stock	Northeast Arctic stocks (ICES Sub Areas I, IIa, IIb)	
	Management Systems	Common Fisheries Policy; French National management system; EU-Norway agreement; Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs	
	Client group	Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo member vessels in ICES Subareas I & II fishing for Northeast Arctic haddock	
Date certified	17 th April 2012	Date of expiry	16 th April 2017
Surveillance level and type	<p>Surveillance level 4, off-site surveillance audit</p> <p>Please note this surveillance level was revised in line with the FCRv2.0 as the standard surveillance level stated in the Public Certification Report conformed to the CRv1.3</p>		

Date of surveillance audit	15 th August 2016 - remote	
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	X
	Other (expedited etc.)	
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Chrissie Sieben Assessor: Dr Jo Gascoigne	
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2. Background

This report outlines the process and outcome of the fourth annual surveillance audit for the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo cod and haddock fishery. The fishery is carried out by the Euronor and Compagnie des Pêches St Malo member vessels listed in Table 1. The certified fishery targets the Northeast Arctic cod and haddock stocks in the Norwegian Economic Zone (NEZ) and the Svalbard Fisheries Protection Zone (SFPZ) (ICES Sub Area I and Divisions IIa and IIb) using demersal otter trawls.

Table 1. Vessels in the UoA.

Company	Vessel	Vessel Type	Length (m)	Call sign
Euronor	Cap Nord	Freezer	54.55	FNLM
	Klondyke	Freezer	54.55	FHPJ
	Nordic II	Freezer	54.25	FNGU
Compagnie des Peches St Malo	Grand Hermine	Freezer	61.55	FNGD

The fishery was certified by MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd (MEP) on the 19th April 2012 with one condition, summarised in Table 2. Progress against this condition is further discussed in Section 3.1.

Table 2. Summary of Assessment Conditions (prior to Year 4 audit)

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	PI 2.4.1 – Habitat Outcome	on target	70	not rescored

The following sections review further progress, as well as whether any further changes have occurred since the initial assessment in relation to the three MSC Principles.

2.1. Principle 1

TAC and catch data for the two target species are shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3. TAC and Catch Data for Northeast Arctic cod

Northeast Arctic cod	Year	Amount (tonnes)	
		Euronor	Cie des Pêches St Malo
TAC	2015	53,700	
UoA share of TAC	2015	4,536	4,177
UoC share of TAC	2015	4,536	4,177
Total green weight catch by UoC	2015	4,182	4,179
	2014	3,975	4,171

Table 4. TAC and Catch Data for Northeast Arctic haddock

Northeast Arctic haddock	Year	Amount (tonnes)	
		Euronor	Cie des Pêches St Malo
TAC	2015	1,200	
UoA share of TAC	2015	81*	115*
UoC share of TAC	2015	81*	115*
Total green weight catch by UoC	2015	81.1	140
	2014	87.8	110

* Norwegian zone only. * None of the companies have quota for haddock in Svalbard; bycatch is instead limited to 15% haddock per trawl

2.1.1. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)

The most recent ICES advice on the Northeast Arctic cod stock was published in June 2016 (ICES, 2016a). As was the case in previous years, the stock remains in good condition: the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been above MSY Btrigger since 2002 while fishing mortality (F) was reduced from well above F_{lim} in 1997 to below F_{MSY} in 2007. In recent years, F has started an upward trend, however, and is now just below F_{MSY} . Surveys indicate that year classes 2011–2014 are above or around the long-term average (Figure 1). This stock is shared equally between Norway and the Russian Federation and continues to be managed by the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission, established in 1975. ICES advises that when the Joint Russian–Norwegian Fisheries Commission management plan is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 805,000 tonnes. This is approximately a 10% reduction compared to the advice given in the previous year.

