

Ireland Bottom Grown mussel

MSC Surveillance Review of Information

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	SAI Global
Assessment team	Lead Assessor, Conor Donnelly Assessor, Sam Dignan
Fishery client	Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Aquaculture Initiative EEIG
Assessment Type	First Surveillance (of second certification cycle)
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2 **Glossary**

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EEIG	European Economic Interest Grouping (Aquaculture Initiative EEIG)
BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FCR	MSC Fishery Certification Requirements v2.0
FCP	MSC Fishery Certification Process v2.1
FNP	Fishery Natura Plan
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
Nm	Nautical mile
PCR	Public Certification Report
QP	Quality Procedure
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SFPA	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
SPA	Special Protection Area

3 Surveillance information

Table 1. Report information.

1	Fishery name
	Ireland Bottom Grown mussel
2	Report title
	1st surveillance 'Review of Information'
3	Certificate code
	MSC007
4	CAB
	SAI Global
5	Author's names
	Conor Donnelly and Sam Dignan
6	Client name(s)
	Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Aquaculture Initiative EEIG
7	Date
	December 2019

4 General information

Table 2. Surveillance announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	Ireland Bottom Grown mussel	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Species	Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)
	Geographical Area	<p>All fishing activity takes place within FAO Major Fishing Area 27 Northeast Atlantic (ICES Areas VIa, VIIa, VIIg, VIIj and VIIb) and is split between seed and harvest locations.</p> <p>Seed location Coastal waters of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland within their respective 12 nautical mile Territorial Seas.</p> <p>Harvest locations Permitted harvest areas in identified bays of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland coastal waters including:</p> <p>Republic of Ireland Lough Swilly Castlemaine (Cromane) Wexford harbour Lough Foyle Carlingford Lough (IE portion)</p> <p>Northern Ireland Belfast Lough Lough Foyle Carlingford Lough (NI portion)</p>
	Stock	Blue mussels around the island of Ireland.
	Method of capture	Modified Dutch Bottom Dredge*
	Management system	<p>Republic of Ireland Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM) and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)</p> <p>Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)</p>
	Client Group and other eligible fishers	<p>Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the Aquaculture Initiative representing all members of the bottom mussel industry on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>All members of the Bottom Grown Mussel Industry, eligible to fish in the relevant jurisdiction, will be eligible to access the certificate; however, only those entities that have contributed financially to the MSC process will be considered to be part of the client group for the purpose of Certification. The most up to date client group will be available on the MSC website this will be updated when any changes have occurred.</p> <p>There are other eligible fishers. In this case other eligible fishers are any fishers, eligible to fish in Republic of Ireland waters, not on the most up to date client group list.</p>
	* Hand raking was removed as an eligible gear following a Variation Request that was accepted on 04/05/2018.	
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	Certified 30 July 2013. Certificate issued 27 th July 2018	26 July 2023
4	Surveillance level and type	
	<p>Surveillance level 1 '<i>Minimum surveillance</i>', review of information.</p> <p>The surveillance program for this fishery has not changed from that previously indicated in the Public Certification Report (PCR), published 27 July 2018.</p>	

5	Date of surveillance audit		
	Surveillance activities will be carried out from 19th December 2019 to 2nd January 2020.		
6	Surveillance number		
	1 st Surveillance	X	
	2 nd Surveillance		
	3 rd Surveillance		
	4 th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		
7	Surveillance team		
	Lead assessor, Conor Donnelly	Assessor, Sam Dignan	
8	CAB		
	SAI Global		
9	CAB contact details		
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10	Client contact details		
	Email	Joanne.gaffney@bim.ie	Contact name(s) Joanne Gaffney

5 Background

During the year 2018, the total net tonnages of seed fished in Irish and Northern Irish waters were 4,801 t and 1,680 t respectively. Net tonnage is the gross tonnage excluding shell, stones etc. Table 3 details the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland catches of seed mussels and their subsequent re-laying locations in 2017 and 2018. A total of 4,697 t of finished mussels (end product) were produced by members of the client group in 2018.

Table 3. Net tonnages of mussel seed fished and re-laid by Irish and Northern Irish and boats in 2017 and 2018 (Fished and re-laid rows relate to where seed was fished and re-laid).

