

EXPEDITED AUDIT REPORT FOR THE

Norway North Sea saithe fishery

Norges Fiskarlag

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Objective:

Expedited audit report for the Norway North Sea fishery conducted in accordance with the process requirements in MSC FCR v2.0. The evaluation of the fishery remains according to the standard set out in MSC CR v1.3.

Prepared by:

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GLOSSARY

Abbreviations & acronyms

CAB	Conformity assessment body
CR	Certification Requirements
FCR	Fisheries Certification Requirements
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NS	North Sea
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UoC	Unit of Certification

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Table 1 General information

Fishery name	Norway North Sea saithe fishery – Certificate F-DNV-60011		
Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	North Sea saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in the North Sea (ICES area IV, FAO statistical area 27) targeted by Norwegian registered vessels operating under the management of Norwegian authorities and EU-Norway agreement and using demersal trawl, hooks and lines (not specified), seine nets (purse) and gill nets (not specified).		
Date certified	16. June 2008	Date of expiry	16. June 2018
Surveillance level and type	Following the reassessment of the fishery completed in June 2013, the fishery surveillance level was determined to follow the Remote surveillance – Option 2 cycle. The next surveillance audit, due in 2016, will be carried out as an on-site audit.		
Date of surveillance audit	22. January 2016		
Surveillance stage	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance		
	Other (expedited etc)		X
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Guro Meldre Pedersen		
CAB name	DNV GL Business Assurance (www.dnvgl.com)		
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The purpose of this expedited audit report is to establish and report on any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery; in this case to investigate information provided by MSC on risks for non-certified fish entering further Chains of Custody as MSC certified fish from the Norway North Sea saithe fishery.

For a complete picture of the fishery, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report and later surveillance reports made available for download at www.msc.org.

1.1 General background about the fishery

Norges Fiskarlag was established in 1926 as an interest group for the hitherto unorganized Norwegian fishermen. The main focus was better control of the fish brought to shore and improved working conditions in the high-risk profession. As a direct result of the organization's efforts, the Raw Fish Act was introduced in 1938, ensuring the fishermen a minimum price for fish delivered.

The NFA's most important objective is to organize all professional Norwegian fishermen, and the activities embrace the political, economic, social and cultural fields of interest to its members, as well as other matters more or less directly connected to their fishing activities. The organisation is a politically independent, national organisation based on voluntary membership of fishermen via their county associations and group organizations. The highest governing body of the NFA is its Congress, which consists of 69 delegates, elected by the seven county associations and two group organizations which together constitute NFA. The Congress meets biannually. Intermediate authority is exercised by the National Committee that comprises of 14 members chosen from the



member organisations and elected by the Congress. The main office in Trondheim is staffed by approximately 20 people, including the General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary and sections for areas of specific interest including resource management.

The NFA organizes both owners of fishing vessels and fishermen working on a share or percentage basis. The organization today represents about 25% of the registered Norwegian fishermen. NFA coordinates MSC Fisheries certification processes for the following fisheries on behalf of the entire Norwegian fleet:

- Norway North East Arctic Cod
- Norway North East Arctic Haddock
- Norway North East Atlantic mackerel (through MINSA)
- Norway North Sea and Skagerrak Herring
- Norway spring spawning Herring
- Norway North East Arctic Saithe
- **Norway North Sea Saithe**
- Norway North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn
- Norway Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep cold-water prawn

2 BACKGROUND

This expedited audit was initiated in addition to planned surveillance audits to review any changes affecting traceability and the risk of non-certified fish being sold as MSC certified, based on information brought to DNV GL's attention regarding landing of saithe from trawlers participating in reduction fisheries using 30 mm mesh size potentially being sold as MSC certified. The assessment of traceability factors is included in section 4 with results and conclusions available in sections 5.

3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 Scope and history of the assessments

The **Unit of Assessment** (Table 2) includes the target stock, the fishing method or gear type, vessel type and practices, and the fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock, including any other eligible fishers that are outside the unit of certification.

The **Unit of Certification** (Table 2) (to be covered by an MSC Fishery certificate following a full assessment of this fishery) includes the target stock, the fishing method or gear type, vessel type and practices, and the fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock, including those client group members initially intended to be covered by the certificate.

The Unit of Assessment is identical to the Unit of Certification (Table 2) for this fishery, as all Norwegian vessels are included in the Unit of Certification and no other eligible fishers are identified.