Fishing pressure					Stock size			
		2013	2014	2015		2014	2015	2016
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	✓	✓	✓	Appropriate	MSY	✓	✓
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	✓	✓
Management plan	F_{MGT}	✓	✓	✓	Below	SSB_{MGT}	✓	✓
								Above trigger
								Full reproductive capacity
								Above

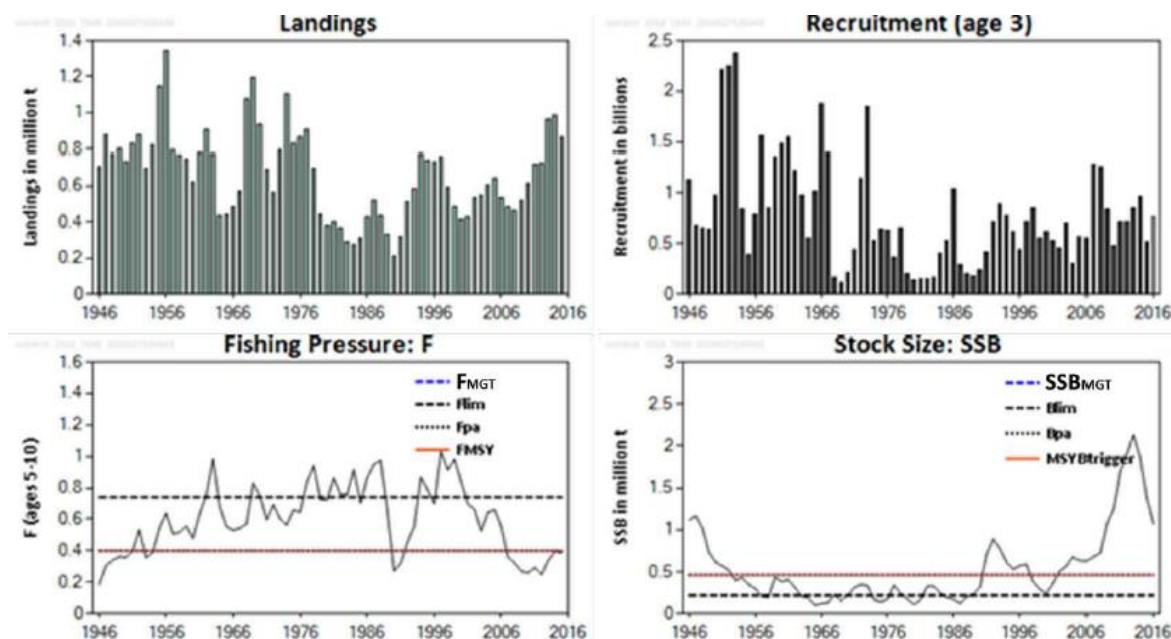


Figure 1. Cod in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. Landings, recruitment, SSB and F. Time-series used in the assessment. For this stock, $F_{MGT} = F_{MSY} = F_{pa}$, and $SSB_{MGT} = MSY B_{trigger} = B_{pa}$; therefore, the horizontal lines representing these points in the graph overlap (from ICES, 2016a).

2.1.2. Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)

The most recent ICES advice on the Northeast Arctic haddock stock was published in June 2016 (ICES, 2016b). As for NEA cod, this stock remains in good condition: SSB has been above $MSY B_{trigger}$ since 1989, increasing since 2000, and reaching the series maximum in 2015. F was around F_{MSY} from the mid-1990s to 2011, but has declined substantially since then and remains well below F_{MSY} . Recruitment-at-age 3 has been at or above the long-term average since 2000. The very strong year classes 2004-2006 are still dominating the spawning stock although there have been no strong year classes observed after these (Figure 2). This stock is also managed by the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission, and ICES advises that when the Joint Russian–Norwegian Fisheries Commission management plan is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 233,000 tonnes which is about 5% below the previous year's advice.

Fishing pressure						Stock size					
		2013	2014	2015				2014	2015	2016	
Maximum sustainable yield	F _{MSY}	✓	✓	✓	Below	MSY	✓	✓	✓	Above trigger	
Precautionary approach	F _{pa} , F _{lim}	✓	✓	✓	Harvested sustainably	B _{pa} , B _{lim}	✓	✓	✓	Full reproductive capacity	
Management plan	F _{MGT}	✓	✓	✓	Below	SSB _{MGT}	✓	✓	✓	Above	

