Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters
Assessment number	Initial assessment
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	N
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MEC confirms that the fishery is within the scope requirements (FCR 7.4). This fishery is in conformity with the MSC scope requirements (FCR 7.4): • The fishery does not target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals; • The fishery does not use poisons or explosives; • The fishery does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement; • The client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced labour violation in the last 2 years; • The fishery management framework includes a mechanism for resolving disputes and the fishery is not overwhelmed by disputes. The fishery is not an enhanced fishery as per the MSC FCR 7.4.3. The fishery is not an Introduced Species Based Fishery as per the MSC FCR 7.4.4. No other eligible fishers have been identified. This fishery has not failed an assessment within the last 2 years. No IPI stocks have been identified in this fishery.

In terms of harmonisation, this fishery overlaps with the following fisheries:

Species		Description of stock	Fisheries to harmonise with
Common name	**Scientific name**		
Anglerfish	*Lophius piscatorius* and *L. budegassa*	IIIa,IV and VI	-
	L. budegassa	VIIb-k and VIIIa,b,d	-
Atlantic cod	*Gadus morhua*	IIIan, IV, VIId	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea cod
Haddock	*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*	IIIa, IV, VIa	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea haddock
		VIIb-k	-
Hake	*Merluccius merluccius*	Northern stock	Cornish hake gill net; Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea haddock (scope extension)
Ling	*Molva molva*	IIIa, IVa etc. (other areas)	NFA Norwegian Ling & Tusk and NFA Norwegian Lumpfish
Megrim	*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*	IVa, VIa	-
		VIIb-k, VIIIa,b,d	-
Norway lobster	*Nephrops norvegicus*	FU7 Fladen Ground	-
		FU32 Norway Deep	-
Northern shrimp	*Pandalus borealis*	IIIa, IVa East (Skagerrak, Norwegian Deep)	Norway Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep cold water prawn fishery Denmark Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep cold-water prawn

	Plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	Subdivisions 21–23 (Kattegat, Belt Sea, Sound)	-
			IIIan, IV	Ekofish Group-North Sea twin rigged otter trawl plaice; Osprey Trawlers North Sea twin-rigged plaice; Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea haddock (scope extension)
			VIId	Hastings fleet Dover sole and Plaice
	Saithe	*Pollachius virens*	IIIa, IV, VI	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) saithe; Scapeche, Euronor and Compagnie de Peche de St Malo saithe; Norway North Sea saithe; UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group saithe; Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea haddock (scope extension)
	Dover sole	*Solea solea*	IIIa, 22-24	-
			IV	FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel trammel net sole
			VIId	Hastings fleet Dover sole and Plaice; FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel trammel net sole
	Tusk	*Brosme brosme*	Northeast Atlantic	NFA Norwegian Ling & Tusk and NFA Norwegian Lumpfish

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<tr><td>Whiting</td><td>Merlangius merlangus</td><td>IV, VIId</td><td>Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) North Sea haddock (scope extension)</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Certificate sharing statement</td><td>The fishery is not open to certificate sharing.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline</td><td>
Predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification awarded is June 2018.

An indicative timetable for the assessment is provided below along with an indication as to the key stakeholder engagement periods during the assessment.

Please note, some consultation periods differ from the standard periods. This has been agreed with the MSC via a variation request which can be seen on the MSC’s website.

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<tr><th>Assessment stage</th><th>Date</th><th>Stakeholder Consultation Period</th></tr>
<tr><td>Fishery announcement</td><td>16th March 2017</td><td>Forty-five (45) day consultation period. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process</td></tr>
<tr><td>Site visit(s)</td><td>1st-5th May 2017 (Emmeloord, Netherlands)
15th-19th May 2017 (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td><td>All stakeholders are invited to the team’s site visit</td></tr>
<tr><td>Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published</td><td>16th March 2018</td><td>Stakeholder will have a forty-five (45) day period to comment</td></tr>
<tr><td>Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published</td><td>16th May 2018</td><td>Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination</td></tr>
<tr><td>Public Certification Report (PCR) published</td><td>June 2018</td><td>N/a</td></tr>
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Name of proposed Team Leader	**Chrissie Sieben (Team Leader)** Chrissie Sieben has a Master's Degree in Marine Environmental Protection which she obtained at the University of Wales, Bangor. She is the MSC Fisheries Scheme Manager at MEC and specialises in marine and fisheries ecology, marine environmental impact assessment and sustainable fisheries. Previous to joining MEC, she worked as a fisheries consultant for MacAlister Elliott and Partners (MEP), where she worked on a number of projects including the application of WWF Common Methodology to wild capture and aquaculture fisheries for the WWF Hong Kong 'Good Fish Guide', Sustainable fisheries in the Trilateral Wadden Sea, acted as Fisheries Liaison for the London Gateway Project and carried out socio-economic characterisations and impact assessments of commercial fisheries for coastal developments. Prior to her work at MEP, she worked inter alia as a marine ecologist on environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and completed an internship with the Global Environment Facility / UNDP International Waters Programme. She is a fully qualified MSC Team Leader with particular expertise in Principle 2 and is involved in MSC full assessments, pre-assessments and fishery surveillance audits. Chrissie participates regularly in MSC CAB training sessions and workshops and has received in-depth Risk-Based Framework training. Within MEC she has also worked as a Chain of Custody auditor. Chrissie will act as the Team Leader for this assessment and will be responsible for bringing together the work of the team's Principle experts. She will also be responsible for ensuring that the Version 2 Certification Requirements are being met at every stage of the assessment process. **Dr. Hugh Jones (Assistant Team Leader)** Dr Hugh Jones has a broad background in fisheries research including stock assessments, publications and reports on fishery ecotoxicology, environmental risk assessments and harvest strategies. Prior to joining MEC he was employed by the University of Tasmania as a fisheries scientist in the development of an empirical harvest strategy for the commercial abalone fisheries and fisheries stock assessments of estuarine bivalves. This included work on population metrics (recruitment, growth), harvest dynamics (catch rates, market selectivity), and the use of fine scale geo-spatial techniques as performance measures to assess stock sustainability. He is a contributing author to the Status of Australian Fish Stocks for Tasmanian Fisheries. Hugh is currently employed as a Fisheries Assessment Manager with MEC. Hugh will support Chrissie in her role and responsibilities as team leader and will act as a secondary point of contact.

