

MSC EVALUATION
THE US AND CANADA HALIBUT FISHERIES AND THE US BLACK COD FISHERY
DRAFT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND SCORING GUIDEPOSTS

30 December 2003

SCORING CRITERIA		SCORING GUIDEPOST 60	SCORING GUIDEPOST 80	SCORING GUIDEPOST 100
Principle 1		A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations and, for those populations that are depleted, the fishery must be conducted in a manner that demonstrably leads to their recovery.		
1.1 (MSC Criterion 1)		The fishery shall be conducted at catch levels that continually maintain the high productivity of the target population(s) and associated ecological community relative to its potential productivity.		
1.1.1		There should be sufficient information on the target species and stock to allow the effects of the fishery on the stock to be evaluated.		
1.1.1.1	The identification and reporting of target species well documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is only a moderate degree of confidence in proper identification and reporting of the target species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a high degree of confidence in proper identification and reporting of the target species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very high degree of confidence in proper identification and reporting of the target species.
1.1.1.2	The life history of the species (including age at maturity, natural mortality, growth, and fecundity) is understood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are serious gaps in information but the basis of the life history is understood adequately to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The life history of the species is clearly documented and understood well enough to support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All aspects of the life history of the species are clearly documented and understood so as to support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.
1.1.1.3	The geographical range of the target stock is known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An estimate of the geographical range of the target stock is available. Management units encompass the range of the stock, except possibly a very minor component of the stock's range. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reliable estimate of the geographic range of the target stock is available including seasonal patterns of movement/availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The complete geographic range of the stock, including seasonal patterns of movement/availability, is reliably estimated and documented each year.
1.1.1.4	Information on the relationship of recruitment to parental stock is understood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are enough years of information available on indices of recruitment and parental spawning stock abundance to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of fecundity at size or age, growth rates, sexual maturity at size or age, and relationship of recruits to spawners are understood well enough to support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is comprehensive and reliable information on the fecundity at size and age, sex ratio by age, sexual maturity at size and age and factors affecting recruitment, and these are monitored over time to detect trends and shifts and to support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.
1.1.1.5	Information is collected on the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either fishery dependent or fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery dependent and/or fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery dependent and/or fishery independent

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	abundance/density of the stock.	<p>independent indices are available on the abundance of the stock biomass for some years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative information exists on the appropriateness of the indices as proportional indicators of stock size and to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<p>independent indices are available on the abundance of the stock for several years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainties have been analysed (through for example catch-per-unit-effort standardisation) and those uncertainties have been reduced so as to allow trends to be determined from indices. The indices are understood well enough to support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. 	<p>indices are available on the abundance and density of the stock for several years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indices are consistent and there is clear evidence that they are proportional to the stock size and of sufficient precision to support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. Uncertainties have been fully analyzed.
1.1.16	The age and/or size structure of catches is measured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on the age and size structure of catches are known well enough to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on the age and size structure of catches in the main fishery are of adequate accuracy and measured for enough years to support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. There is data on the age and size structure of catches from fishery independent surveys where such surveys exist and from fisheries where the target species is caught incidentally where such fisheries catch significant by-catch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is comprehensive and reliable data on the age and size structure of all significant catches (including incidental catches) for several years and support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. There is comprehensive and reliable data on the age and size structure of catches from fishery independent surveys where such surveys exist.
1.1.2		There should be sufficient information on the fishery to allow its effects on the target stock to be evaluated		
1.1.2.1	Fishery related mortality is recorded/ estimated (including	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient information is available to allow accurate estimates to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landings, discards, and incidental mortality are well estimated for each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landings, discards, and incidental mortality are accurately estimated and monitored for each gear