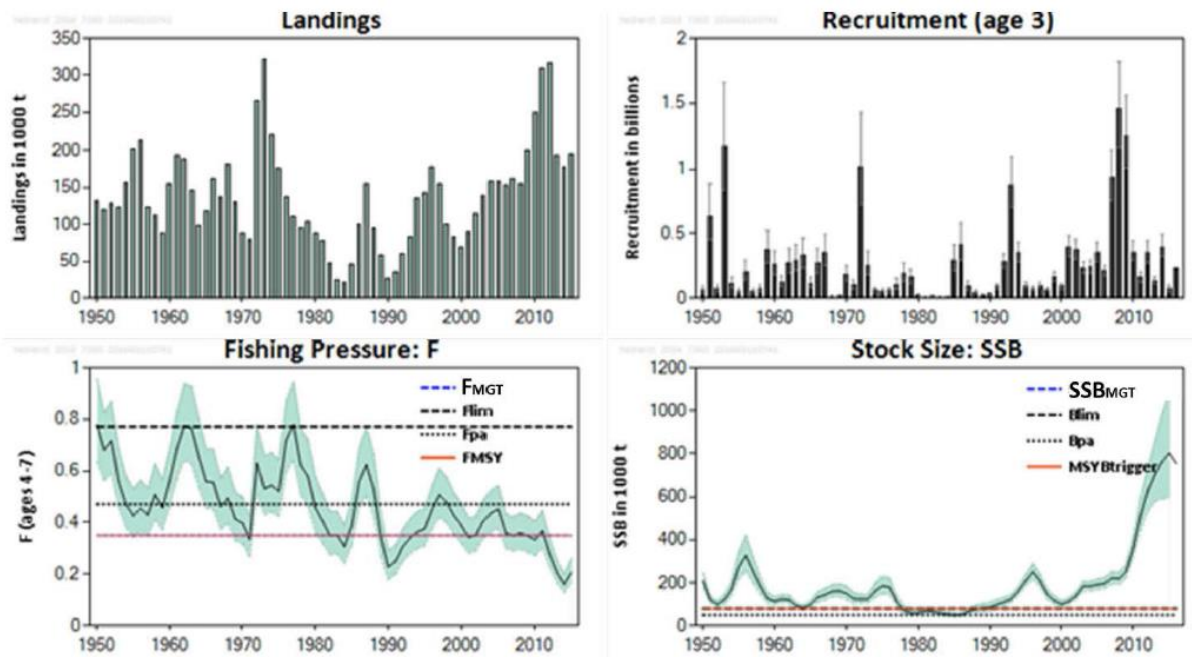


Figure 2. Haddock in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. Summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). Recruitment, F, and SSB have confidence intervals (95%) in the plot. For this stock, $F_{MGT} = F_{MSY}$, and $SSB_{MGT} = MSY B_{trigger} = B_{pa}$; therefore, the horizontal lines representing these points in the graph overlap (from ICES, 2016b).

2.2. Principle 2

To verify changes against Principle 2, vessel landings data were obtained; a summary of these data is presented in Table 5 and Table 6. For both client groups, none of the other retained species made up more than 5% of the catch and there are therefore no main retained species.

Table 5. Retained catch aboard Euronor vessels shown as live weight (tonnes) for 2015.

Species	Live weight (tonnes)		% Composition 2015
	2014	2015	
Redfish (<i>Sebastes</i> spp.)	11.0	17.7	0.41
Greenland Halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)	2.5	7.4	0.17
American plaice (<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>)	0.0	11.4	0.26
Wolfish (<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>)	0.0	38.5	0.89
Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	28.1	1.1	0.03
Other	0.0	0.04	0.00
TOTAL (retained plus target)	4,095.7	4,339.2	

Table 6. Retained catch aboard the Grand Hermine, shown as live weight (tonnes) for 2015.

Species	Live weight (tonnes)		% Composition 2015
	2014	2015	
Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	180	121	2.72
Redfish (<i>Sebastes</i> spp.)	4.24	4.47	0.1
Other	16	9.2	0.21
TOTAL	200.2	134.7	

All fishing activity takes place in Norwegian waters and therefore catch regulations for this fishery are under Norwegian jurisdiction. Discarding is not permitted under Norwegian law and this is described in section 15 of the 2009 Norwegian Marine Resources Act, whereby “all catches of fish shall be landed”.

No changes have occurred in relation to other aspects of Principle 2; the remaining open condition is discussed in Section 3.1.

