

Marine Stewardship Council Surveillance Announcement

Name of Fishery	PFA, DPPO, KFO, SPSG & Compagnie des Pêches St Malo Northeast Atlantic blue whiting Pelagic Trawl Fishery	
Surveillance level and type	<p>The fishery was originally certified against MSC Certification Requirements V1.3 and under the 'criteria to determine surveillance score' (Table C3) scored 3 which indicated a 'Normal' surveillance level, i.e. 4 on-site surveillance audits, equating to the default 'Level 6' under V2.0.</p> <p>However, the assessment team feel that a surveillance level of 4, i.e. 2 on-site surveillance audits and 2 off-site surveillance audits will be perfectly adequate under the circumstances. The rationale being, the two conditions on the fishery all concern the same issue namely; the tools used to implement the harvest control rule (i.e. the quota allocation system), the effectiveness of the coastal states agreement and its dispute resolution system. All of these can be assessed by the team over the phone and there is nothing to be gained by being there in person on this occasion. Additionally, given that there are five international clients, significant cost will be incurred by the clients in coordinating a site visit.</p>	
Surveillance number	1st Surveillance	X
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc.)	
Proposed Team Leader	<p>It is proposed that Dr Hugh Jones will act as team leader for this surveillance and will be responsible for bringing together the work of the team's principle experts. Hugh will also have primary responsibility for Principle 2 of the surveillance and for ensuring that the certification requirements are being met at each stage of the process.</p> <p>Dr Hugh Jones: Dr Hugh Jones has PhD in Ecotoxicology and strong background in marine research including publications and reports on ecotoxicology, environmental risk assessments and fisheries research. Prior to joining MEC he was employed as a fisheries scientist in the development of an empirical harvest strategy for commercial abalone fisheries and fisheries assessments of estuarine bivalves. This included work on population metrics (recruitment, growth), harvest dynamics (catch rates, market selectivity), and the use of fine scale geospatial techniques as performance measures to assess stock sustainability.</p>	

	<p>Dr Jones has completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.0 Fisheries Certification Requirements.</p> <p>Based on the above experience MEC is confident that Dr Jones meets the 5-year competency requirement for P2 experience.</p>
Proposed team members	<p>Dr Jo Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales with over 25 years' experience working in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne has over 15 years' experience as a consultant, working mainly on MSC pre-assessment and full assessments studies for demersal fish, tunas, small pelagics, highly migratory species and freshwater fish. She is also experienced on FIP scoping, planning and implementation. All of this is carried out at locations such as France (including DOMs), UK, Spain, Germany, Greece, Croatia, Mauritius, Southern Africa, West Africa, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, South America and East Asia.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne has been involved as expert and lead auditor in the majority of MEP's and MEC's full MSC assessments and numerous pre-assessments. She regularly participates in the MSC training sessions and workshops, the most recent of which was the MSC scoring calibration workshop for the new fisheries standard.</p> <p>Based on the above experience MEC is confident that Dr Gascoigne meets the 5-year competency requirement for P1 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>Dr Gascoigne has recently completed the required Fishery Team Leader MSC training modules for the new V2.0 Fisheries Certification Requirements.</p> <p>Dr Sophie de Clers is an independent expert in fisheries management and socioeconomics, as well as an honorary research fellow of University College London. She has been involved in a number of previous MSC assessments including UK Fisheries Ltd cod, haddock and saithe, Biscay sardine seine fishing, Normandy-Jersey lobster, Normandy whelks and, of course, Euronor/Comapêche cod and haddock. Sophie is an expert in fisheries management and legislation at a regional, national and international level with particular expertise in EU and Indian Ocean fisheries.</p> <p>For this assessment Sophie would have key responsibility for Principle 3.</p>
Audit/review time and location	<p>The off-site visit is scheduled to take place in the week of 13/02/17.</p>
Assessment/review activities	<p>During the audit, MEC will communicate with the client and any relevant stakeholders and use any available up to date information to assess and review;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any changes to the fishery and its management including those to management systems, regulation and relevant personnel assessments; Any changes to the scientific base of information such as stock; Any developments or changes within the fishery impact may impact on traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products; Any other significant changes in the fishery. Any significant changes in relation to conditions detailed within the final report of the fishery published 12 January 2016 and the Public Certification Report 11 February 2016. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/pfa-dppo-kfo-spsg-compagnie-des-peches-st-malo-northeast-atlantic-blue-whiting-pelagic-traw/@@assessments <p>Summary of conditions: The condition related to PI 3.1.1 – legal and customary framework - is specifically related to the effectiveness of the coastal states agreement and its dispute resolution system. This is a harmonised condition with the other similar fisheries subject to coastal states agreement. The condition has a maximum of five years for compliance. This may be achieved earlier depending on how rapidly the fishery can successfully engage with the EU, the Pelagic Advisory Council, NEAFC and/or other parties, such as other MSC fisheries, to support the resolution of the dispute between the coastal states and to re-establish an effective international cooperation mechanism.</p> <p>Milestone year 1: Make contact with other interested parties and lobby the European Commission to initiate negotiations for a mechanism for cooperation between the Coastal States which is effective in agreeing an appropriate management mechanism consistent with the management plan.</p> <p>Action year 1: During negotiations for 2016 TACs and sharing arrangements, arrange meetings with other fleets in the fishery, European Commission and Member States' national administrations to encourage a management solution for 2016.</p> <p>Outcome year 1: By March 2016, all Coastal States should have formally agreed on management and sharing arrangements for 2016 and beyond.</p>
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MEC would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the site visit. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) or Hugh Jones (hugh.jones@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below contact 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: Hugh Jones, Fisheries Assessment Manager

Date: 10th January 2017