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	landings, discards and incidental mortality).	<p>made of landings broken down as required for a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of discards and incidental mortality are available. 	<p>gear type to support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.</p>	<p>type to support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.</p>
1.1.2.2	Fishing effort is recorded, estimated, and standardized to effective fishing effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominal effort data are available which can be used to estimate effective fishing effort well enough to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate estimates of effective fishing effort have been made and support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive records are kept of fishing effort, recorded at sub-annual intervals at an appropriate degree of spatial resolution and have been standardized to effective fishing effort and support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.
1.1.2.3	Fishing methods and gear types are known throughout the fishery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main fishing methods and gear types are known for the fishery well enough to support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main fishing methods and gear types are known and information is available on the geographical areas of use and support a high degree of confidence in evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fishing methods and gear types employed in the fishery are known. In-situ observations are made of fishing practices. The information and observations support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.
1.1.2.4	Selectivity is known for the fishery (including incidental catches).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information is available on selectivity and qualitative changes in selectivity and support a rudimentary evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectivities of all gear types including incidental fisheries are well estimated by size of fish with sufficient accuracy to support a high degree of confidence in evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full selectivities have been accurately estimated for all gears, locations and times of fishing over time and support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.
1.1.2.5	Other fisheries in the area that are not subject to certification are identified and monitored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is some information relating to other fisheries in the area that are not subject to certification, although these are not adequately monitored. Significant removals of the subject stock by these fisheries are accounted for in the stock assessments well enough to support a rudimentary evaluation of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main fisheries not subject to certification are identified. Significant mortalities of the subject stock from those fisheries are included in the stock assessments and support a high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fisheries (and other sources of human-induced mortality) in the area that are not subject to certification are identified, monitored, and included in the stock assessments and support a very high degree of confidence in the evaluation of the fishery.

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	fishery.			
1.1.3	Appropriate reference levels have been developed for stock abundance and fishing mortality rate.			
1.1.3.1	<p>There are limit and target reference points that are appropriate for the stock and take ecosystem effects into account. These include limit fishing mortality rates and both limit and target stock abundance levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit and target points have been chosen and are justified by general agreement among regional fishery scientists that they are appropriate to achieve management goals for the target stock. Ecosystem effects have been considered qualitatively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit and target points are justified based on stock biology (e.g. a stock-recruitment relationship), they are measurable given data and assessment limitations, and there is no significant scientific opposition about those points outside the management agency. Ecosystem effects have been considered qualitatively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit and target points are justified based on stock biology, uncertainty, variability, data limitations and statistical simulations of these factors. Limit and target points take account of ecological impacts and uncertainties associated with those impacts. They are justified by general agreement among regional fishery scientists and no significant opposition outside the region.
1.1.3.2	<p>Reference points meet acceptable international standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference points recognise appropriate international standards and are being developed to meet these. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference points recognise, and are in line with, acceptable international standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference points meet or exceed international standards.
1.1.4	There is a well-defined and effective harvest strategy to manage the target stock.			
1.1.4.1	<p>There is a mechanism in place to contain harvest as required for management of the stock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms exist to monitor and (if necessary) reduce harvest, but do not fully contain harvest, or have not been tested, but nevertheless provide a moderate degree of confidence in the management of the stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms are in place to reduce harvest as and when required to maintain, or allow the target stock to return to, productive levels and provide a high degree of confidence in the management of the stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms are in place to reduce harvest as and when required to maintain (or allow the target stock to return to) productive levels and provide a very high degree of confidence in the management of the stock. Measures to demonstrate effectiveness are in place.
1.1.4.2	<p>There are clear, tested decision rules set out for effective management of the stock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can be demonstrated that decision making, though not documented, is logical and appropriate. Rules have not been tested, but 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear decision making rules exist, are fully documented, but have not been fully tested. Decision rules are reconciled with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear, documented, and tested decision rules are fully implemented and have been fully reconciled with reference points and there is a very high degree of confidence in their effectiveness for