Fished	NI		IE		IE		NI		NI		IE		Total	
Re-laid	NI		IE		NI		IE		Foyle		Foyle			
Vessel	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Irish	155	0	4494	3151	0	1550	0	0	0	0	80	100	4729	4801
Northern Irish	1503	780	0	0	0	0	619	900	0	0	0	0	2122	1680
Total	1658	780	4494	3151	0	1550	619	900	0	0	80	100	6851	6481

Table 4. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data.

TAC	Year	n/a	Amount	n/a
UoA share of TAC	Year	n/a	Amount	n/a
UoA share of total TAC	Year	n/a	Amount	n/a
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2018	Amount	4,801 t (seed)
				4,697 t (end product)
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	2017	Amount	4,729 t (seed)
				7,781 t (end product)

6 Assessment process

The surveillance audit consisted of a Review of Information which is a desktop review of information from a remote location. The review of information was conducted by the assessors between the 19th December 2019 and 2nd January 2020.

The objectives of the audit are to seek the views of the client and identify whether there are any issues requiring further investigation.

The surveillance audit announcement was posted on 18 November 2019 on the MSC website as required by the MSC FCP, and an email with the announcement attached was sent to stakeholders.

Emails were exchanged with the client to collect updated information on the fishery and information was received from a stakeholder which was used to inform the report (see Appendix 1 in section 9).

The Surveillance Audit followed the current version of MSC procedures implemented by SAI Global's accredited MSC Procedures (QP).

MSC Scheme Document	Version	Issue Date	Implementation
MSC Certification Requirements	1.3	14 th January, 2013	Standard
MSC Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance	2.1	31 st August, 2018	Process
General Certification Requirements	2.4.1	7 th May, 2019	Process
Review of Information Template	2.01	28 th March 2019	Process

7 Results and conclusion

In line with 7.28.15e of the MSC FCP the review has considered:

- i. Any potential or actual changes in management systems.
- ii. Any changes or additions/deletions to regulations.
- iii. Any personnel changes in science, management or industry and their impact on the management of the fishery.
- iv. Any potential changes to scientific information, including stock assessments.
- v. Any changes affecting traceability.
- vi. Any changes affecting harmonisation of overlapping fisheries.

Further information on the review of these areas is set out in the sections below:

7.1 Changes to the management system including regulations

7.1.1 Sea-Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2019

As described in the re-assessment Public Certification Report (SAI Global, July 2018), the Voisinage Agreement is a reciprocal arrangement between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland whereby vessels can fish within the 0-6nm limits in either jurisdiction. This has been a traditional arrangement since the London Fisheries Convention of 1964. However, a legal case taken by a number of members of the Irish Fishing Industry (2016) found that this arrangement did not have sufficient basis in law. As a result, Northern Irish vessels were excluded from fishing in Republic of Ireland waters.

A bill to make provision in law for Northern Irish vessels to fish in Republic of Ireland waters (i.e. to give the Voisinage Agreement sufficient basis in law) has been made law (the Sea-Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2019) and came into force in April 2019. This re-instates access by Northern Irish vessels into Republic of Ireland territorial waters (0-6 nm) beyond the baseline. Northern Irish vessels are subject to the same obligations as Irish fishing vessels as set out in the Act.

7.1.2 Consultation on management arrangements for Irish Sea seed mussel fishery

The Minister (for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Republic of Ireland) has approved a public consultation for the review of management arrangements for the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery. The review is to examine the current management arrangements for the fishery and consider changes that could better support productivity and sustainability. The purpose of the public consultation is to seek the views of those with an interest in the fishery regarding the management arrangements. The information received during the public consultation will be used to inform policy decisions on the management arrangements for the fishery. The consultation runs from Monday 18 November until Tuesday 31st December 2019 and further details can be found at the link below. This process is at an early stage and does not affect the information upon which the PIs have been scored.

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/currentconsultation/irishseamusselseedfishery/>

7.1.3 Fishery Natura Plan and Appropriate Assessment

Since the PCR was published the Marine Institute has issued their Report in support of Appropriate Assessment (AA) for a Fishery Natura Plan (FNP) covering the period 2018-2023 for Seed Mussel in the Irish Sea (Marine Institute, 2018). A modified FNP (DAFM, 2018a) was then adopted following the Ministerial Determination on 17th September 2018¹.