2.3. Principle 3

There have been no significant changes in the Norwegian management framework. To the assessment team’s knowledge, there have been no issues with vessel compliance. This will be reconfirmed in the fishery’s re-assessment report for which the site visit took place on the 27th October 2016.

2.4. Traceability

The only risk to the chain of custody relates to the fact that vessels may land MSC and non-MSC same species product on the same fishing trip. North Sea cod and haddock may be caught as a bycatch to the North Sea saithe fishery, and this bycatch is not MSC certified. However, all MSC catch aboard the UoC vessels is stored separately and bears the MSC label. All Euronor frozen product is landed in Boulogne and stored in a cold store by Euronor Distribution, which has separate Chain of Custody certification. Equally, for the Compagnie des Pêches St. Malo, product is temporarily stored by Compagnie Des Pêches Distribution until it can be picked up by the buyers. The 1st point of sale is Compagnie Des Pêches Distribution. Both St Malo companies are CoC certified.

2.5. Assessment Process

The fishery was certified on the 19th April 2012. The initial assessment team consisted of Jo Gascoigne (Team Leader, Principle 2), Prof. Jean-Claude Brêthes (Principle 1), and Sophie des Clers (Principle 3). The site visit for the initial assessment took place on 4th – 6th January 2011, in Boulogne-sur-mer, France.

The first surveillance audit took place on the 5th and 6th March,, 2013 in Boulogne-sur-mer. The audit team was composed of Dr Sophie des Clers and Chrissie Sieben. Both year 2 and 3 audits were completed remotely by Jo Gascoigne as team leader. She was joined on the team in year 2 by Chrissie Sieben and in year 3 by Kat Collinson. Please note that the surveillance level for these fisheries was reduced to remote surveillance, based on the argument that the fisheries are low-risk and that all information required for the surveillance audit could be provided remotely. To view the corresponding variation request and MSC response, please visit this link: https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/arctic-ocean/comapeche_euronor_cod_haddock/assessment-downloads

The year 4 surveillance audit consisted of an off-site audit, held on the 15th August 2016. The audit was carried out by Chrissie Sieben (Team Leader) and Dr Jo Gascoigne. The surveillance was formally announced on the MSC website on the 12th July 2016, followed by an email to stakeholders on the 19th July 2016.

The aim of the audit was to review any changes that may have occurred since the initial assessment and which may lead to changes in the scoring. Each Principle was discussed in detail, the results of which are presented in the sections above. The traceability in the fishery was equally reviewed by the audit team.

In line with the MSC FCR v2.0, Annex PB3, the audit team reviewed whether the harmonisation requirements continue to be met with the fisheries listed in Table 7. Note that for P2, and more specifically 2.4 (Habitats Component), a harmonisation meeting took place between all Barents Sea bottom trawl fisheries hosted by MSC. The meeting was generally inconclusive and no changes to scoring were proposed, largely due to the range of factors that set apart fisheries (gear specifications, areas fished, company policies, etc.). The minutes of the meeting are shown in Appendix 1.

Table 7. Fisheries in the MSC programme with which harmonisation was required

Fishery name	Status	Harmonisation activity carried out
AGARBA Spain Barents Sea cod	2 nd surveillance completed May 2016	No departures from existing P1 scoring
Arkhangelsk Trawl Fleet Barents Sea cod & haddock	Recertified January 2016	Same P1 outcome as this fishery
Barents Sea cod, haddock and saithe	Recertified September 2016	Same P1 outcome as this fishery
Faroe Islands North East Arctic cod and saithe	Surveillance 2016 not yet completed, reassessment ongoing.	None
Faroe Island North East Arctic haddock	Surveillance 2016 not yet completed, reassessment ongoing.	None
FIUN Barents & Norwegian Seas cod and haddock	2 nd surveillance completed June 2016	No departures from existing P1 scoring
Greenland cod, haddock and saithe trawl fishery in the Barents Sea	1 st surveillance completed August 2016	No departures from existing P1 scoring
Norway North East Arctic cod	Surveillance 2016 not yet completed	None
Norway North East Arctic haddock	Surveillance 2016 not yet completed	None
Russian Federation Barents sea cod and haddock	2 nd surveillance completed September 2016	No departures from existing P1 scoring
UK Fisheries, DFFU and Doggerbank Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe	4 th surveillance completed October 2016	No departures from existing P1 scoring

3. Results

3.1. Conditions

The fishery was originally certified with one condition. This is detailed below, including this year's update.