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		there is a moderate degree of confidence in their effectiveness for management.	reference points and with data and assessment limitations and there is a high degree of confidence in their effectiveness for management.	management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and assessment limitations have been periodically evaluated.
1.1.4.3	There are appropriate management tools specified to implement decisions in terms of input and/or output controls for management of the stock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management tools exist to implement decisions of input and/or output controls although these are not developed for the specific fishery, or management tools are not fully developed, but are specifically related to the fishery. Some evidence exists to show that tools can be effective and there is a moderate degree of confidence in their effectiveness for management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management tools have been specified to implement decisions of input and/or output controls. These are generic although some attempt has been made to relate them to the specific fishery or tools are lacking in some details but are specifically related to the fishery. Evidence exists to show clearly the tools support a high degree of confidence in their effective for management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management tools, appropriate to the species and fishery, have been specified to implement decisions of input and/or output controls. Tools are responsive, relevant and timely. Performance of the tools has been evaluated and evidence exists to show clearly that tools achieve their objectives and support a very high degree of confidence in the effectiveness for management.
1.1.5		There is a robust assessment of stocks.		
1.1.5.1	There are assessment models used for robust assessment of the stock (including provision for catch and effort data, age and/or size structure of the catch and the population, attributes of the various fisheries such as gear-types and catchability, relationship of recruitment to spawning stock and other variables, and sound statistical fitting of data to the model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust assessment models are used. These are generic and do not account for specific characteristics of either the biology of the species or the nature of the fishery. The assessment models contain age and/or size structure effects, spawner-recruit relations, and statistical fitting of the data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust assessment models are used. Major criteria are related to the species and/or the fishery, but there are some areas of the assessment that are generic. The assessment models contain age and/or size structure, spawner-recruit relations, statistical fitting of the data, and deal explicitly with both process and measurement error. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment models are used and capture all major features appropriate to the biology of the species and the nature of the fishery and the nature of the management questions being asked. The assessment models contain age and/or size structure, spawner-recruit relations, statistical fitting of the data, and deal explicitly with both process and measurement error.
1.1.5.2	The assessment takes sufficient account of major uncertainties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uncertainties are identified. Some attempt has been made to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment takes into account major uncertainties in the data and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment addresses all significant uncertainties in the data and functional relationships

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	in data (including evaluation of assumptions) to provide a robust assessment of the stock.	<p>evaluate these in the assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a moderate degree of confidence in the robustness of the model. 	<p>functional relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most important assumptions have been evaluated, the consequences are known. There is a high degree of confidence in the robustness of the model. 	<p>and evaluates the assumptions in terms of scope, direction and bias relative to management-related quantities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very high degree of confidence in the robustness of the model.
1.1.5.3	Uncertainties and assumptions are reflected in management advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uncertainties are recognised and are reported in management advice, as well as possible implications of those uncertainties on the management advice. There is a moderate degree of confidence in the adequacy of uncertainties addressed in the management advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uncertainties and assumptions are addressed in the management advice and through the appropriate decision rules to address those limitations. There is a high degree of confidence in the adequacy of uncertainties addressed in the management advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All significant uncertainties and assumptions are addressed and reflected in the management advice, including appropriate decision rules. There is a very high degree of confidence in the adequacy of uncertainties addressed in the management advice.
1.1.5.4	The assessment evaluates current stock and fishing mortality status relative to reference points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some attempt is made to estimate the stock status relative to reference points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment makes an approximated evaluation of the stock status and fishing mortality status relative to the reference points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment makes a reliable probabilistic evaluation of the stock status and fishing mortality status relative to the reference points.
1.1.5.5	The assessment includes a quantitative evaluation of the consequences of current harvest strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment makes an initial approximation of the consequences of current harvest strategies that are adequate for moderate confidence in the robustness of the assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment includes a robust approximation of the consequences of current harvest strategies. There is a high degree of confidence in the adequacy of the harvest evaluation for a robust assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment includes the consequences of current harvest strategies, forecasts future consequences of these and evaluates stock trajectories under decision rules. There is a very high degree of confidence in the adequacy of the harvest evaluation for a robust assessment.
1.1.6		The stock(s) is/are at appropriate reference level(s).		
1.1.6.1	The stock(s) is at or above appropriate reference levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the stock is likely above the limit reference point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the stock is likely above the target reference point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the stock is very likely above the target reference point most of the time in recent years.

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1.1.6.2	The fishing mortality rate is below the appropriate limit reference point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the fishing mortality rate is likely below the limit reference point most of the time in recent years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the fishing mortality rate is very likely below the limit reference point most of the time in recent years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments show the fishing mortality rate very likely below the limit reference point consistently for several years.

