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**Notification of proposed assessment team**

**for the**

**Full assessment of the SPSSG, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring (*Clupea harengus*) fishery**

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd. (MEP) is undertaking the full MSC assessment for the SPSSG, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring (*Clupea harengus*) fishery.

MEP proposes the following team of experts for the full assessment:

**Dr Joanna Gascoigne** is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales and a shellfisheries expert. She is a fully qualified MSC Team Leader with expertise in the application of the Risk-Based Framework and has particular expertise in the assessment of Principle 1 (target species stock status and management). She has been involved as expert and lead auditor in ten previous MSC assessments and numerous pre-assessments. Ongoing full assessments include the SZLC, HNSFC & CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery and the Walker Seafoods Pty Ltd Australian albacore and yellowfin tuna, swordfish and mahi mahi longline fishery. It is proposed that Dr Gascoigne will act as team leader with key responsibilities for Principle 1.

**Dr. Matt Cieri** received his PhD from the University of Maine in 1999 and has worked as a researcher at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. He currently works for the State of Maine as a fisheries scientist. He specializes in small pelagic species, and modeling their predator-prey interactions with important predators. Dr Cieri worked on the NAFO 5YZ and 4WX herring assessments for over 10 years. During that time he was involved in or primary analyst on the ADAPT-VPA, Statistical catch at age, SS3 and some statistical catch at length approaches (<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjfas-2012-0364#.UzWbGs5RHkE>). Dr Cieri is also well versed with bottom trawl and acoustic estimates of pelagic stocks including Atlantic herring, having worked on industry-based and fisheries-independent acoustic surveys and their analytic approaches. Dr Cieri currently runs the Atlantic herring commercial catch/bycatch sampling as well as the age and growth lab for the State of Maine, coupled with analytic work on estimates of bycatch in large-scale pelagic fisheries using at-sea observers, as well as MSVPA work on a similar species, Atlantic menhaden. Dr. Cieri's key responsibility will be as Principle 1 expert for this assessment although he will also bring additional Principle 2 expertise to the team.



**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 manager at MEP and specialises in marine and fisheries ecology, marine environmental impact assessment and sustainable fisheries. She has particular expertise with the MSC certification requirements and has completed numerous MSC pre-assessments and surveillance audits. She regularly partakes in MSC training sessions and workshops including the MSC Benthic Impacts Workshop and Fishery Standard Review workshop. Chrissie is currently acting as P2 expert for the SZLC, HNSFC & CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery and the Walker Seafood's Australian Eastern tuna and billfish tuna fishery and will be working on P2 for this fishery assessment.

**Kat Collinson** has a Master's Degree in Aquatic Resource Management from King's College University and has worked on a number of MSC fisheries assessments including the Menai Strait mussel fishery. She has also been responsible for the completion of pre-assessments for tuna fisheries in the Pacific and Indian Ocean against the MSC principle and criteria. Kat is a fully qualified MSC Team Member and specialises in Principle 2 requirements and regularly participates in MSC CAB training sessions and workshops. She has also completed over 150 separate MSC CoC audits and so will act as the team's expert on traceability for the fishery while also contributing to P2.

**Dr. 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. He also has 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 in the Barents Sea, as well as herring assessments in the Norwegian and North Seas. He also has wide experience as an MSC peer reviewer, as well as from pre-assessments and surveillance audits. Geir would be responsible primarily for Principle 3.

The CV of each team member has also been provided for posting on the MSC Website.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Chrissie Sieben at MEP before 17:00 GMT on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**Contact:**

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