Name(s) of proposed assessors	**Dr Robin Cook – P1 Demersal Fish** Robin Cook studied zoology at Durham University followed by a PhD in population dynamics from Oxford University. He worked for many years at the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen and was Director there from 2002-2011. He worked mainly in the field of demersal fish stock assessments and assessment methodology. During the 1990s he was chair of the ICES North Sea demersal assessment working group and served on the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) and the EU Scientific, Economic and Technical Committee on Fisheries (STECF). Currently he is a Senior Research Fellow at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, focusing on bio-economic modelling of grey seal predation on demersal fish and the assessment of data-poor stocks. He has published over 80 scientific papers including a number dealing with the status of North Sea cod. It is proposed that Dr Cook would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1 with a focus on demersal and gadoids in particular, in collaboration with Lisa Borges and Mike Bell. **Dr Lisa Borges – P1 Demersal Fish / P2** Lisa has been a fishery scientist for the last 18 years and now runs her own consultancy firm. Lisa has a BSc in Marine Biology & Fisheries from the University of the Algarve (Portugal), an MSc in Fisheries from the University of Porto (Portugal), and a PhD on discards from demersal fisheries from the National University of Ireland. She has worked for three national fisheries research institutes, which include IPIMAR (Portugal), the Marine Institute (Ireland), and IMARES (The Netherlands). Lisa has extensive knowledge and experience of assessing the environmental impact of fisheries, with a particular focus on discards and bycatch in particular. She also has knowledge and experience of fisheries management policies, including harvest control rules; management plans and discard policy development. Lisa developed conservation policies for Atlantic fish stocks when she worked for the European Commission in Belgium. Lisa has experience in both pelagic and demersal stock assessments, and is familiar with MSC assessment procedures, having participated as a principle 1 and 2 expert on four different assessments. It is proposed that Dr Borges would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1, with a focus on demersals, in collaboration with Robin Cook and Mike Bell. She may also contribute to the assessment of Principle 2, as required. **Dr Michael Bell – P1 Crustaceans** Dr Bell has 24 years' experience as a research scientist, including 17 years in fisheries, where his research has focused on assessment, monitoring and management of sustainable fisheries and the ecological consequences of marine fisheries. Mike

	is currently Research Associate at the International Centre for Island Technology at the Heriot-Watt University in Orkney providing research, teaching and consultancy on sustainable fisheries. Previous professional experience includes stock assessment peer reviews, MSC assessments, Chair of the ICES Working Group on *Nephrops* Stocks and Scientific Advisor for Orkney Sustainable Fisheries, developing stock assessments and Fishery Improvement Projects for brown crab and researching crustacean and scallop fishery dynamics. Mike has also provided workshops on generalized linear modelling techniques, age-based stock assessments and mark-recapture modelling techniques. It is proposed that Dr Bell would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1 with a focus on crustaceans, in collaboration with Robin Cook and Lisa Borges. **Dr. Jo Gascoigne –P2** Dr. Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales. She is an expert on fisheries science and management, with nearly 15 years' experience as a consultant, working mainly on MSC pre-assessments and full assessments, as well as FIP scoping, planning and implementation. Jo 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. Jo is currently undergoing one of the first new assessments against the MSC Version 2 requirements. She is also currently a team member for the SFSAG Haddock fishery and so has gained an excellent understanding of the fishery in question through her P2 work for this fishery. It is proposed that Dr Gascoigne would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 2 in collaboration with Matt Doggett and Lisa Borges, as required. **Dr Matthew Doggett – P2** Matt completed his Ph.D research at the School of Ocean Sciences, University of Wales, Bangor in 2006, following his BSc (Hons) First Class degree in biology from Cardiff University (and winning the Edith Sheppard Prize for Final Year Performance in Zoology). Since then, Matt's work has included being Principal Marine Ecologist at Jacobs UK Ltd for nearly seven years where he undertook lead roles in the technical delivery of two coastal surveys and monitoring programmes for impact

assessments of major infrastructure projects. This work led him to be commended by clients for his negotiation skills and subsequent constructive outcomes, working with stakeholders and regulators.

