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MRAG Americas, Inc.

DFPO Mussel, Cockle and Oyster Fishery

MSC Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name
	DFPO mussel, cockle and oyster fishery
2	Assessment number
	DFPO Inner Danish Waters Blue Shell Mussel – 2 nd reassessment DFPO Limfjord oyster dredge – 2 nd reassessment DFPO Limfjord mussel and cockle – 1 st reassessment
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)
	Yes
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope
	MRAG Americas confirms that this fishery is within scope for MSC assessment.
5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)
UoA 1	Description
Species	Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)
Stock	Limfjord mussels
Geographical area	Limfjorden, Denmark, FAO area 27
Harvest method/gear	Mussel dredge

Client group	Danmarks Fiskeriforening Producent Organisation (DFPO)
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that join DFPO in the future.
UoA 2	Description
Species	Cockle (<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>)
Stock	Limfjord cockles
Geographical area	Limfjorden, Denmark, FAO area 27
Harvest method/gear	Mussel dredge modified to catch cockles
Client group	Danmarks Fiskeriforening Producent Organisation (DFPO)
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that join DFPO in the future.
UoA 3	Description
Species	European flat oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)
Stock	Limfjord oysters
Geographical area	Limfjorden, Denmark, FAO area 27
Harvest method/gear	Oyster dredge
Client group	Danmarks Fiskeriforening Producent Organisation (DFPO)
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that join DFPO in the future.
UoA 4	Description
Species	Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)
Stock	Blue mussel in ICES divisions IIIa and Baltic Sea area 22
Geographical area	Eastern Inner Danish waters, FAO area 27
Harvest method/gear	Mussel dredge
Client group	Danmarks Fiskeriforening Producent Organisation (DFPO)
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that join DFPO in the future.
6	Certificate sharing statement

	The only party eligible to use the fishery certificate is the client (DFPO) and the vessels nominated by DFPO.
7	Name of proposed team leader
	<p>Dr. Julian Addison will serve as team leader for a reduced reassessment. He is an independent fisheries consultant specializing in shellfish and inshore fisheries. Until 2010 he served for 28 years at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), which is the UK Government's marine science agency for environment, fisheries and aquatic science, most recently as Senior Shellfish Advisor. Relevant skills and experience include 30 years' experience of stock assessment and provision of management advice on shellfish and inshore fisheries, extensive shellfish research primarily in the field of crustacean population dynamics and assessment, extensive knowledge of the UK shellfish and inshore fisheries industry and liaison with fishers and other stakeholder groups, knowledge of shellfisheries management regimes worldwide, effective oral and written communication skills and winning of contracts under competitive tender.</p> <p>Research interests include development of methods for shellfish stock assessment, including fishery-independent methods of estimating abundance, crustacean behaviour in relation to capture in fishing gear, development of environmentally friendly fishing gear technology for both trawl and molluscan dredge fisheries and the environmental footprint of inshore fisheries.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Addison meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than three years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has passed the MSC team leader training; • He has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • He has passed the MSC Traceability training module; • He meets ISO 19011 training requirements; • He has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • He has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 and 2 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Addison has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>Ms. Christine Grieve has 25+ years' experience in fisheries management and policy-making from local to global levels. First as research assistant to Australian stock assessment scientists, then the manager of some complex Australian demersal fisheries. She moved to the UK in 2000 to lead the Sustainable Fisheries Policy Research Programme for a London-based think tank where the vision was to influence change in the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. In 2002, Chris became the International Policy Director for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), responsible for leading the MSC's work on standards, certification and accreditation, governing bodies and developing world fisheries. Chris's role evolved to become Associate Director between 2005 and 2010 after she established Meridian Prime as a consulting company with a diverse portfolio of work. Chris has led and participated in work on the development, evolution and implementation of the MSC standard and certification requirements. She has also led and participated in sustainable fisheries-related projects for client organisations in Europe and the USA. On a consultancy basis, Chris is the Executive</p>