The AA report considered the potential effects that the proposed FNP for seed mussel may have on the qualifying interests of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Irish Sea. The geographic scope of the assessment extends from Carnsore Point in the south to Carlingford Lough in the north and includes all waters in between and out to the 12nm limit. As such it considered the effects of fishing on species designated by Directives in the Irish Sea beyond the borders of existing protected sites.

The appropriate assessment of the proposed seed mussel fishery, as described in the FNP 2018-2023, finds that the majority of fishing activity by this fleet, since 1970, has occurred in subtidal areas outside of SACs and SPAs and that this is also likely to be case in the period 2018-2023. The exceptions are subtidal areas in Blackwater Bank, Long Bank and Wicklow Reef SACs where fishing for seed mussel has occurred regularly in the past and is included in proposed fishing areas in the seed mussel FNP. The possibility of significant effects on the former two sites can be discounted because although the fishery occurs within the borders of the sites it has not occurred and is highly unlikely to occur on the protected sand bank habitat and, in any case, the characterizing species of the protected habitat are not sensitive to the physical disturbance pressure that seed mussel dredging would cause. In the Wicklow Reef SAC, the fishery historically overlapped with protected reef habitat within this site. Some of the species characteristic of this habitat have moderate sensitivity to physical disturbance that would be caused by mussel dredging. In addition, there are a number of rarely recorded species in this habitat. As the effects of mussel seed dredging on this reef habitat within the SAC cannot be discounted the AA report recommended that the fishery be excluded from this portion of the SAC. The AA further noted that seed mussel beds may also occur intertidally in a number of SACs and SPAs. These beds have not been mapped and furthermore, fishing for seed mussel in these sites has not been fully assessed as the FNP is not sufficiently specific about location, proposed outtakes, fishing methods and controls. Consequently, the report recommends that mussel fishing in intertidal habitats in Dundalk Bay, Malahide Estuary, Lambay Island, Carnsore Point and Rockabill to Dalkey SACs be excluded pending development of more detailed fishery plans such as exist for other intertidal bivalve fisheries such as cockle.

The AA found that the seed mussel fishery will not have any significant effect on designated bird species in subtidal areas in the Irish Sea although it noted that understanding of the distribution of common scoter was not well known and recommended further investigation particularly in the vicinity of Raven SPA. The location of seed mussel fisheries, and other fisheries, close to Common Scoter foraging areas should then be reviewed. Fishing for seed mussel in intertidal areas in SPAs should be excluded until explicit fishery management plans are developed that would include measures consistent with achievement of conservation objectives for designated features in these sites.

The Ministerial Determination considered these findings and explained how they were addressed by the modified FNP. The FNP includes the following management measures:

- Exclude mussel seed fishing from intertidal areas of specified SACs and SPAs.
- Protect reef areas and other habitats in certain Natura sites from mussel seed fishing, in particular Wicklow Reef SAC, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, Dalkey Island SPA and Rockabill SPA.

¹ Regulation 6(1) Determination. Fisheries Natura Plan for Irish Sea Seed Mussel fishing 2018-2022.

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisheriesinnaturaareas/siteassessments/irishseamusselseedfishery/8DeterminationByMinister180918.pdf>

The FNP sets out specific co-ordinates for the exclusion area and buffer zone within Wicklow Reef SAC. A Fisheries Natura Declaration was made on 14th December 2018 which, amongst other things, prohibits fishing in certain areas of Natura sites including Wicklow Reef and Rockabill to Dalkey and a number of other sites (Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 3 of 2018; DAFM, 2018b). It was followed by a further Declaration on 5 October 2019 modifying the closure in the vicinity of Dalkey (Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 2 of 2019; DAFM, 2019a).

Aside from these measures and the increased scope of the Plan to include additional Natura 2000 sites, the new FNP is largely the same in structure and content as the previous plan (DAFM, 2013). It includes the legal basis for the plan, background to seed mussel fisheries including the spatial extent of the fishery (to which the measures set out in the plan apply), temporal extent, vessel numbers and gear type and management measures applied to the fishery.

It is also worth noting that submissions were raised on the public consultation on the AA, the Marine Institute responded to the persons who made the submissions and these responses are publicly available online:

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/concludedassessments/irishsea-includingmusselseedfishery/>

No changes are required to PI scoring in light of this new information.