Table 8. Condition 1

Performance Indicator & Score	Insert relevant PI number	Scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.4.1	The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis, and function	70
Condition	The fishing companies should review recent information on sensitive benthic habitats in their fishing area (notably from the MAREANO project), and also review any evidence that their activities are causing damage to these habitats (benthos attached to the trawl). If this information suggests that activities are damaging to vulnerable communities, then they should take steps to reduce these impacts such that serious or irreversible harm on a bioregional basis is 'highly unlikely'.		
Milestones	Data collection and review should be completed by the end of Year 2, mitigation measures agreed by the end of Year 3 and implemented during Year 4. The new regulation may, however, require a faster implementation timetable.		
Client action plan	<p>The following plan has been developed to avoid interactions of the fishing activities with sensitive habitats¹:</p> <p>Euronor: Svalbard and NEZ the last three months of 2012. Cie des Pêches St. Malo: NEZ – March to May; Svalbard – July to August</p> <p>Year 1 (2012) January – June 2012: Identify existing sources of information on sensitive habitats (notably MAREANO), and consult regularly to confirm the positions of sensitive areas, which possible changes over time. March – August 2012: Fishing (Cie. Pêche St. M.) June – October 2012: Identify the most recent positions of sensitive habitat areas October – December 2012: Fishing (Euronor) End 2012: Discuss with the fishing skippers after each trip in the Arctic, any possible interactions with sensitive habitats during cod and haddock fishing</p> <p>Year 2 (2013) First 6 months: Strategy put in place to limit possible impacts, written into the skippers' instructions for each fishing campaign in the Arctic. End 2013: Review of fishing activities in 2013 in relation to possible habitat impacts. Definition of objectives and means to reduce these impacts as necessary.</p> <p>Year 3 (2014)</p>		

¹ NB: It is important to note that the exact timing of activities depends on how the fishing trips to the Arctic are planned. For the moment the companies' timetables are set out below, but external factors can always cause these to change.

	<p>Objectives and means defined above written into skippers' instructions for each Arctic fishing campaign.</p> <p>Year 4 and on-going Results checked after each trip. Review of action plan for sensitive habitat</p>
Progress on Condition - Year 4	<p>The action plan for Year 4 requires ongoing checking and review of the actions being taken to evaluate their effectiveness. The situation has not changed from that described in Year 3. As described last year, one key element which has reduced the footprint of the fishery into known areas is the haddock per trawl bycatch constraint. The fishing companies report that haddock has become more abundant on the fishing grounds, further constraining the areas where they can fish. They now fish essentially only in areas which they know to be cod only. This is clearly visible in the proportion of haddock in the catch (see PCR and previous surveillance audit reports).</p> <p>MSC facilitated a harmonisation call for habitat scoring in Barents Sea trawl fisheries (Appendix 1). The call allowed the reasons for some of the apparent discrepancies in scoring to be teased out, including fleet size, vessel size, level of awareness and reporting of habitat impacts and differences in regulations (including the different haddock requirements for the EU fleet, which as noted above largely constrains the footprint of the fishery to existing areas). This fishery scores relatively high on these various indicators (small fleet, relatively smaller vessels, high awareness and requirements for reporting (instructions to captains) and limited footprint.</p> <p>On this basis, the team concluded that all the requirements of the action plan have been met. The team rescored PI 2.4.1 (Appendix 2) and concluded that the SG80 level is now met.</p>
Status of condition	Closed for both clients

4. Conclusion

The audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing. No new conditions or recommendations have been raised. PI 2.4.1 has been rescored and the SG80 level is now met.

This fishery is due to be re-scored following the re-assessment site visit, taking place on the 20th September 2016. Until the re-assessment process is completed, the audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified.

5. References

- ICES. 2016a. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). In ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch and effort Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions. ICES Advice 2016, Book 3.
- ICES. 2016b. Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). In ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch and effort Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions. ICES Advice 2016, Book 3.
- ICES. 2016c. Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic). In ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch and effort Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea Ecoregions. ICES Advice 2016, Book 3.
- Lowry, L. 2016. Pusa hispida. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T41672A45231341. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-1.RLTS.T41672A45231341.en>. Downloaded on 25 August 2016.