More recently, Matt's work has included providing MSC Principle 2 expertise for sustainability assessments including reassessment of the Menai Strait mussel fishery and the Scapeche roundnose grenadier, blue ling and black scabbardfish deepsea fishery. Other projects include leading surveys, SAC scientific diving surveys, statistical analyses, report reviews and providing consultancy advice across a range of areas.

It is proposed that Dr Doggett would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 2 in collaboration with Jo Gascoigne and Lisa Borges, as required.

Ulf Löwenberg – P3 (Germany)

Ulf is a fisheries biologist with more than 30 years' experience in the fisheries sector. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Hamburg in 1980 before working for the Federal Research Centre in Hamburg as a fisheries scientist. Since then, Ulf has worked for private and governmental clients on a variety of projects in Europe and Africa. His wide-ranging expertise covers the fields of research and teaching, stock assessment, resource management, fisheries economy, fisheries law, fisheries statistics, fisheries surveillance, geographic information systems, eco-certification, development policy, project development and project cycles.

Ulf has been involved in a number of MSC pre-assessments, full assessments and surveillance audits in Europe, including fisheries in the UK, Germany and France. His work with ME Certification Ltd has seen him act as P3 assessor with some of our largest client groups. He has also become widely respected within the MSC for his involvement with the resolution of technical queries relating to the standard.

Ulf is multi-lingual, with German being his mother tongue. It is proposed that Ulf would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 3 with a focus on Germany, in collaboration with Cora Seip and Geir Hønneland.

Cora Seip – P3 (The Netherlands)

Cora studied biology at Leiden University before working for the Dutch Fish Product Board from 2007-2013 as Policy Officer, 'Nature and Spatial Planning'. Her work focused mainly on Natura 2000 procedures and shrimp and flatfish fisheries, and included the Marine Framework Directive.

	Since 2013 Cora has worked as an expert independent consultant to a broad cross-section of fishing organisations. Notable achievements include working on the assessment of Dutch fisheries (both generic and specific) and their impacts, as well as working as a representative and advisor to the Dutch Fish Product Board with regards to spatial planning, and nature conservation laws. Cora is multi-lingual, with Dutch being her mother tongue. It is proposed that Cora would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 3 with a focus on The Netherlands, in collaboration with Ulf Lowenberg and Geir Hønneland. **Geir Hønneland – P3 (Denmark, Sweden)** Geir Hønneland is Research Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and adjunct professor at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oslo and mainly studies fisheries management and international relations in the European North. Among his books are Making Fishery Agreements Work: Post-Agreement Bargaining in the Barents Sea (Edward Elgar, 2012) and Coercive and Discursive Compliance Mechanisms in the Management of Natural Resources: A Case Study from the Barents Sea (Springer, 2000). He has also published extensively in peer reviewed journals. Before embarking on his academic career, Geir worked for several years as a fishery inspector for the Norwegian Coast Guard. Geir has gained a broad experience from evaluations and consultancies in the fisheries sector, e.g. for the FAO relating to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. He was a member of the team that performed the first MSC assessment of a Russian Barents Sea fishery in 2010, and has subsequently participated in further assessments of cod and haddock fisheries, and herring assessments in the Norwegian and North Seas. His experience includes MSC pre-assessments, surveillance audits and MSC peer review. Geir speaks both Swedish and Danish. It is proposed that he would have responsibility for the assessment of Principle 3 with a focus on Denmark and Sweden, in collaboration with Ulf Lowenberg and Cora Seip. All team members are fluent in English. Full CVs for all team members have been submitted to the MSC separately. MEC can confirm that all members of the proposed team have no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
Assessment tree to be used	It is proposed the default assessment tree (Version 2.0) will be used for the evaluation of this fishery. It is envisaged that MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) may be required for the following performance indicators:

	1.1.1 - Stock status 2.2.1 - Secondary species outcome 2.4.1 - Habitats outcome Further details on the use of RBF for this assessment can be seen on the accompanying MSC RBF form.
Site visit	Two site visits have been scheduled, the first one in Emmeloord, The Netherlands on the 2nd -5th May 2017 and the second in Copenhagen, Denmark on the 15th-19th May 2017. *A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework. Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.*

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 Chrissie Sieben (chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below 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: Gavin Fitzgerald, MSC Fisheries Officer
Date: 16/03/2017