7.1.4 Licensing decisions

Elsewhere there is evidence the management system is responding as it should. For example, Appropriate Assessments for Wexford Harbour and Carlingford Lough have identified potential impacts of bottom grown mussel activities on protected features of Natura sites, the licensing authority, DAFM, has acknowledged these in Conclusion Statements and identified mitigation and management measures, these have then been applied in licensing decisions as can be seen in the subsequent determinations made over the last year including reducing licensed area to avoid disturbance to bird species (Wexford) and seals (Carlingford Lough). These documents are all available on-line:

Table 5. Licensing determinations.	
Wexford	
AA	
Marine Institute, 2016. Appropriate Assessment Summary Report of Aquaculture in the; Slaney River Valley SAC (Site Code: 000781), Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code: 000710), Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA (site code 004076) and Raven SPA (site code 004019). Marine Institute. Version: August 2016 https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentscreeningcarriedout/wexfordharbourappropriateassessment/	
Conclusion Statement	
DAFM. Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement (Updated) by Licensing Authority for aquaculture activities in: Slaney River Valley SAC (Site Code: 000781), Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code: 000710), Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA (Site Code: 004076) and Raven SPA (Site Code: 004019) - (Natura 2000 sites). https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/wexford/ConclusionStatementWexfordHbr110619.pdf	
Licensing decisions	
https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquaculturelicence/wexford/	
Carlingford Lough	

Table 5. Licensing determinations.

AA
Marine Institute, 2019. Report supporting Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture in Carlingford Shore SAC (Site code: 02306). Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Version: April 2019. https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/louth/CarlingfordShoreSpecialAreaofConservationSAC21052019.pdf
Conclusion Statement
DAFM, 2019b. Appropriate Assessment –Conclusion Statement. Carlingford Lough. Carlingford Shore SAC (Site Code: 002306) & Carlingford Lough SPA (Site Code: 004078). October 2019 https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentconclusionstatement/1ConclusionStatementCarlingfordLough08112019.pdf
Licensing decisions
https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquaculturelicence/decisions/louth/

Also, in relation to Invasive Alien Species, seed mussel surveys identified the potential presence of the carpet sea squirt *Didemnum vexillum* on the Long Bank seed bed this summer. Further surveys were undertaken and work began on a risk assessment and Biosecurity Plan. The Marine Institute advised the licensing authority, DAFM, not to allow seed mussel from the area into licensed aquaculture sites until *D. vexillum* could be confirmed as present or not and any risks discounted or fully mitigated. Further analysis of the samples led to a confident conclusion that the sea squirt was a native species rather than *D. vexillum*. Following consultation with the IAS aquaculture working group, DAFM was advised that the native sea squirt does not present an impediment to fishing the seed mussel bed nor to the receiving licensed aquaculture sites. The Minister subsequently approved the opening of the seed mussel fishery on the 20 September.

7.2 Changes in personnel

There have been no changes in personnel that would impact the management of the fishery.

7.3 Changes in Scientific information

The latest annual seed mussel surveys are available on-line at the following addresses

Republic of Ireland: <http://www.bim.ie/our-publications/aquaculture/>

Northern Ireland:

[https://www.daera-](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Summer%202019%20Seed%20Mussel%20Stock%20Assessment%20Report%20JulyAugust%202019.pdf)

[ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Summer%202019%20Seed%20Mussel%20Stock%20Assessment%20Report%20JulyAugust%202019.pdf](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Summer%202019%20Seed%20Mussel%20Stock%20Assessment%20Report%20JulyAugust%202019.pdf)

7.4 Changes affecting traceability

There have been no changes affecting traceability

7.5 Changes affecting harmonisation of overlapping fisheries

3 new mussel fisheries have been certified or entered assessment since the PCR was published. These are listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Blue mussel fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic (FAO Area 27) MSC certified or in-assessment since the PCR was published (27 July 2018).

No.	Fishery name	Gear	MSC Status	Standard version	Harmonisation required?
	<i>Ireland Bottom Grown mussel</i>	<i>Bottom</i>	<i>Certified</i>	<i>1.3</i>	
1	Scanfjord Swedish rope grown mussel fishery	Rope	Certified	2.0	No
2	Ireland rope grown mussel	Rope	Certified	2.0	No
3	Mussel raft culture in Galicia	Raft	In assessment	2.0	No

The Scanfjord Swedish rope grown mussel fishery and the mussel raft culture in Galicia do not represent overlapping fisheries with Ireland Bottom Grown mussel so harmonisation is not required with these fisheries.