6. Appendix 1. Barents Sea trawl habitats harmonisation meeting – meeting notes

Barents Sea Harmonisation Call
Meeting Note

10/3

Participants:

David Agnew (MSC)	Billy Hynes (Acoura)
Megan Atcheson (MSC)	Lucia Revenga (P2 Assessor - Acoura)
Shaun McLennan (MSC)	Chrissie Sieben (MEC)
Dan Hoggarth (MSC)	Jo Gascoigne (P2 Assessor – MEC)
Stephanie Good (MSC)	Bert Keus Agonus (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)
Sigrun Bekkevold (DNVGL)	Guro Meldre Pedersen (DNVGL)
Andy Hough (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)	Anna Kiseleva (DNVGL)
Virginia Polonio (BV)	Jason Coombes (Acoura)
Macarena Garcia (BV)	Terry Holt (P2 Assessor - DNVGL)

General Conclusions

- MSC introduced the call with some background on harmonisation in the context of V1.3 of the standard. Particular emphasis was placed on the key difference between approaches required for harmonisation against difference Principles. There was also some background provided by MSC on the 14 certified fisheries operating within the Barents Sea, including some of the scoring trends reflected by respective assessments.
- The participants then discussed scoring in their respective fisheries and some of the factors underpinning passes and conditional passes. Some inconsistencies were highlighted, in particular with respect to: i) the interpretation of Scoring Guideposts; ii) the evidence used to supporting scoring; iii) the outcomes of scoring and iv) client action plans (content and challenge).
- In general there seemed to be a range of factors impacting each score scenario which are covered in notes below. **Whilst changes to scores as a result of the meeting are not certain, the value of the discussion was arguably more about providing consistent rationales to explain differences in scores after harmonisation. Indeed this set of notes in itself may act to provide a source of information for CABs and Assessors to help explain differences in assessments undertaken for Version 1.3 of the standard.**
- The MSC team reiterated the implications for fisheries entering new “areas” or in scenarios where there were “material changes” to scores evidenced by new information, including the need to consider at surveillance audits and via expedited audits where necessary.
- The team also touched on changes in Version 2 of the standard and likely harmonisation implications but it was felt that more time was needed/perhaps another session to help prepare CABs and Assessors for transition.

Discussion

2.4.1 Outcome

- Assessors reported they find ambiguity inherent in the language and definitions (e.g. risk probabilities) for the habitat requirements. They rely on expert judgement to assess this PI.
- Scoring tended to focus on VMEs specifically where known. Best practice seems to be to consider each VME individually (as identified in MAREANO or other information source).
- With respect to the information on sensitivity of individual VMEs to trawling - consensus was that this information is available but has not tended to be specifically used (it may be that the assumption is that all VMEs are 'vulnerable' by definition).
- A number of VME and Habitat definitions used including OSPAR papers (e.g. OSPAR, 2010. Background Document for Deep-sea sponge Aggregations. Biodiversity Series, OSPAR, London). For Barents Sea main VMEs identified have been corals, sponges and (more recently) Sea pens / 'coral gardens'.
- Factors that may result in different outcome scores for PI 2.4.1:
 - Differences in target species (Saithe fished further south, cod and haddock intermediate latitudes and prawn furthest north)
 - Differences in intelligence available about fishing zone (best information in NEZ, less information in SFPZ although improving, Russian zone a bit unclear (information may exist but be hard to access)).
 - Differences in the number of vessels in fleet and type of vessels (size but also what technology they have on board for identifying bottom types and how they use it)
 - Vessel/Operation nationalities. E.g EU vs non-EU fishing activity - this is relevant in the Barents Sea because due to the rules on haddock bycatch for the EU fleet their footprint is more constrained than that of the Norwegian and Russian fleets.
 - Spatial extent of the vessel footprint – do they continuously fish over the same areas or is it widely dispersed.
 - Type of benthos
 - Some CABs use a scoring element approach for different types of habitats (sand, rocky, coral etc), while others do not, even though required by CR v1.3 27.10.7.