1.2 (MSC Criterion 2)	Where the exploited populations are depleted, the fishery will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level consistent with the precautionary approach and the ability of the populations to produce long-term potential yields within a specified time frame.
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1.2.1	When the stock is below the target point, there are measures to rebuild the stock specified and implemented for recovery and rebuilding of the stock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate rebuilding measures through reduction in exploitation exist and are being implemented. Rebuilding measures other than reduction in exploitation are being considered. Measures are implemented even if they have not been tested. Fishing mortality is further reduced if the stock is below the limit reference point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery within reasonable time frames. Measures have been tested and can be shown to be rebuilding the stock. Target fishing mortality is nearly zero if the stock is below the limit reference point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery as quickly as is possible. Additional measures are being implemented to prevent problems in the future. Total fishing mortality is nearly zero if the stock is below the limit reference point.
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1.3 (MSC Criterion 3)	Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not alter the age or genetic structure or sex composition to a degree that impairs reproductive capacity.
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1.3.1.	The age/sex/genetic structure of the stock is monitored to detect significant impairment of reproductive capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population age/sex structure is based on some sampling and verification. Some genetic information is available on the stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population age/sex structure is based on adequate sampling and verification. Ageing errors are estimated and, if significant, accounted for in the stock assessment. Genetic studies of the stock have been made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population age/sex structure is well estimated with only insignificant errors. Genetic studies of the stock are made at time intervals appropriate to the species.
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1.3.2	Information from stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any fishery-induced trends in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are likely no downward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a high degree of confidence that there are
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assessment indicates any fishery induced changes in the age/sex/genetic structure that would have significantly impaired reproductive capacity.	recruitment or spawning stock levels have not been shown to be due to changes in the age/sex/genetic composition of the stock.	fishery-induced trends in reproductive capacity on local stocks or genetically monitored stocks due to changes in the age/sex/genetic structure.	no downward fishery-induced trends in reproductive capacity on local stocks or genetically identified stocks due to changes in the age/sex/genetic structure.

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Principle 2		Fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem (including habitat and associated dependent and ecologically related species) on which the fishery depends		
2.1 (MSC Criterion 1)		The fishery is conducted in a way that maintains natural functional relationships among species and should not lead to trophic cascades or ecosystem state changes.		
2.1.1		There is adequate understanding of ecosystem factors relevant to the distribution and life history strategy of the target species.		
2.1.1.1.	The nature and distribution of habitats relevant to the fishing operations are known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information exists but may not be comprehensive or up to date. The distribution of fishing operations is mapped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and distribution of all main habitats are known in moderate detail. Information is recent. The distribution of fishing operations is monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature and the distribution of all habitats relevant to the fishing operations are known in detail. Information is recent.
2.1.1.2	Information is available on non-target species affected by the fishery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main non-target species have been identified, and trends in abundance are assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is available on non-target species affected by the fishery including their distribution and abundance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available on all non-target species affected by the fishery including the distribution, abundance, and ecology.
2.1.1.3	Information is available on the position and importance of the target species within the food web.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key prey, predators and competitors are known. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is available on the position and general importance of target species in the environment at key life stages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative information is available on the position and importance of the target species within the food web at key life stages.
2.1.1.4	There is information on the potential for the ecosystem to recover from fishery related impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key elements of the functioning of the ecosystem, relevant to the fishery, are identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main elements of the functioning of the ecosystem, relevant to the fishery, have been documented and are understood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available on the potential for affected elements of the ecosystem to recover from fishery related impacts.
2.1.2		General risk factors are adequately determined.		
2.1.2.1	Information is available on the nature and extent of the by-catch (capture of non-target species).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative information is available on significant by-catch species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative information is available on significant by-catch. If obtained by sampling, this is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate records are kept, for all vessels in the fishery, on the nature and extent of all by-catch species including species, size, age, and sex composition, where appropriate.

