

## **Change to use of Risk Based Framework (RBF) on the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters**

ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would like to inform stakeholders that the RBF will not be used on the above fishery for the following performance indicator: PI 2.4.1 (Habitats Outcome).

At the announcement of the fishery, it was envisaged that the RBF could be used to score this PI as there was thought to be insufficient information on the habitats encountered or how these may be impacted by the fishery. However, additional stakeholder consultation has revealed that a habitats impact assessment is being carried out for the fisheries concerned and that the results of this analysis will be made available ahead of scoring the fishery. It is therefore anticipated that the Default Assessment Tree will be used to score this PI.

Further information on this fishery can be seen on the MSC's website here: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/joint-demersal-fisheries-in-the-north-sea-and-adjacent-waters/@@view>

MEC is happy to receive comments from stakeholders on this change or on the assessment of this fishery. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Gavin Fitzgerald ([gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com](mailto:gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com)) or Chrissie Sieben ([chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com](mailto:chrissie.sieben@me-cert.com)) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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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.