--> it may be useful for CABs to point to these [and other] factors that may lead to differences in scores, in their rationales.

2.4.2 Management

- Factors that may result in different scores for PI 2.4.2:
 - Scale is an important consideration – there is generally more certainty that strategies are workable with less vessels (less variables); on the flip side large fleets are also more likely to be impacted by a national management framework (e.g. entire Norwegian fleet having to comply with “Move On” rules).
 - Differences in habitat impact management framework (Norway vs Russia vs both). Norway tended to manage fishery impacts in Marine Protected Areas (MPA); Russia does not have clear habitat protections.
 - Differences in approach of the individual client companies (e.g. awareness of VMEs, approach to recording and avoiding, monitoring and updating of their information e.g. via MAREANO).

- The availability of individual skippers was important – it was key to gauge their attitude as well as their experience of seeing VMEs come up in the trawl - but note that this is variable from fishery to fishery (usually only where a small number of vessels but not always even then).

2.4.3 Information

- Factors that may result in different scores for PI 2.4.3:
 - Differences in the sources of information - coastal state information which is readily available - MAREANO notably; coastal state information which is not readily available e.g. scientific reports in Russian
 - individual vessel / fleet data e.g. on-board recording of VMEs
 - VMS data - easier to get in some cases than others, more often seen on the site visit than provided in reports; difficulties in obtaining highlighted
- Other important considerations (whilst not necessarily impacts on scoring, useful context for developing the standard).
 - Fisheries found it hard to “prove a negative” – there seemed to be scenarios where if interactions with sensitive habitats were not recorded, NGO’s tended to speculate that those fisheries were not complying with monitoring requirements.

7. Appendix 2. PI 2.4.1 rescoring

PI 2.4.1		The fishery does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure, considered on a regional or bioregional basis, and function		
Scoring Issue		SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
a	Guide post	The fishery is unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	The fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	There is evidence that the fishery is highly unlikely to reduce habitat structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.
	Met?	Y	Y	N
	Justification	This fishery takes place in areas which have been trawled consistently for many years, and habitat protection has to be seen in that context. VMEs identified in the general area of the fishery are cold water corals, sponge beds and sea pens / coral gardens (MAREANO). There is insufficient information on the details of the distribution of these habitats relative to the fishery footprint (see figure) for these VMEs to be scored separately, except to note that closed areas exist for cold water corals, which are respected by the fishery.		