Table 2 Unit of Assessment/Unit of Certification for the Norway North Sea saithe fishery.

	Unit of Certification / Unit of Assessment
Species	Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)
Stock	North Sea saithe
Geographical area	North Sea ICES Area IV / FAO statistical area 27
Method of capture	Demersal trawl, Hooks and lines (not specified), Seine nets (purse), Gill Nets (not specified)
Management	The NS saithe stock is managed under EU-Norway Agreement and by Norwegian Authorities
Client Group	The client is Norges Fiskarlag on behalf of the entire Norwegian fleet
Other eligible fishers	No other eligible fishers have been identified for the fishery.

3.2 Summary of the original assessment and reassessment

The intent of the Norway NEA saithe fishery to enter the initial MSC assessment process was announced 21.02.2006, and the fishery received its certification on 16.06.2008. Surveillance activities were conducted as required; for details please see <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/norway-north-sea-saithe/assessment-downloads>.

The intent of the Norway NEA saithe fishery to enter the MSC re-assessment process was announced on 18.07.2012, and the recertification of the fishery was confirmed through publication of Public Certification Report 14.06.2015. New certificate validity end date is 16 June 2018. Scope of certification is up to the point of landing and chain of custody commences from point of sale/landing. Details on the reassessment and commencing surveillance activities are available at <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-east-atlantic/norway-north-sea-saithe/reassessment-downloads>.

The re-assessment team consisted of the principle experts Mr. John Nichols, Dr. Stephen Lockwood, Dr. Dankert Skagen, DNV team leader Mrs. Sandhya Chaudhury and DNV team member Guro Meldre Pedersen. During the site visit 25-26 September 2012, the assessment team met with and gathered information from stakeholders such as IMR, DoF, NFVOA and MFCA.

The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.2, was used for the reassessment. The fishery attained a score of 80 or more against each of the MSC Principles and did not score less than 60 against any of the individual MSC Criteria. The principal scores of the re-assessment are provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Principle scores – re-assessment:

Principle	Danish seine	Demersal trawl	Seine nets (purse)	Hooks and lines	Gill-Nets
Principle 1 – Target Species	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	90.0	88.7	93.0	90.7	90.0
Principle 3 – Management System	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0

The fishery achieved a score of below 80 against one scoring indicator. The assessment team therefore set one condition and three recommendations for continuing certification that the client is required to address. One additional recommendation was issued at the first surveillance audit.

Table 4 Conditions and recommendations for the Norway North Sea saithe fishery

Condition / Recommendation	PI	Gear	Issued
Condition 1	2.1.3	Hooks and lines (Jiggers and longliners)	Reassessment, 2013
Recommendation 1	1.2.3	All	Reassessment, 2013
Recommendation 2	2.1.2	All	Reassessment, 2013
Recommendation 3	2.2.2	All	Reassessment, 2013
Recommendation 4	2.3.1	Gillnets	SA1, 2014

Conditions and recommendations are presented in full in the Public certification report and subsequent surveillance reports, and will be followed up on during the third surveillance audit to take place later in 2016.

3.3 Surveillance level

Surveillance level was determined based on Table C3 and C4 in the MSC CR v1.3. Determination of surveillance score is included in Table 5, and resulting surveillance level in

Table 6.

Table 5 Determination of surveillance score (Ref. CR v1.3 table C3)

Criteria	Alternatives	Surveillance score	Surveillance score Danish seine	Surveillance score Trawl	Surveillance score Purse seine	Surveillance score Jigging & longline	Surveillance score Others (gillnet)	Rationale
Default assessment tree used?	Yes	0						Default assessment tree used
	No	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of open conditions	Zero conditions	0						1 condition on jiggers and longline
	Between 1-5 conditions	1	0	0	0	1	0	
	More than 5	2						
Principle Level Scores	≥85	0						All principle level scores >85
	<85	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Conditions on outcome PIs?	Yes	2						No conditions on outcome PIs
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Score per gear			0	0	0	1	0	
Total score			1					

Table 6 Surveillance level (Ref. CR v1.2 table C4)

Surveillance score	Surveillance level	Year after certification or recertification				Year 4
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
1	Remote surveillance	Option 1	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit
		Option 2	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	

According to MSC Certification Requirements Version 1.3, the overall surveillance score for this fishery is 1. The surveillance level for this fishery qualifies for the Remote surveillance level, where Option 2 has been chosen.

