



## Vottunarstofan Tún ehf. ISF Iceland anglerfish MSC Use of Risk-Based Framework (RBF) During a Surveillance Audit

Site visit for the second annual MSC surveillance of the ISF Iceland anglerfish fishery, together with stakeholder meetings, was conducted on 21.-23. October 2019. During this site visit the assessment team was made aware of new information about the stock that will require re-evaluation of Performance Indicator 1.1.1 by means of the Risk Based Framework.

The assessment team will now seek stakeholder comments on the application of the RBF for this part of the surveillance work (see Table 1 below), and will subsequently re-engage with stakeholders, using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis. In order to achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, the team will rely heavily on participation of a range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. Stakeholders with experience and knowledge of this fishery are encouraged to participate in the consultation that will follow.

**Table 1 – Fishery information**

1	Fishery name
	ISF Iceland anglerfish
2	CAB
	Vottunarstofan Tún
3	Date that the proposal to use the RBF is submitted to the MSC
	28 October 2019
4	Date stakeholder comment period closes on the proposal to use the RBF
	30 November 2019
5	PI that the RBF is to be applied for
	PI 1.1.1

6	Justification for use
	<p>The Risk Based Framework (RBF) is proposed for the scoring of this PI, because there are no reference points available, either derived from analytical stock assessments or using empirical approaches.</p> <p>In accordance with evidence available from the Icelandic Marine &amp; Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI 2019, see <a href="https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/14-Anglerfish1141525.pdf">https://www.hafogvatn.is/static/extras/images/14-Anglerfish1141525.pdf</a>) and information provided by the MFRI scientists during a stakeholder meeting at the recent site visit, the surveillance team can conclude that stock status reference points, derived from either analytical stock assessment or using empirical approaches, are NOT available. The reason is, as explained in MFRI 2019, that after nearly a decade of very low recruitment estimates, the target Fproxy is no longer appropriate. Consequently, the ICES framework for category 3 stocks using survey trends was applied instead. The spring survey index was used as the index for the stock development. The advice is now based on the ratio of the mean of the last two index values (index A) and the mean of the three preceding values (index B) multiplied by the mean catches in the last three years. The index ratio is estimated to have decreased by 20% and thus the uncertainty cap was not applied. The stock status relative to candidate reference points is therefore unknown and the precautionary buffer was applied. This will trigger the application of the RBF approach in accordance with Table 3 (Criteria for triggering the use of the RBF) within the MSC Fisheries Certification Process.</p> <p>At the time of the surveillance announcement, the use of RBF for P1 was not announced, since the above information, including the confirmation by the MFRI scientists that the approach to estimate the status of the stocks has been changed and there is not any kind of reference point, was not available to the assessment team. This information became available only at the site visit (22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019).</p>
7	RBF competency
	<p>Vottunarstofan Tún confirms that two members of the surveillance team, i.e. Giuseppe Scarcella (responsible for Principle 1) and Rod Cappell (responsible for Principle 3 and team leader), are competent to use the RBF (see also surveillance announcement).</p>

Information about the ISF Iceland anglerfish fishery assessment is available for review on MSC's website, <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/isf-iceland-anglerfish/@assessments>.

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 the attached template for stakeholder input in fishery assessments, also available via the same link.

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