



Tuesday 4 December, 2012

Samherji Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine Fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Certification

Certification Body: Food Certification International Ltd

Notification of Change to Unit of Certification

Current Units of Certification:

UoC 1

Species:	Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock:	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Norwegian spring-spawning stock)
Geographical area:	Iceland EEZ, ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b and North East Atlantic FAO Area 27
Harvest method:	Mid-water trawl mesh size 40mm
Client Group:	Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf vessels targetting the Northeast Atlantic herring stock in ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b using mid-water trawl
Other Eligible Fishers:	Icelandic registered vessels that are not currently members of Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf targetting the Northeast Atlantic Norwegian spring-spawning herring stock within the Iceland EEZ, ICES subareas IIa, Va and Vb1b using mid-water trawl

UoC 2

Species:	Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock:	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Norwegian spring-spawning stock)
Geographical area:	Iceland EEZ, ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b and North East Atlantic FAO Area 27
Harvest method:	Seine net mesh size 31mm
Client Group:	Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf vessels targetting the Northeast Atlantic herring stock in ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b using seine nets
Other Eligible Fishers:	Icelandic registered vessels that are not currently members of Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf targetting the Northeast Atlantic Norwegian spring-spawning herring stock within the Iceland EEZ, ICES subareas IIa, Va and Vb1b using seine net

Revised Units of Certification:

UoC 1

Species:	Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock:	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Norwegian spring-spawning stock)
Geographical area:	Iceland EEZ, ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b and North East Atlantic FAO Area 27
Harvest method:	Mid-water trawl mesh size 40mm
Client Group:	Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf vessels targetting the Northeast Atlantic herring stock in ICES Subarea IIa, Va and Vb1b using mid-water trawl
Other Eligible Fishers:	Icelandic registered vessels that are not currently members of Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf targetting the Northeast Atlantic Norwegian spring-spawning herring stock within the Iceland EEZ, ICES subareas IIa, Va and Vb1b using mid-water trawl

UoC 2

Species:	Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock:	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Icelandic summer-spawning stock)
Geographical area:	ICES Subarea Va within Icelandic EEZ
Harvest method:	Mid-water trawl mesh size 40mm
Client Group:	Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf vessels targetting the Icelandic summer-spawning stock in ICES Subarea Va within the Icelandic EEZ using mid-water trawl
Other Eligible Fishers:	Icelandic registered vessels that are not currently members of Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf targetting the Icelandic summer-spawning stock in ICES Subarea Va within the Icelandic EEZ using mid-water trawl

UoC 3

Species:	Atlantic herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)
Stock:	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Icelandic summer-spawning stock)
Geographical area:	ICES Subarea Va within Icelandic EEZ
Harvest method:	Purse seine mesh size 31mm
Client Group:	Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf vessels targetting the Icelandic summer-spawning stock in ICES Subarea Va within the Icelandic EEZ using purse seine
Other Eligible Fishers:	Icelandic registered vessels that are not currently members of Samherji hf and Síldarvinnslan hf targetting the Icelandic summer-spawning stock in ICES Subarea Va within the Icelandic EEZ using purse seine

Reason for revision: Purse seine is not currently used by the fleet under assessment in this fishery for pursuing the Icelandic Norwegian spring spawning herring stock. Although Icelandic Norwegian spring spawning herring has been caught by purse seine at various times by the fleet in the past, this is no longer the case and the distribution and nature of N-I ss herring shoals (which are less densely aggregated in Icelandic waters in contrast with the densely aggregated shoals they form in Norwegian waters) has meant that the fleet

under assessment must use pelagic trawls in order to efficiently pursue herring catches in Icelandic waters.

For this assessment, the client had originally requested that the purse seine gear type be included as a 2nd UoC in the certification primarily in case any member vessels in the future wished to fish in some parts of the Norwegian EEZ, where pelagic trawling is not permitted. However, as this gear type has not been used by the fleet in recent years, there was insufficient evidence of usage patterns, catch profiles and impacts to support an assessment. Accordingly, it was requested that the purse seine unit of certification be removed in respect of the Norwegian Spring spawning herring stock.

Additionally, significant landings of Atlantic herring from the Icelandic summer spawning herring stock are made by the client fleet using pure seine as well as pelagic trawl. There is significant mixing of stocks in the pelagic trawl fishery and significant volumes of Icelandic summer spawning herring are taken in the trawl fishery for Norwegian spring spawning herring. Because of this the client wishes to add the Icelandic summer spawning stock to the assessment. The Icelandic summer spawning stock is fished entirely by Icelandic vessels using both pelagic trawl and purse seine gears. The management of the Icelandic summer spawning stock is exclusively under the jurisdiction of Iceland. Scientific advice is provided by the Marine Research Institute and the ICES. Inclusion of this stock has effectively added two further Units of Certification to the assessment (pelagic trawl and a new purse seine unit).

The full details of the variation request and the response from the MSC can be found on their [website](#).

FCI have proposed this variation in accordance with the MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Requirements. It is felt that the intent of the requirements will still be met. This request has been approved by the MSC with a caveat that there is an additional 30 day stakeholder consultation regarding the change to the Unit of Certification.

All stakeholders are now invited to provide comments on the change to the Unit of Certification. **Any such comments must reach us by 17:00 GMT on Sunday 6 January, 2013.**

Any comments should be sent in the first instance to:

Joanna Kabut - Fisheries Administrator

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