3.4 Previous surveillance activities

Table 7 Summary of previous surveillance activities

	1st surveillance	2nd surveillance
Year	2014	2015
Date announcement on MSC website followed by supporting notice to stakeholders*	20 May 2014	26 March 2015
Surveillance audit date	23-24 June 2014	18-19 May 2015
Type	On-site	Off-site
MSC standard version and assessment tree used	Fisheries standard v 1.1	Fisheries standard v 1.1
MSC certification requirements and guidance version	MSC CR v1.3	MSC CR v1.3
Audit team members and roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Nichols (Principle 1 and team leader) - Stephen Lockwood (Principle 2) - Guro Meldre Pedersen (chain of custody responsible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Nichols (Principle 1 and team leader) - Guro Meldre Pedersen (chain of custody responsible)
Variations applied	Variation was requested and granted for delayed surveillance report.	None
Stakeholders consulted	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries, the Institute of Marine Research and the client, through site visit meetings and telephone consultations.	The assessment team gathered input from various stakeholders through remote mechanisms, incl. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries and the client.

* Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

3.4.1 2014 - First annual surveillance

The first surveillance audit was performed as an on-site audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.3, 14 January 2013. The default assessment tree, set out in the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, was used for this surveillance.

The surveillance was announced on the MSC website 20. May 2014 followed by a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team. No comments or requests for consultations were received. The audit was combined with the surveillance audits of the following Norwegian fisheries and the recertification audit of the Norway NEA cod and haddock fisheries:

- Norway North East Arctic cod
- Norway North East Arctic haddock
- Norway North East Arctic saithe
- Norway North East Arctic cold water prawn

The surveillance visit was conducted on 23.-24. June 2014. This surveillance audit was carried out by Principle expert Dr. Stephen Lockwood, Principle expert and MSC Fishery Team Leader Mr. John Nichols and DNV GL project manager/Chain of custody responsible Mrs. Guro Meldre Pedersen, all members of the initial assessment team. Changes to roles in the assessment team were announced on the MSC website and listed stakeholders informed by direct mail notification. The assessment team gathered input from the various stakeholders, incl. Ministry of Trade, Industry



and Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries, the Institute of Marine Research and the client, through site visit meetings and telephone consultations.

There were no changes to scoring of performance indicators at the first surveillance audit, but one new recommendation was issued.

A Variation Request to the MSC CR 27.22.13 to allow the surveillance report to be submitted four weeks after the normal submission deadline of 30 days after the site-visit was submitted to and granted by the MSC.

The surveillance audit report was published on the MSC website 26. August 2014.

3.4.2 2015 - Second annual surveillance

The second surveillance audit was performed as an off-site audit and conducted according to MSC Certification Requirements, version 1.3, applying the default assessment tree.

The surveillance was announced on the MSC website 26 March 2015 followed with a supporting notice to stakeholders issued by the MSC on the same date. Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

The surveillance visit for this fishery was conducted on 18-19 May 2015. This surveillance audit was carried out by Principle expert and MSC Fishery Team Leader Mr. John Nichols and DNV GL project manager/Chain of custody responsible Mrs. Guro Meldre Pedersen, both members of the initial assessment team. Changes to roles in the assessment team were announced on the MSC website and listed stakeholders informed by direct mail notification.

The assessment team gathered input from various stakeholders through remote mechanisms, incl. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries and the client. The Institute of Marine Research was approached but was not involved.

There were no changes to scoring of performance indicators at the second surveillance audit, and no new conditions or recommendations issued.

The surveillance audit report was published on the MSC website 18. June 2015.

3.5 2016 - Expedited audit

This expedited audit was conducted in accordance with the process requirements in MSC FCR v2.0. The evaluation of the fishery remains according to the standard set out in MSC CR v1.3. The MSC Surveillance Reporting Template v1.0 was used to create this report.

The expedited audit was announced on the MSC website 22 December 2015 with the key purpose of assessing the risk of non-certified fish being sold as certified fish in the fishery, based on new information brought to DNV GL's attention regarding potential landing of saithe from trawlers participating in reduction fisheries using 30 mm mesh size.

