



6 March 2017

ISF Iceland saithe and ling – Expedited assessment

MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements

Conformity Assessment Body: Vottunarfélagið Tún ehf.

Notification of Proposed Peer Reviewers

The independent conformity assessment body, Vottunarfélagið Tún ehf., is currently carrying out expedited assessment of the **Atlantic wolfish and plaice fisheries** as a means of extending the scope of the certified **ISF Iceland saithe and ling** fishery against the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements.

Information on the re-assessment are available on MSC's website:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/isf-iceland-saithe-and-ling/@assessments>

Tún is proposing two persons as a peer reviewers of the forthcoming Peer Review Draft Report on this assessment, based on their technical expertise in areas relevant to the assessed fisheries. Their names and summaries of relevant experience are provided below. Detailed CVs for both will be submitted to MSC.

Stakeholders, including the applicant fisheries, wishing to make comments on the suitability of the peer reviewer nominees, are advised to consult and use for this purpose MSC guidelines, available on <http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders>, and a template for response available at http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders/template_for_stakeholder_input. Any claims regarding the suitability or otherwise of the proposed peer reviewers for this assessment should be accompanied by objective evidence in support of such claims.

Comments must be submitted by **17.00 GMT on Friday the 17th of March 2017** to:

Dr. Gunnar Á. Gunnarsson

Email: tun@tun.is

Proposed Peer Reviewers:

John Henry Nichols, CBiol, FRSB

Mr John Nichols is a retired UK government fisheries biologist with 42 years' research experience in plankton ecosystems in the North Atlantic specializing in the taxonomy of North Atlantic & NW European plankton including phytoplankton, micro and meso-plankton, ichthyoplankton and young fish. He has been a member of ICES working groups on herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardine and anchovy assessments; and mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys. He was also a member of ICES study groups on herring larval surveys and plankton sampling. In 1992 he set up the UK

programme for monitoring phytoplankton in shellfish harvesting areas in compliance with a new EU Directive to protect the public from the potential ill effects of toxic algae entering the food chain through shellfish. Mr Nichols was scientist in charge of numerous research vessel surveys for fish stock assessment purposes and directly involved in the assessment of pelagic and western demersal fish stocks from 1994 to 2000. He has been involved in the publication of over fifty scientific papers and reports more than half of which have been in peer reviewed journals, and the publication of two fish egg and larvae identification keys.

Since retirement from his government post Mr Nichols has participated in a total of numerous MSC fisheries assessments as the Principle 1 expert, including surveillance and re-assessments. Those include the Thames estuary herring, PFA North Sea Herring, NEA mackerel and Atlanto-Scandian herring, Hastings Fleet Dover sole, the north –east coast of England bass fishery, the SW mackerel hand line fishery, Portuguese sardine, a Newfoundland herring fishery, Newfoundland cod, Canadian Pacific sablefish, various Norwegian and Swedish pelagic fisheries, Faroese and Norwegian saithe fisheries, Faroese, Russian and Norwegian Arctic cod and haddock fisheries, Faroese mackerel and Blue whiting fisheries, Scottish pelagic fisheries and a North Sea plaice and sole fishery. He has also been a peer reviewer for numerous MSC certification reports by various Certification bodies and has also carried out two MSC pre-assessments and numerous annual surveillance audits. In 2010 he delivered a lecture on *The Importance of a Fisheries Interaction with the Ecosystem in the MSC Certification Process* at an international Safe Seas conference in Portugal.

Robert Blyth-Skyrme, Ph.D.

Dr. Robert Blyth-Skyrme started his professional career in finfish mariculture in 1996, before switching to a focus on the science, management and policy of wild fisheries. Following his PhD, which considered biological and socio-economic aspects of an inshore shellfish fishery, he worked as the Senior Environment Officer and then Deputy Chief Fishery Officer at the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the largest regional fisheries management organization in England. Rob then became Natural England's senior advisor to the UK Government on marine fisheries and environmental issues, leading a team dealing with fisheries policy, science and nationally significant fisheries casework. Since the end of 2008, Rob has run Ichthys Marine Ecological Consulting Ltd., a consultancy providing marine fisheries and environmental advice to a variety of governmental, NGO and industry clients.

Dr Blyth-Skyrme has undertaken all facets of MSC work as a Lead Assessor, expert team member and peer reviewer, across a wide variety of fisheries globally. He has completed the MSC training in CRv1.3 and CRv.2.0, and is a member of the MSC's Peer Review College.