This Assessment Team undertook the initial audit of Ireland rope grown mussel and during the assessment considered harmonisation of that fishery with Ireland Bottom Grown mussel. Ireland rope grown mussel uses the same production areas and operates within the same jurisdiction as Ireland bottom grown mussel and so constitutes an overlapping fishery. However, after careful consideration, the Assessment Team concluded that harmonisation was not required. For the full rationale see the Ireland rope grown mussel Public Certification Report available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-rope-grown-mussel/@@view> but in summary this conclusion was based on the following rationale:

The two fisheries have been assessed under different versions of the Standard (see Table 6). According to MSC FCP; GPB1.2, CABs do not have to harmonise fishery assessments that use different versions of the assessment tree. However, MSC have also issued an interpretation that harmonisation should still be applied between trees of different versions where the trees are materially unchanged (see Relevant Interpretation 1 in section 8.1). After reviewing the MSC's analysis of changes (MSC, 2014) the Assessment Team concluded that it was possible to consider harmonisation of the scores for a number of Performance Indicators (PIs) under Principles 2 and 3 (P2 and P3).

Under P2, it was noted that Ireland rope grown mussel involves a different fishing practice, namely passive spat collection and on-growing on ropes, than the bottom grown mussel fisheries which involve dredging of mussel seed and on-growing on the seabed. Whilst there are some similarities in impacts in some respects (e.g. addition of mussel to enclosed ecosystems) there are significant differences in others (e.g. removal of prey and habitat and disturbance to the seabed through seed collection in the bottom grown fishery that doesn't occur in the rope grown fishery) so that it is not possible to harmonise scoring of the relevant PIs under this Principle.

Under P3, it was noted that Ireland rope grown mussel occurs under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Ireland (and as an EU member the EU regulatory framework also applies) whereas both bottom grown mussel fisheries are cross-jurisdictional in that they are subject to both Irish and UK law (as well as the EU regulatory framework). Consequently, in the bottom grown mussel assessments, scoring is based upon a regulatory framework that does not apply entirely to the rope grown mussel fishery. Further, there are elements of the management of the bottom grown mussel fishery which are not relevant to the rope grown mussel fishery, for example management of seed mussel collection. Consequently, it is not possible to harmonise scoring of the relevant PIs under this Principle.

7.6 Conclusion and Status of Certification

No issues have been identified in relation to the fishery and its management nor have there been any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non-MSC products.

The information reviewed indicates that no changes are required to the scoring of the Performance Indicators (PIs). There continue to be no conditions on the fishery.

Consequently, the fishery continues to be certified.

8 References

DAFM, 2019a. Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 2 of 2019 (Mussel Fishing). Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Entered into force 5 October 2019.

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisheriesinnaturaareas/siteassessments/castlemaineharbour/FisheriesNaturaDeclarationNo2of2019MusselFishing041019.pdf>

DAFM, 2019b. Appropriate Assessment –Conclusion Statement. Carlingford Lough. Carlingford Shore SAC (Site Code: 002306) & Carlingford Lough SPA (Site Code: 004078). October 2019

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentconclusionstatement/1ConclusionStatementCarlingfordLough08112019.pdf>

DAFM, 2018a. Fisheries Natura Plan for mussel seed (*Mytilus edulis*) in the Irish Sea, 2018-2022

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisheriesinnaturaareas/siteassessments/irishseamusselsseedfishery/9ModifiedFisheriesNaturaPlanforMusselSeedMytilusEdulisIrishSea20182022180918.pdf>

DAFM, 2018b. Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 3 of 2018 (Mussel Fishing). Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Entered into force 14 December 2018.

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisheriesinnaturaareas/siteassessments/irishseamusselsseedfishery/FisheriesNaturaDeclarationNo3MusselFishing141218.pdf>

DAFM, 2013. Fisheries Natura Plan for Seed Mussel fishing Long Bank SAC, Blackwater Bank SAC, Wicklow Reef SAC, Wicklow Head SPA, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, Rockabill SPA, for the years 2013-2017. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. 5 September 2013.

<https://studylib.net/doc/7040816/fishery-natura-plan>

DAFM. Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement (Updated) by Licensing Authority for aquaculture activities in: Slaney River Valley SAC (Site Code: 000781), Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code: 000710), Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (Site Code: 004076) and Raven SPA (Site Code: 004019) - (Natura 2000 sites).