The audit was completed 22 January 2016 as a desk-top review of information provided by the MSC, the client, and supporting documentation. The review was undertaken by Guro Meldre Pedersen, chain of custody responsible for the preceding surveillance audits for this fishery.

The expedited audit is additional to the planned surveillance audits for this fishery and the outcome did not impact the further surveillance schedule for this fishery.

Table 8 Written stakeholder submissions received (available in full in Appendix 1)

Stakeholder	Topic
MSC	On board traceability review
Client	Review of status regarding traceability discrepancies in the Norwegian saithe fishery (certificate F-DNV-60011), pertaining to the expedited audit scheduled for January 22, 2016.

4 TRACEABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The expedited audit initiated with the key purpose of assessing the risk of non-certified fish being sold as certified fish in the fishery, based on information brought to DNV GL's attention by MSC regarding potential landing of saithe from trawlers participating in reduction fisheries using 30 mm mesh size, when only catches from trawlers using the Norwegian minimum 120 mm mesh size are included in the Unit of Certification. The MSC submission is available in full in appendix 1.

The purpose of this expedited audit report is to establish and report on any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery; in this case to investigate information provided by MSC on risks for non-certified fish entering further Chains of Custody as MSC certified fish from the Norway North Sea saithe fishery.

4.1 Summary of MSC submission on risk of mixing of eligible and non-eligible saithe

The Norwegian fleet include trawlers that participate both in reduction fishery with 30 mm mesh size and targeted saithe fishery using minimum 120 mm mesh size. Saithe caught as bycatch in the reduction fishery is not included in the Norway North Sea (NS) saithe fishery MSC certificate, and is not eligible to be sold as certified fish. If the vessels participate in both fisheries during the same fishing trip there is a risk that mixing of eligible and non-eligible fish on board which is not described in the Public Certification Report for the Norway NS saithe fishery. This may lead to non-eligible fish being sold as MSC certified. A list of vessels with observed landings at the Hanstholm Fish Auction (MSC-C-50680) is included in Table 9.

Table 9 Norwegian registered trawlers reported to land MSC saithe and catches from reduction operations at the same time

Vessel name – Norwegian trawlers	Registration	Observations
Johan Feyer	R 4 ES	Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on - 15.7. 2014 → 35 t MSC saithe
M/S Gollenes	M 0031 Hø	Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on - 13.8.; 4.8.; 27.7.; 17.7.; 8.7.; 29.6.; 22.6.2015 - 15.7. 2014 → 45 t MSC saithe; - 1.7.2014 → 40 t MSC saithe; - 11./12.6.2014 → 58 t MSC saithe
Ostanger	IMO: 7719985 MMSI: 257537000	Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on - 22. 10.2015
Skude	R 157 K	
Skude Senior	R 196 K IMO 6826212	

4.2 Evaluation of risk factors

This evaluation focuses on risk factors pointed out in the MSC submission as summarized above and detailed in Appendix 1.

4.2.1 Potential for non-certified gear/s to be used within the fishery

Based on client submission it is understood that the reduction fishery mentioned in the MSC submission is the fishery for Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*). The reduction fishery for pout opens 1. April¹. The fishing season in practice starts end of May / beginning of June (Figure 1). The fishery is in practice taking place from May/June until October/November, after which the Norway pout quota have been fished and trawlers participating in both fisheries switch to targeted saithe trawling. The saithe fishery takes place all year, but is at its slowest during the main season for the Norway pout fishery (Figure 2). **There is no risk for non-certified trawls for Norway pout to be used within the certified fishery before the start of the Norway pout fishing season, but there is a risk for non-certified trawls for Norway pout to be used within the certified fishery in the Norway pout fishing season.**

