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Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	South East Australia Small Pelagic Fishery (Commonwealth) Mid-water Trawl																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Assessment number	Initial																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	N																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MRAG Americas confirms that this fishery is within scope for MSC assessment.																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Certificate sharing statement	N/A																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity</th><th colspan="13">Month 2018 - 2019</th></tr> <tr> <th>D</th><th>J</th><th>F</th><th>M</th><th>A</th><th>M</th><th>J</th><th>J</th><th>A</th><th>S</th><th>O</th><th>N</th><th>D</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sign contract</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>MSC announcement, team and assessment visit notification</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Assessment visit, stakeholder meetings</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Examination of evidence, scoring, report preparation</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Report review and finalization</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Consultation and confirmation of peer reviewers</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Client review of draft report</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Peer review of draft report</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Stakeholder review of draft report</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Final report/certification determination/objections period</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Certification decision</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>													Activity	Month 2018 - 2019													D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Sign contract														Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)														MSC announcement, team and assessment visit notification														Assessment visit, stakeholder meetings														Examination of evidence, scoring, report preparation														Report review and finalization														Consultation and confirmation of peer reviewers														Client review of draft report														Peer review of draft report														Stakeholder review of draft report														Final report/certification determination/objections period														Certification decision													
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Name of proposed	Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot. She is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology.																																																																																																																																																																																																															

Team Leader	<p>Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has passed the MSC team leader training; • She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module; • She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders. <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
Name(s) of proposed assessors	<p>Dr. Cameron Dixon. Cameron Dixon works as a senior fisheries consultant at MRAG Asia Pacific. His recent work includes Marine Stewardship Council assessment and peer review, most recently as a team member on the South Australia sardine MSC full assessment. In addition, he has undertaken independent reviews of fisheries assessed against the Coles' <i>Responsible Sourcing Seafood Assessment</i> framework and the World Wildlife Fund's <i>Ecological Sustainability Evaluation of Seafood</i> framework. Cameron is currently the Chair of the Northern Territory's Coastal Line Fishery Management Advisory Committee, and is a Technical Advisor for FisheryProgress.org. Prior to becoming a consultant, he worked as a Senior Fisheries Scientist for 20 years in South Australia and Victoria, during which time he completed his PhD with Melbourne University researching density-dependence in abalone stocks.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Dixon meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>

	<p>Mr. Richard Banks. Richard Banks has considerable MSC experience having served as the Lead Assessor for four prawn trawl fisheries in Australia and on the PNA free school skipjack full assessment. Richard has also designed several fishery improvement plans in South East Asia and the Pacific, and acted as external reviewer to a number of MSC assessments on behalf of WWF. Richard currently works as an advisor to Parties to the Nauru Agreement. Richard is an economist and fisheries management and policy programming specialist having worked on similar issues for international agencies, Commonwealth and State Fisheries. Richard holds a bachelor degree in Fisheries Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Portsmouth, and Wye College, London, respectively. MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Banks meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, He has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Ms. Mihaela Zaharia. Mihaela Zaharia earned her M Sc. In biological and Ecosystem Sciences. Her relevant experience includes involvement as a marine science researcher for Poseidon Aquatic Resources Management Consultants Ltd and National Institute for Marine Research and Development (Gr. Altipa). Ms. Zaharia was the P2 Assessor for both the Spencer Gulf and Northern Prawn Fishery as well as the South Australia Sardine fishery, and also participated as a team member in a number of pre-assessments on clam, tuna, blue swimming crab and tropical prawns assessments and Fisheries Improvement Plans and prepared Risk Based Framework templates for the MSC. In addition to her employment history, Ms. Zaharia has also contributed several publications on fishery biology and science. MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Zaharia meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored; and • She has passed the MSC Traceability training module. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	The default assessment tree contained within the MSC Fisheries Standard version 2.01 will be used for this assessment.
Site visit	The onsite visit will be conducted in Melbourne, Australia, 06-08 February 2019

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of Australian Eastern Small Pelagic Fishery has begun. The assessment will

evaluate the fishery for compliance with the MSC's Standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. MRAG Americas has determined that the fishery is in scope.

As part of the assessment, MRAG Americas announces that stakeholder meetings and assessment of relevant documentation will be undertaken with a visit to the fishery in February. **The assessment team will meet in Melbourne, Australia from 06-08 February 2019.** The purpose of these meetings is for a fishery assessment and stakeholder consultation to receive information from fishery representatives, government management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

MRAG invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery and to the assessments of the fishery. Unless covered by FCR 4.4.1 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the assessment, used to determine the assessment outcome or used as the basis for an objection to a certification. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

Stakeholders may provide input at any time. We ask stakeholders who wish to meet with the team to make the request for a meeting by 5pm GMT on 30 January 2019.

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 a template for stakeholder response can be found at https://20.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/stakeholders/msc-template-for-stakeholder-input-v2-0.doc?sfvrsn=b6409075_4. You may use the template or provide your response in any other format.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/south-east-australia-small-pelagic-fishery-commonwealth-mid-water-trawl/@@view>

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

Amanda Stern-Pirlot
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Date: 28 January 2019

Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement

Not applicable.

Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team

CVs provided as separate PDF documents downloadable from the MSC website here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/south-east-australia-small-pelagic-fishery-commonwealth-mid-water-trawl/@@view>