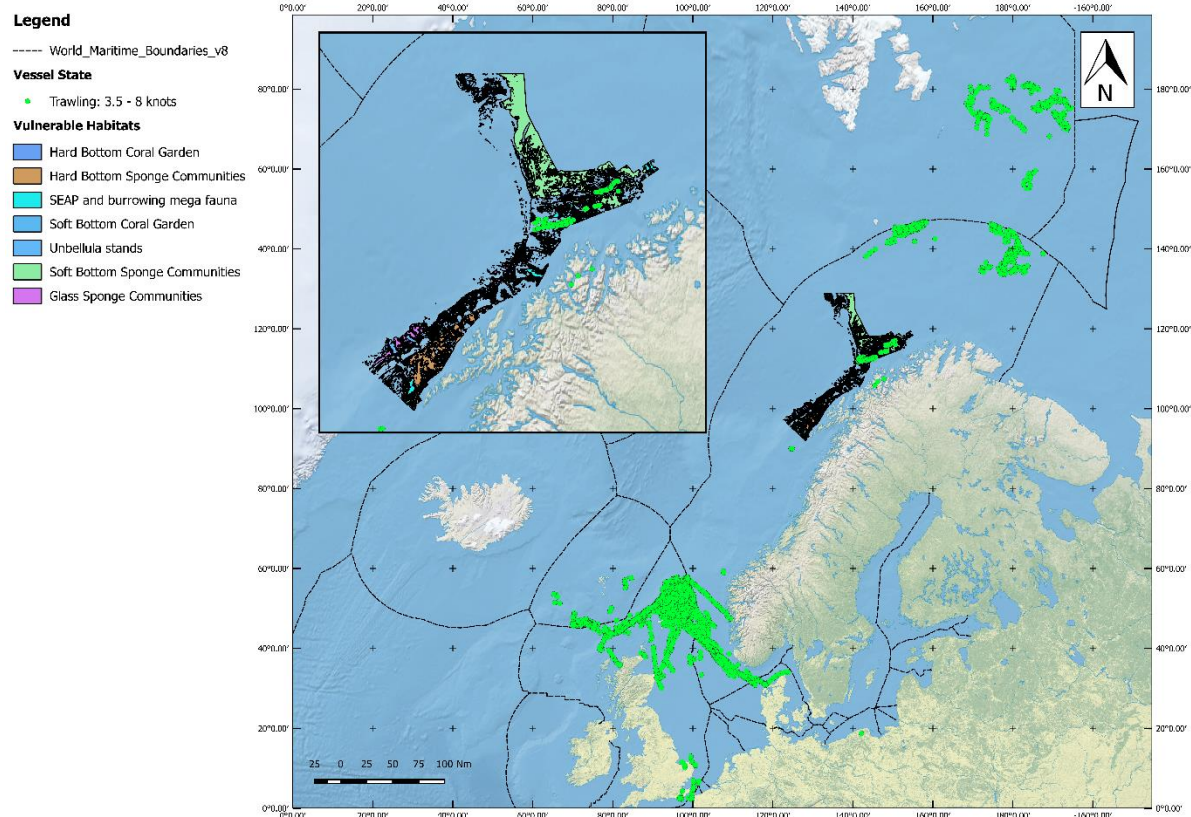


Figure. Footprint of the Euronor vessels (2014) – points where the vessels were fishing (based on speed). These data were not provided during the audit by the Grande Hermine, but both companies state that the vessels fish in the same areas and generally in close proximity to each other when all are present. Note: i) tracks in the North Sea are not relevant here and ii) points inside fjords represent an offloading stop in Tromsø, not fishing. Data provided by Euronor, mapping data from www.mareano.no

There is good habitat mapping from MAREANO that allows vessels to avoid these areas defined as VMEs – this is explicit in the instructions to captains provided by the companies. There is less mapping available for the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard (SFPZ), and no offshore closed areas specifically for habitats, although inshore areas around all the islands are closed to trawling (part of a National Park); this reportedly protects significant areas of vulnerable habitat. However, the rules on haddock bycatch limits for the

		<p>EU fleets have the effect of ensuring that vessels keep to areas where they know that the catch will be mainly cod – i.e. it keeps the fishery within a known and established footprint. On this basis, the team considered that SG80 is met. SG100 is not met because of a lack of information about habitats and changes over time, particularly in the SFPZ.</p> <p>Note on harmonisation for NEA habitats:</p> <p>The outcome of the harmonisation meeting for Barents Sea habitats is given in Appendix 1 above. It was noted that different fisheries may have different outcomes for the scoring of this PI based on various factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in target species (saithe fished further south, cod and haddock intermediate latitudes and prawn furthest north) • Differences in information on habitats available about the fishing zone (best information in NEZ, less information in SFPZ although improving, Russian zone a bit unclear - information may exist but be hard to access). • Differences in the number and type of vessels in the fleet (size but also what technology they have on board for identifying bottom types and how they use it) • Vessel/operation nationalities; e.g EU vs non-EU fishing activity - this is relevant in the Barents Sea because due to the rules on haddock bycatch for the EU fleet their footprint is more constrained than that of the Norwegian and Russian fleets. • Spatial extent of the vessel footprint – whether they continuously fish over the same areas vs. widely dispersed. <p>This fishery scores relatively high in these factors: the fleet is small (3 vessels) and it is an EU fleet so constrained in its footprint by haddock bycatch rules. On this basis, and considering the range of scores across all the overlapping fisheries, the team concluded that this score is consistent with the outcome of the harmonisation meeting.</p>
References		<p>Norwegian MPAs, including maps: http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/Areas-of-activity1/Marine-and-coastal-areas/Marine-protected-areas-in-the-OSPAR-network/</p> <p>Norwegian Ministry of the Environment 2011. First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea–Lofoten Area. Meld. St. 10 (2010–2011) Report to the Storting (white paper).</p> <p>MAREANO: www.mareano.no</p> <p>Instructions to captains: Euronor and Cie des Pêches St. Malo (Grande Hermine)</p>
OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:		80
CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):		N/A