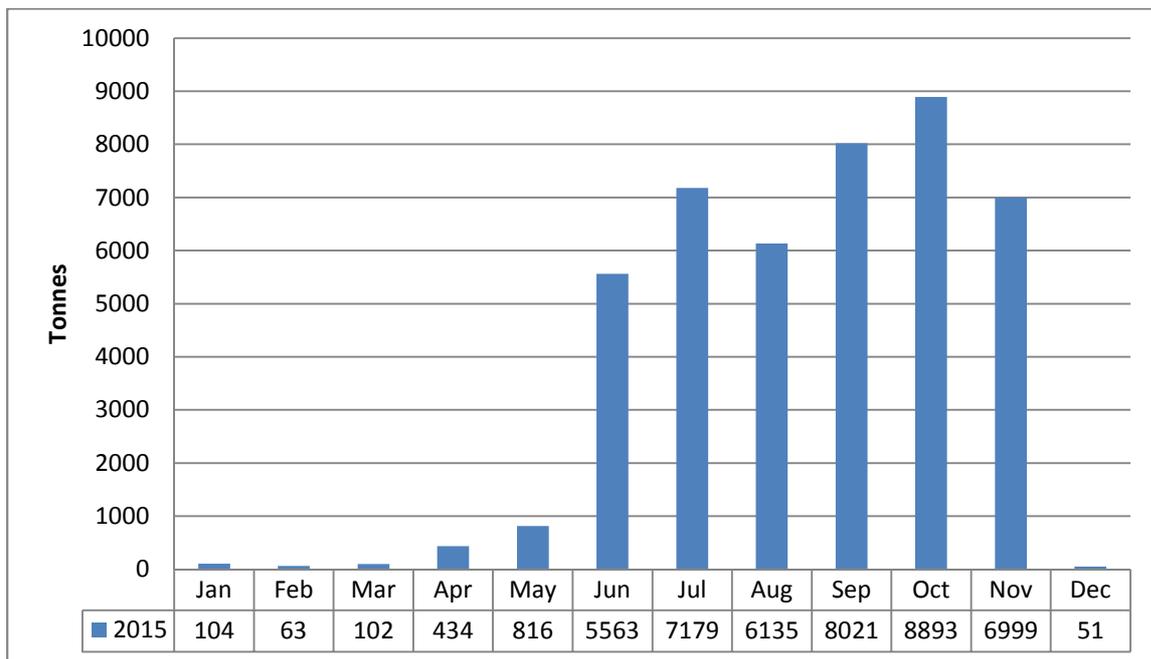


Figure 1 Norwegian Norway pout landings all ares in 2015 (Source: Directorate of fisheries)

¹ <https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2015-12-15-1608>

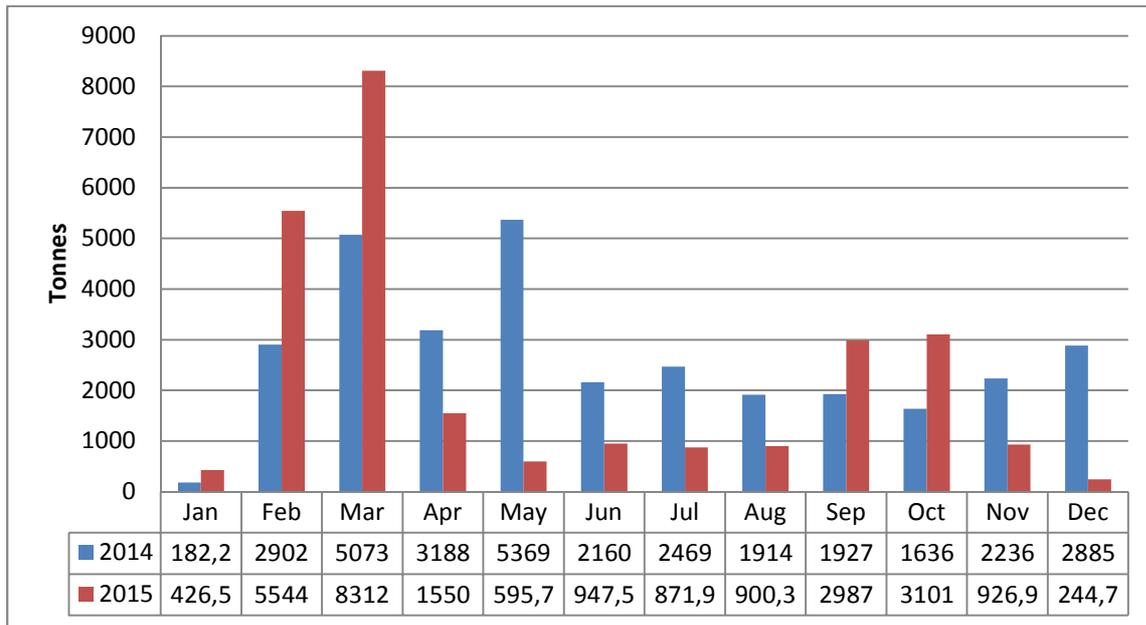


Figure 2 Trawl catches of saithe in the North Sea (source: Fiskeridirektoratet)

4.2.2 Risks of mixing between certified and non-certified catch during storage, transport, or handling activities (including transport at sea and on land, points of landing, and sales at auction)

The current risk status for vessels mentioned in the MSC submission is described in Table 10. More vessels are participating in the fishery, but the two active vessels in the list are representative and main contributors to the Norway pout fishery. In 2015, these two vessels caught 1300 tonnes of the total bycatch quota of 2000 tonnes for saithe in the Norway pout fishery.