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			adequate to produce accurate data.	
2.1.2.2	Information is available on the extent of discards (the proportion of the catch not landed).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is available on the extent of discarding, including a species list and assessment of the main species represented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is available to allow reliable estimates of discard to be calculated and interpreted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate information is available on the extent of all discards, and consequences of these, or the entire catch is landed.
2.1.2.3	There is information on any unobserved fishing mortality (i.e. sources of mortality other than those above).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of potential unobserved fishing mortality are identified but no further information is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information from existing work has allowed qualitative estimates of unobserved fishing mortality to be made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research has been carried out on unobserved fishing mortality allowing quantitative estimates to be made (or it is known that significant unobserved mortality does not occur).
2.1.3		There is adequate knowledge of the effects of gear-use on the receiving ecosystem and extent and type of gear losses.		
2.1.3.1	There is adequate knowledge of the physical impacts on the habitat due to use of gear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main impacts of gear use on the habitat are identified including extent and location of use. Effects of habitat perturbations estimated and appear stable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of gear use on the habitat are identified including extent and location of use. Habitat perturbations appear sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical impacts on the habitat due to use of gear have been studied and quantified, including details of any irreversible changes.
2.1.3.2	Any gear lost during fishing operations is documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some recording of gear losses takes place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is knowledge of the type, quantity and location of gear lost during fishing operations. Estimates made show that losses do not cause unacceptable effects on the ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is detailed knowledge of the type, quantity and location of gear types lost during fishing operations. The impact of gear loss on target and non-target species has been measured and shown to have negligible effects on habitats, ecosystems or species of concern.
2.1.4		Strategies have been developed within the fisheries management system to address and restrain any significant negative impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem.		
2.1.4.1	Levels of acceptable impact are determined and reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sufficient information to determine acceptable impacts for main target and non-target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of acceptable impacts (e.g. biological reference points) for key aspects of the ecosystem within main 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of acceptable impact for key populations (such as of indicator species) and habitats have been estimated and are subject to frequent review.

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		and habitats.	fishing areas have been estimated and are regularly reviewed.	
2.1.4.2	Management objectives are set in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited management systems exist in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts, although these have not been fully tested. These are designed to adequately protect key aspects of the ecosystem within main fishing areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tested management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect ecosystems, habitats and populations of target and non-target species.
2.1.5		Assessments of impacts associated with the fishery including the significance and risk of each impact show no unacceptable impacts on the ecosystem structure and/or function, on habitats or on the populations of associated species.		
2.1.5.1	All the significant effects of the fishery on the ecosystem have been identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem are known from existing information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of the fishery on the ecosystem based on existing information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects of the fishery on the ecosystem have been identified by appropriate comparative and/or experimental studies.
2.1.5.2	The impacts on ecosystem structure and function from removal of target stocks are known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The removal of target stocks is estimated and determined not to have unacceptable impacts on ecological systems (applying the precautionary approach where necessary). A program is in development to reduce these to acceptable, defined limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information is available on consequences of current levels of removal of target species. These suggest no unacceptable impacts of the fishery on ecological systems within major fishing areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ecological consequences of current levels of removal of target stocks has been quantified and documented to be within acceptable, pre-determined, limits.
2.1.5.3	The impacts on ecosystem structure and function from removal of non-target stocks are known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The removal of non-target stocks may have unacceptable impacts on ecological systems (applying the precautionary approach where necessary). A program is in development to reduce these to acceptable, defined limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information is available on consequences of current levels of removal of non-target species. These suggest no unacceptable impacts of the fishery on ecological systems within major fishing areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ecological consequences of current levels of removal of non-target stocks has been quantified and documented to be within acceptable, pre-determined, limits.

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2.1.5.4	Fishery impacts on habitat structure are known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of the fishery on habitat structure within major fishing areas are estimated, although the issue has not been directly studied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of the fishery on habitat structure within major fishing areas have been studied and are within estimated limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects on habitat structure are documented and are within acceptable tested/justified limits.
2.1.5.5	The effects of the fishery on associated biological diversity and productivity are documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of the fishery on biological diversity and productivity are estimated, although the issues have not been directly studied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of the fishery on biological diversity and productivity have been studied and are within estimated limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects of the fishery on biological diversity and productivity have been quantified and are within acceptable tested/justified limits
2.2 (MSC Criterion 2)		The fishery is conducted in a manner that does not threaten biological diversity (at the genetic, species or population levels and avoids or minimises mortality of, or injuries to endangered, threatened or protected species.		
2.2.1		Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not have unacceptable impacts on recognised protected, endangered or threatened species.		
2.2.1.1	There is information on the presence and populations of listed and protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a program in place to identify protected, threatened and endangered species directly related to the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key protected, threatened and endangered species directly related to the fishery have been identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is knowledge of all populations of protected species directly or indirectly related to the fishery including an assessment of temporal variability. The type and distribution of critical habitats have been identified.
2.2.1.2	The interactions of the fishery with listed and protected species are known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main interactions directly related to the fishery are known. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative estimates are made of the effects of interactions directly related to the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable quantitative estimates are made of the interactions of all populations directly related to the fishery, and qualitative information is available on indirect impacts.
2.2.1.3	The level of interaction known to pose an unacceptable risk to such species is known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known effects are within acceptable limits of national and international legislative requirements and are believed to create no biological threats to the species concerned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical interactions are well estimated and do not threaten listed and protected species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is known that the direct and indirect effects of fishing on threatened and endangered species are within acceptable limits.
2.2.2		Strategies have been developed within the fisheries management system that address and restrain impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem to insignificant levels.		