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/wexford/ConclusionStatementWexfordHbr110619.pdf>

Marine Institute, 2019. Report supporting Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture in Carlingford Shore SAC (Site code: 02306). Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Version: April 2019.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/louth/CarlingfordShoreSpecialAreaofConservationSAC21052019.pdf>

Marine Institute, 2018. Report in support of Appropriate Assessment for a Fishery Natura Plan for Seed Mussel (2018-2023) in the Irish Sea. Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway. May 2018.

<http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisheriesinnaturaareas/siteassessments/irishseamusselsseedfishery/1MIRReportAppropriateAssessmentSeedMussel200918.pdf>

Marine Institute, 2016. Appropriate Assessment Summary Report of Aquaculture in the; Slaney River Valley SAC (Site Code: 000781), Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code: 000710), Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (site code 004076) and Raven SPA (site code 004019). Marine Institute. Version: August 2016

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentsscreeningcarriedout/wexfordharbourappropriateassessment/>

MSC, 2014. MSC Summary of Changes. Fisheries Certification Requirements version 2.0. 1 October 2014.

https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/fisheries-program-documents/msc-fisheries-certification-requirements-v2-0-summary-of-changes.pdf?sfvrsn=9c675ba_14

SAI Global, 2018. MSC Full Re-assessment. Public Certification Report for the Ireland Bottom Grown mussel fishery and the linked Northern Ireland Bottom Grown mussel fishery. Facilitated by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the Aquaculture Initiative EEIG and. July, 2018.

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-bottom-grown-mussel/@@assessments>

8.1 Relevant MSC Interpretations and Clauses

The MSC requires that the use in an assessment report of an interpretation from the MSC Interpretation Log must be properly referenced in a separate section of the report with the date, title and web link of the interpretation being provided.

Relevant Interpretation 1	
Log ID	
Title	What are the MSC requirements on harmonisation? (multiple questions) (FCR v2.0 - Annex PB)
Date	30-Aug-2018
Weblink	https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/What-are-the-MSC-requirements-on-harmonisation-multiple-questions-1527586957701
Question	8.Harmonisation of assessment trees. The requirements and guidance on tree use are contradictory. When should trees be harmonised?
Answer	<p>MSC notes the lack of clarity in FCR Section PB2 and the related guidance GPB2. CABs are advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB2.1 applies to all fisheries using default trees, including the vast majority of fisheries in the MSC programme. Fisheries are expected to transition to new trees (e.g. move from v1.3 to v2.0) as normal following the FCR implementation timelines. Any differences between such default trees may lead to non-harmonised outcomes and scoring (as stated in the guidance GPB3). Harmonisation should, however, still be applied where trees are materially unchanged. CABs should make reference to MSC's analysis of which changes are material and which not, as provided on the release of FCR v2.0. • Sections PB2.2 – 2.4 applies to those fisheries that are not using the standardised default trees (such as the special trees used for enhanced bivalves and salmon prior to the release of the default versions for these species groups). Where a special tree is used in a previous overlapping fishery, it may also be appropriate for such tree to be adopted in the new fishery. However, developments such as the release of FCR v2.0 should also be considered at these times to ensure that such fisheries do not get 'stuck' with very old trees. When a new default tree is released for the species group, these should also be adopted instead of any old pre-default version. Special consideration will be needed by CABs in these rare cases, and variation requests should be submitted as per PB2.3.

9 Appendix 1. Stakeholder input

One written submission has been received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Brian Mc Sweeney, Marine Programmes Division). The submission and the CAB response are set out below.