Table 10 Current risk status for vessels mentioned in MSC submission

Vessel name – Norwegian trawlers	Risk of mixing of eligible and non-eligible saithe
Johan Feyer	Decommissioned
M/S Gollenes	Nets are only switched between trips.
M/S Ostanger	Nets are only switched between trips.
M/S Skude	Not active in reduction fishery
M/S Skude Senior	Decommissioned

For vessels participating in both fisheries, the vessels listed in the MSC submission confirm that trawl nets are only switched between trips. There would therefore not be any risk of mixing of eligible and non-eligible fish on board the vessels.

Norway NEA saithe and saithe products landed by Norwegian vessels, recorded by the Directorate of Fisheries and the sales organizations, and sold through or by approval from the sales organizations are eligible to enter further Chain of Custody. The scope of the MSC Fishery certification is up to the point of landing and Chain of Custody commences from the point of landing and sale.

Sales organizations:

- Norges Råfisklag,
- SUROFI

- 
- Vest-Norges Fiskesalgslag
 - Rogaland Fiskesalgslag
 - Skagerakfisk

For the relevant pelagic fisheries, the vessels notify the Norwegian Fishermen's Sales Organization for Pelagic Fish (Norges Sildesalgslag, 24-hour service) and the SUROFI sales organization of catches.

The Norwegian Fishermen's Sales Organization for Pelagic Fish then produces three documents that are sent to the auction: Catch certificate, Pre-landing document and Notification. It is confirmed with the client that there is no mentioning of MSC certified status in any of these documents.

It was found that the sales note system of the sales organization SUROFI does not differentiate between reduction trawling and groundfish trawling. In both cases, the text "the saithe is eligible to be sold as MSC-certified" would be included on the sales note.

This represents a major risk of non-eligible saithe being sold as eligible. Even if this is not done by intent, there is a risk that this information in further certified chains of custody will lead to non-certified fish being sold as certified.

5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Through this expedited assessment it was found that **there is currently a major risk of non-eligible saithe caught as bycatch in the Norway pout reduction fishery being sold as MSC certified Norway North Sea saithe** eligible to carry the MSC ecolabel and entering further chains of custody due to shortcomings in the sales note system of the sales organization SUROFI.

Norges Fiskarlag must demonstrate that all sales organizations have a systematic approach to avoid that saithe, when caught as bycatch in the not MSC certified fishery for pout, is not identified as such in sales notes.

It is found that there is no/low risk of non-eligible saithe bycatch from the Norway pout fishery being sold as eligible saithe before the start of the season for the Norway pout fishery.

The client must provide evidence of appropriate changes in practices in time for DNV GL to process the evidence and proceed to the posting stage with the determination in advance of the start of the Norway pout reduction fishery. **The evidence must therefore be with DNV GL within May 9th 2016.**

Table 11 Conclusion

Fishery	Norway North Sea saithe fishery
Status of certification:	Certified
Summary:	The assessment team concludes that the MSC Certificate for this fishery shall remain active, subject to annual surveillance review.

The fishery continues to be within the scope of the MSC fisheries standard according to the following determinations:

- The target species is a fish and the fishery does not use poisons or explosives.
- The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement.
- The client or client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced labour violation in the last 2 years.
- The fishery has mechanisms for resolving disputes and disputes do not overwhelm the fishery.
- The fishery is not enhanced or based on an introduced species.



6 REFERENCES

Regulation: FOR-2015-12-15-1608. Forskrift om regulering av fisket etter øyepål i 2016.

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2015-12-15-1608>

APPENDIX 1: STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSION: MSC

The submission from MSC is the basis for initiation of this expedited audit and the full evaluation and outcome is available in the main body of this report. The evaluation of traceability risks resulted in the condition described in section 5 of this report.