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2.2.2.1	Management objectives are set in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited management systems exist in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect key aspects of the ecosystem within main fishing areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tested management objectives are set to detect and reduce impacts. These are designed to adequately protect ecosystems, habitats and populations of target and non-target species.
2.3 (MSC Criterion 3)		Where exploited populations (of non-target species) are depleted, the fishery will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level within specified time frames, consistent with the precautionary approach and considering the ability of the population to produce long-term potential yields.		
2.3.1		There are management measures in place that allow for the rebuilding of affected populations.		
2.3.1.1	There is sufficient information to allow determination of necessary changes in fishery management to allow recovery of depleted populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is some information on functional relationships, sufficient to allow alterations to be made to fishing in a way that may reasonably be expected to recover and rebuild depleted species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is adequate information, combined with a precautionary approach wherever necessary, to allow alterations to be made to fishing in a way that may reasonably be expected to recover and rebuild depleted species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a clear understanding of functional relationships between the impacted population and the fishery. Intervention measures based on this understanding have been tested, and shown to be effective in promoting recovery and rebuilding of depleted species.
2.3.1.2	Management measures are in place to modify fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mechanism exists for the modification of fishing practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective management measures are in place to modify fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring programs are in place within the management system to allow modification of fishery practices in light of the identification of unacceptable impacts. Objectives and limits for environmental change are used to guide operational practices. It is demonstrated that these are effective.
2.3.1.3	Management measures allow for recovery of affected populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilding measures exist and are fully implemented. Measures have not been tested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented. Measures have been tested and can be shown to contribute significantly to rebuilding the affected populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery as quickly as is possible. Additional measures are being implemented to prevent problems in the future.

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Principle 3	The fishery is subject to an effective management system that respects local, national and international laws and standards and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require use of the resource to be responsible and sustainable.			
3.1 Structure and Strategies	The strategic framework for management is adequate for planning , conduct and evaluation of a management program consistent with MSC Principles and Criteria			
3.1.1	The management system has a clearly defined scope capable of achieving MSC Principles and Criteria and includes short and long-term objectives, including objectives for managing ecological impacts of fishing, consistent with a well managed fishery.			
3.1.1.1	<p>All elements in the fisheries management system, both national and international, and governmental and private, have clear-cut lines of responsibility. Their functions, particularly those involving interactions between elements, are clearly defined. <i>[Relates to MSC Criteria 3.]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in the scoring include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear-cut indications of interactions between elements • Explicit statements of fisheries management responsibilities for individual elements, especially regarding interactions between elements • Demonstration of effectiveness of interactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations interacting in the management process have been identified • Functions and responsibilities for interactions with other management entities need refinement • Interactions between elements exhibit occasional specific problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations with management responsibilities have been identified • For the most part, functions and responsibilities requiring interactions with other management elements are explicitly defined • In general, interactions between elements are effective and operate without serious difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations with management responsibilities and their functions, particularly respecting interactions with other management elements, are clearly defined • Interactions between elements are effective and run smoothly.