Performance Indicator (PI)	Input summary	Input detail	Evidence or references	Suggested score change	CAB response to stakeholder input	CAB response code
Performance Indicator - please copy and insert rows to raise more than one input against a Performance Indicator	Summary sentence	Detail of stakeholder input	Objective evidence or references should be provided in support of any claims or claimed errors of fact.	If suitable, please provide a suggested score change based on your input and evidence - Optional	The CAB shall respond in this column. CAB responses should include details of where different changes have been made in the report (which section #, table etc).	The CAB shall assign a response code to each row completed by the stakeholder.
Principle 1 - Sustainable fish stocks	The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is carrying out a review of management arrangements for the mussel seed fishery in the Irish Sea.	DAFM is carrying out a review of management arrangements for the mussel seed fishery in the Irish Sea. The current management system for the bottom grown mussel sector in Ireland has been in place for more than ten years, with policy for the mussel seed fishery based on recommendations set out in the 2008 <i>Rising Tide</i> expert group report. However, several issues (e.g. seed availability, mussel production, changes to aquaculture licensing) have come to the fore over the intervening period, and it is now seen as timely to re-examine the basis for the current set of policies governing the operation of the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery. It is proposed to review the current management system for the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery and consider changes that could better support productivity and sustainability. A six-week public consultation is currently underway as part of the review process. The purpose of the public consultation is to seek the views of those with an interest in the fishery regarding the management arrangements. The period for submissions closes on 31/12/2019. The information received during the public consultation will inform policy decisions on the management arrangements for the fishery. Information on the review and the public consultation is available at: http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/currentconsultation/irishseamusselseedfishery/	A six-week public consultation on the review is underway and will close to submissions on 31/12/2019. Information on the review and the public consultation is available at: http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/currentconsultation/irishseamusselseedfishery/		Thanks very much for this information. We have included reference to it in the audit report.	Accepted (no score change)
Principle 3 - Effective management	The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is carrying out a review of management arrangements for the mussel seed fishery in the Irish Sea.	DAFM is carrying out a review of management arrangements for the mussel seed fishery in the Irish Sea. The current management system for the bottom grown mussel sector in Ireland has been in place for more than ten years, with policy for the mussel seed fishery based on recommendations set out in the 2008 <i>Rising Tide</i> expert group report. However, several issues (e.g. seed availability, mussel production, changes to aquaculture licensing) have come to the fore over the intervening period, and it is now seen as timely to re-examine the basis for the current set of policies governing the operation of the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery. It is proposed to review the current management system for the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery and consider changes that could better support productivity and sustainability. A six-week public consultation is currently underway as part of the review process. The purpose of the public consultation is to seek the views of those with an interest in the fishery regarding the management arrangements. The period for submissions closes on 31/12/2019. The information received during the public consultation will inform policy decisions on the management arrangements for the fishery. Information on the review and the public consultation is available at: http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/currentconsultation/irishseamusselseedfishery/	A six-week public consultation on the review is underway and will close to submissions on 31/12/2019. Information on the review and the public consultation is available at: http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/currentconsultation/irishseamusselseedfishery/		Thanks very much for this information. We have included reference to it in the audit report.	Accepted (no score change)

10 Appendix 2. Revised surveillance program

There have been no changes in information availability that would require a change to the surveillance program. Consequently, the surveillance program is unchanged from the Public Certification Report (PCR), published 27 July 2018 and reproduced below. In the PCR it was concluded that the fishery is eligible for Surveillance Level 1, as there were no outstanding conditions.

Table 7. Fishery surveillance program.

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 1	Review of information audit	On-site surveillance audit	Review of information audit	On-site surveillance and re-assessment audit

Table 8. Timing of surveillance audit.

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
1	27 th July 2019	Dec 2019	The main seed fishery generally takes place in Sept/Oct so conducting audit in Nov/Dec would allow time for all information relating to the past fishing season to be available.
2	27 th July 2020	Nov/Dec 2020	
3	27 th July 2021	Nov/Dec 2021	
4	27 th July 2022	TBD	Allow sufficient time for re-assessment to be completed before certificate expiry date.

Table 9. Surveillance level rationale.

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
1	Review of information audit	2 remote auditors*	There are no Conditions and any required information can be provided remotely; therefore, SAI Global proposes to conduct a review of information audit.
2	On-site surveillance audit	2 auditors on-site*	There are no Conditions but following a review of information audit in Year 1, SAI Global proposes to conduct an on-site surveillance audit in Year 2.
3	Review of information audit	2 remote auditors*	There are no Conditions and any required information can be provided remotely; therefore, SAI Global proposes to conduct a review of information audit.
4	On-site surveillance audit	2/3 auditors on site*	As this will potentially be both a 4th surveillance and a re-assessment audit, SAI Global proposes to conduct an on-site audit with 2/3 auditors on-site.

* As the fishery is entering its 2nd certification cycle and has no conditions a reduced team of 1 auditor is technically allowable however, it is highly unlikely that a single auditor could meet all the required competency criteria.

11 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Surveillance Review of Information Template v2.0'. Note amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity; however, content and structure follow that of the original template.

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Template version control		
Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](https://www.msc.org) ([msc.org](https://www.msc.org))

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