Norway North Sea Saithe – On board traceability review

Fishery details

MSC fishery certificate number: F-DNV-60011

DNV - Sandhya Chaudhury was contacted July 2014 by Ben Snowden on the matter

Certificate holder: Norges Fiskarlag – The Norwegian's fishermen association

Contact: Contact: Jan Birger Jørgensen, jan.birger.jorgensen@fiskarlaget.no, Tel: +47 930 44 346

Issue

The Norwegian fleet is MSC certified for North Sea saithe caught with 120 mm mesh saith trawl. Part of the fleet also operates as reduction fishery with 30 mm mesh size, selling non MSC sand eel, ling and whiting at the auction for fish meal. During reduction fishing bycatch of saithe of legal landing size is possible but not eligible to enter MSC CoC. MSC staff was made aware of MSC saithe landings at the Hanstholm auction from reduction trawlers repeatedly (see list below). During investigations MSC staff was told that the trawlers target saithe with 120 mm mesh size during the night, while catching with small mesh as reduction fishery during the day during the same fishing trip. This implies a risk of mixing of eligible and noneligible fish on board, of which is no mentioning in the PCR. There may still be the risk that the Norwegian reduction trawlers sell MSC saithe caught as bycatch in a small mesh net fishery at the auction.

We need to make sure that there is no non MSC saithe sold as MSC from the noncertified reduction trawl fisheries in the Northsea. This implies that the CAB should review the risk in this segment of the certified fisheries, i.e. the reduction fishing trips.

Trawlers, which have been reported to land MSC saithe and catches from reduction operations at the same time (the following list is not a complete record of landing activities in this segment of the fishery):

Trawler Ostanger, Flag: Norway, IMO: 7719985, MMSI: 257537000

- Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on 22. 10.2015

Trawler M/S Gollenes, Flag Norway, M 0031 Hø

- Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on
 - o 13.8.; 4.8.; 27.7.; 17.7.; 8.7.; 29.6.; 22.6.2015
 - o 15.7. 2014 → 45 t MSC saithe;
 - o 1.7.2014 → 40 t MSC saithe;
 - o 11./12.6.2014 → 58 t MSC saithe

Trawler Skude R 157 K,

Trawler Skude Senior R 196 K, IMO 6826212



Trawler Johan Feyer, R 4 ES,

- Landing activities in Hanstholm harbour on
 - o 15.7. 2014 → 35 t MSC saithe

Auction Hanstholm,

Contact: Jes Holm: jes@hanstholmfiskeauktion.dk Tel: +45(97)961166

Certificate Code MSC-C-50680

Previous Cert. Code C-FCI-0031

Certificate valid from 24 May 2015 and expires 23 May 2018

Certifier Acoura Marine

Peter Grøn, responsible for sizing and sorting the fish for the auction:

Thorkil Grøn's Samlecentral I/S, Auktionsgade 23; 7730 Hanstholm

Tlf.: +45 97 96 19 88/ Fax: +45 97 96 10 05/

Email: westship@westship.dk/ Webside: www.gronsamler.dk

Certificate Code MSC-C-51772

Previous Cert. code C-ID-016

Certificate valid from 09 November 2013 and expires 08 November 2016

Certifier Intertek Danmark ApS

APPENDIX 2: STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSION: NORGES FISKARLAG (CLIENT)

The submission from Norges Fiskarlag is a response to the MSC submission and feeds into the assessment made in this expedited audit. The full evaluation and outcome is available in the main body of this report. The evaluation of traceability risks resulted in the condition described in section 5 of this report.



MEMO

Vår dato 21.01.2016	Vår referanse	Vår saksbehandler Tor Bjørkmoen Larsen	Deres referanse Guro Melde Pedersen
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This memo aims to explain the status regarding traceability discrepancies in the Norwegian saithe fishery (certificate F-DNV-60011), pertaining to the expedited audit scheduled for January 22, 2016.

Short background: reports have claimed that the Norwegian fleet has landed saithe at the Hanstholm auction in Denmark as MSC certified, when it has in fact been caught as bycatch in reduction fisheries. The initial report makes mention of target species such as sand eel, ling and whiting, but further investigation has identified Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) as the relevant target species for this bycatch.