Director of the EDGE Certified Foundation: a Swiss-based, global certification scheme dedicated to pursuing gender equality in Fortune 500 companies. Chris is an associate of the GrowHouse Initiative: a company that helps businesses explore beyond the boundaries of their current practice to create compelling, unique and sustainable futures. Chris is a member of the Board of Directors for WOCAN (a non-profit focusing on gender equality in natural resource management in the global south) and on the Advisory Board of Ocean Outcomes (a US-based non-profit focusing on sustainable fisheries). Chris was a founding Trustee and Vice Chair of the ISEAL Alliance, the global sustainability standards organization; and a statutory-appointed member of two Australian fisheries management public boards.

MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Grieve meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:

- 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;
- She has passed the MSC Traceability training module.

In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 and 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.

A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.

9 Stakeholder opportunities

Provide input or comments on the Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR). We ask stakeholders to provide input or comments on the ACDR by 5pm UTC on **09 August 2020**.

Stakeholders must use the [MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments v3.0](#) (Ctrl+click to follow link)

Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet in person (FCP v2.1 7.12.2.e.i).

10 Assessment tree to be used

The default assessment tree contained within MSC Fisheries Certification Process version 2.1 will be used for this assessment.

11 Estimated timeline

Activity 2020-2021	Month											
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Preparation of Announcement Comment Draft Report												
Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)												
MSC announcement, team and assessment visit notification, publication of Announcement Comment Draft Report												

	<table><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 and 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></table>	Assessment visit, stakeholder meetings														Examination of evidence, scoring, report preparation														Report review and finalization														Consultation and confirmation of peer reviewers														Client and peer review of draft report														Stakeholder review of draft report														Final report/certification determination/objections period														Certification decision													
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12	Site visit																																																																																																																
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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 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.- (FCP v2.1 7.12.3 and Annex PF2.3.2)																																																																																																																
	<p>The site visit will be held remotely the week of 10-14 August 2020.</p> <p>The MSC Covid-19 Derogation allows CABs to conduct assessment site visits as off-site visits for the duration of the 6-month derogation period (27th March 2020 – 27th September 2020).</p>																																																																																																																
13	Assessment tree modifications																																																																																																																
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MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) re-assessment of DFPO mussel, cockle and oyster 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 remote visit to the fishery in August. **The assessment team will meet remotely, 10-14 August 2020.** 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 input on the Announcement Comment Draft Report or any other information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery and to the assessments of the fishery. Unless covered by FCP 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 UTC on **09 August 2020**.

Stakeholders wishing to comment on the Announcement Comment Draft Report must do so by 5pm UTC **09 August 2020**.

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 (MSC template for stakeholder input into fishery assessments v3.0) for stakeholder response can be found at <https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents>. You must use the template to provide your response.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/>. Please note that this fishery has recently been combined from the three previously certified fisheries listed below:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/dfpo-inner-danish-waters-blue-shell-mussel/>

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/dfpo-limfjord-oyster-dredge/@@view>

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/dfpo-limfjord-mussel-and-cockle-fishery/@@view>

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

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Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: 06 July 2020

Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

Dr. Julian Addison will serve as team leader for a reduced reassessment. He is an independent fisheries consultant specializing in shellfish and inshore fisheries. Until 2010 he served for 28 years at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), which is the UK Government's marine science agency for environment, fisheries and aquatic science, most recently as Senior Shellfish Advisor. Relevant skills and experience include 30 years' experience of stock assessment and provision of management advice on shellfish and inshore fisheries, extensive shellfish research primarily in the field of crustacean population dynamics and assessment, extensive knowledge of the UK shellfish and inshore fisheries industry and liaison with fishers and other stakeholder groups, knowledge of shellfisheries management regimes worldwide, effective oral and written communication skills and winning of contracts under competitive tender.

Research interests include development of methods for shellfish stock assessment, including fishery-independent methods of estimating abundance, crustacean behaviour in relation to capture in fishing gear, development of environmentally friendly fishing gear technology for both trawl and molluscan dredge fisheries and the environmental footprint of inshore fisheries.

Ms. Christine Grieve has 25+ years' experience in fisheries management and policy-making from local to global levels. First as research assistant to Australian stock assessment scientists, then the manager of some complex Australian demersal fisheries. She moved to the UK in 2000 to lead the Sustainable Fisheries Policy Research Programme for a London-based think tank where the vision was to influence change in the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. In 2002, Chris became the International Policy Director for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), responsible for leading the MSC's work on standards, certification and accreditation, governing bodies and developing world fisheries. Chris's role evolved to become Associate Director between 2005 and 2010 after she established Meridian Prime as a consulting company with a diverse portfolio of work. Chris has led and participated in work on the development, evolution and implementation of the MSC standard and certification requirements. She has also led and participated in sustainable fisheries-related projects for client organisations in Europe and the USA. On a consultancy basis, Chris is the Executive Director of the EDGE Certified Foundation: a Swiss-based, global certification scheme dedicated to pursuing gender equality in Fortune 500 companies. Chris is an associate of the GrowHouse Initiative: a company that helps businesses explore beyond the boundaries of their current practice to create compelling, unique and sustainable futures. Chris is a member of the Board of Directors for WOCAN (a non-profit focusing on gender equality in natural resource management in the global south) and on the Advisory Board of Ocean Outcomes (a US-based non-profit focusing on sustainable fisheries). Chris was a founding Trustee and Vice Chair of the ISEAL Alliance, the global sustainability standards organization; and a statutory-appointed member of two Australian fisheries management public boards.

Appendix 2: Reduced reassessment

Required where a reduced reassessment is announced.

The announcement shall include a justification for reduced reassessment as set out in FCP v2.1 7.30.9 using the table below.

Table 2 – Reduced reassessment evaluation		
Criteria 1	Yes / No	Justification
Fishery was covered under previous certificate or scope extension	Yes	<p>DFPO Inner Danish Waters blue shell mussels – recertified in May 2017; second surveillance audit report submitted in July 2019</p> <p>DFPO Limfjord mussel and cockle fishery – certified in December 2015; third surveillance audit report submitted in July 2019</p> <p>DFPO Limfjord oyster dredge – recertified in March 2017; second surveillance audit report submitted in August 2019</p>
Criteria 2	Yes / No	Justification
No conditions remain after 3 rd surveillance audit	Yes	<p>The cockle UoA has an open condition on PI 3.2.4 following its third surveillance audit. Both other fisheries have no open conditions, and all other requirements for a reduced re-assessment are met.</p> <p>Regarding progress against the open condition, research was done to deliver information needed for management, and this has led to the Fishery Agency considering alternative ways of managing the cockle fishery. If or how this might be changed is not yet decided, but more information on this would be given at re-assessment in talking with the appropriate management authorities. Currently, DTU Aqua is drafting a stock assessment for cockles in the Limfjord and will be getting input from the Fishery Agency on other possible management scenarios. This might lead to specific licenses to fish for cockles, which would mean that cockles would likely not be considered bycatch in the mussel fishery but rather a target species with agreed-upon catch limits for each fishing season. Therefore, information for management needs is being provided and research for management purposes is expected to be consistent with the condition's rationale.</p> <p>Further, the specific research plan PI 3.2.4 that was in CV v1.3 was removed from FCR v2.0. The presence and merit of a research plan are now considered in the information PIs, notably PI 1.2.3 at the SG100 level, and PI 3.2.4.</p> <p>Therefore, it is expected that this single condition can be closed during the 4th audit. In addition, for the sake of efficiency, this fishery is being combined with two other Danish bivalve fisheries into a single re-assessment. The other two fisheries have no open conditions.</p>

Criteria 3	Yes / No	Justification
Standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by 3 rd surveillance		