Investigation – fleet level: Upon receiving these reports NFA, as the fisheries client, has called all boat-owners and skippers mentioned in the MSC report to investigate the details in the claim. Our initial hypothesis was that these boats by either ignorance or malice reported this fish to the auction as “MSC saithe”, and that the issue should be resolved by communication and guidance with the fleet itself, or a possible requirement for on-board traceability in this particular part of the fleet. This hypothesis turned out to be incorrect. Skippers/boatowners all reported that they did **not** in any way communicate if fish was MSC/non-MSC to the auction prior to sale. In fact, they were largely ignorant as to what the MSC was at all.

Skippers/boatowners also denied the claim (from the initial MSC report) that they switched trawl nets to target reduction species in the day and groundfish at night. M/S Ostanter and M/S Gollenas both confirmed that nets were only switched between trips, and M/S Skuda is now a pure groundfish trawler, only using 120mm nets yearround. Skuda Senior and Johan Feyer have both been decommissioned since the MSC report was made. Not only was reduction/groundfish nets not mixed between trips, but they were also divided into distinct seasons with the reduction fishery taking place from May/June until October 31st, after which these trawlers would switch to targeted saithe fisheries.

It is also noted that all these trawlers have a set bycatch quota of saithe, and that there are no issues regarding the legality of this fish.

Preliminary conclusions:

- Fishing vessels are not making claims to MSC status of fish.
- Mixed gear trips are not made, so on-board physical separation of raw material is not an issue.
- Season for the reduction fishery, with a bycatch of consumption saithe, is from end of May/early June until October 31

Investigation - point of landing/sales: The issue was then further discussed with the Hanstholm auction, the Pelagic sales organization and Surofi (western Norwegian sales organization). This brought further clarity to how the issue may be resolved

The routine when heading for the auction with a catch is as follows:

-The pelagic sales organization (which has 24-hour service) is notified and makes 3 documents that are sent to the auction: 1) catch certificate, 2) pre-landing document and 3) Notification.

It was confirmed that MSC is not mentioned in any of these three documents.

Two potential sources of the discrepancy were then identified: the western fish sales organization (Surofi) and the Hanstholm auction itself.

-There seems to be an issue where the sales note system of Surofi does not differentiate between reduction/groundfish trawls in triggering a sentence at the bottom of the sales note indicating “the saithe is eligible to be sold as MSC-certified”. Surofi is investigating this further and looking into how to resolve this bug in the computer system.

-Regardless of the print on the Surofi sales note, conversations with the Hanstholm auction indicate that there is a human misunderstanding about whether or not this Norwegian saithe can be labelled as MSC or not. They had been made aware of this problem earlier, and had taken measures to resolve it by asking their CoC CAB (Intertek) for clarification. From them they had received answers indicating that all Norwegian saithe trawled in the North sea by Norwegian trawlers was eligible to be MSC-labelled. To be fair, the wording of Intertek was not incorrect (“all fish from the Norwegian north sea saithe is qualified(...)”, but forgot to take account for the possibility that the same fish from the same fishing grounds and the same boats is **not** part of the fishery when using a finer mesh size.

Preliminary conclusions

- The investigation has indicated a bug in Surofi's computer system, where MSC is indicated at the bottom of sales notes, regardless of the mesh size used.
- Although part of the problem, this does not seem to be the root of the problem. This line of the sales note did not seem to be the deciding factor of the auction physically labelling the fish as MSC. Rather, a general understanding of all Norwegian saithe caught in this area being MSC certified, seems to be the cause.

Action

- NFA will work with the sales organizations to sort out the bugs in the computer systems, and differentiate between saithe caught in different trawl types.
- Although any potential further mistakes down the value chain are outside the responsibility of the fisheries client, NFA will of course make sure the auction is thoroughly notified about the issue, and that action can be taken. This has already been done through phone, and will be clarified in writing once this process is closed.

Timescale

It is not yet clear how much time the sales organizations will need to sort out the problem with the computer system. However, the reduction fishery for Norway pout is strictly seasonal. By law, the fishery does not open until April 1st

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2015-12-15-1608>

However in practice, the fishery does not begin until late May/early June. This means, that there is zero risk of bycatch of saithe in fine mesh trawl is entering value chains until April, and *virtually no* risk that it is happening until May/June.

On basis of this, NFA asks DNV GL to take this orientation into account, and accept that the issue will be resolved by May 15. NFA will notify DNV GL in writing when the discrepancy is closed.



About DNV GL

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