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<p>3.1.1.2 The management system incorporates and applies an adaptive and precautionary exploited stock strategy. <i>[Relates to MSC Criteria 3.2, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear long-term objectives • Application of precautionary approach • Use of best scientific information • Explicit catch control rule (e.g., ABC, TAC) • Annual assessment of stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are general management objectives that seek to maintain stocks at high levels of productivity • The harvest control strategy is consistent with objectives, but lacks specificity • The harvest control strategy is conservative but not sufficiently precautionary, not taking into account of uncertainties regarding the status of thee stocks • The management system provides for making estimates of all catches, landings and bycatch and for making annual assessments of the status of all stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are long-term management objectives that seek to maintain stocks at high levels of productivity • The harvest strategy, including catch control rule, is explicitly precautionary • The management system provides for making estimates of all catches, landings and bycatch and for making annual assessments of the status of all stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management plan includes long-term stock management objectives that are explicit and consistent with MSC Principles and Criteria • The harvest strategy, including catch control rule, is explicitly precautionary, accounting for variances in survey estimates, uncertainties in stock assessment advice, and other risk factors • The management system provides for making estimates of all catches, landings and bycatch and for making annual assessments of the status of all stocks
<p>3.1.1.3 The management system incorporates and applies an effective strategy to manage ecological impacts of fishing. <i>[Relates to MSC Criteria 3.2, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear long-term objectives • Application of precautionary approach • Consideration of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system takes into account ecological impacts of the fishery, but control measures lack specificity and are not sufficiently precautionary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management plan explicitly takes into account ecological impacts of the fishery • Regulation of the fishery to manage ecological impacts of fishing is precautionary • Assessments (empirical or other) of likely significant ecological impacts of fishing are undertaken on a regular basis • Where appropriate, the plan includes control mechanisms to minimize impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system includes a plan with clear long-term objectives for managing ecological impacts of fishing that are explicit and consistent with MSC Principles and Criteria • The plan includes all ecosystem components and is explicitly precautionary, accounting for uncertainty. • The plan requires regular assessments of the status of ecosystem components, taking into account all significant (identified or estimated) ecological impacts of the fishery, including but not limited to food competition, disruption of prey fields, disruption of foraging behavior, disruption to animals, and alterations in food webs and habitats.

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<p>on non-target species and habitats over time and space</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate, the plan includes mechanisms (such as representative areas set aside as no-take zones) to minimize identified impacts from fishing.
<p>3.1.1.4 The management system takes into account socioeconomic impacts in the development of management plans. [Relates to MSC Criteria 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7]</p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compatibility of economic incentives with exploited stock and ecosystem goals and objectives, including effects of subsidies Consideration of long-term interests of people dependent on fishing for food and livelihood, in a manner consistent with ecological sustainability Application of precautionary approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery management system is not free of economic incentives for over-harvest or unproductive use of harvested species, or ecosystem degradation. Measures for allocating fishing opportunities or for controlling entry to the fishery are not always supportive of achievement of fishery and ecosystem management goals. . The fishery management system gives relatively little consideration to the long-term socio-economic interests of Aboriginals and of people dependent on fishing for food and livelihood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery is substantially free from subsidies that directly and substantially promote overfishing or ecosystem degradation Measures for allocating fishing opportunities or for controlling entry to the fishery do not undermine fishery and ecosystem management goals. The management system gives takes into account the long-term socio-economic interests of Aboriginals and of people dependent on fishing for food and livelihood The fishery management system provides for long-term predictability or other risk management and hedging tools needed for rational and prudent investment The fishery management system seeks to understand social and economic consequences of decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery is free from subsidies that directly and substantially promote overfishing or ecosystem degradation Participants in the fishery have access to short- and long-term economic incentives that, taken alone or in combination with other management measures, act to prevent overfishing and ecosystem degradation The management system gives full consideration to the long-term socio-economic interests of Aboriginals and of people dependent on fishing for food and livelihood Measures for allocating fishing opportunities or for controlling entry to the fishery do not undermine fishery and ecosystem management goals. The fishery management system provides for long-term predictability or other risk management and hedging tools such that rational and prudent investments can be made that are consistent with ecological sustainability (i.e. no overfishing or ecosystem degradation). The fishery management system continually seeks to understand social and economic consequences of management decisions and seeks and accepts input from all stakeholders regarding management decisions.

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<p>3.1.1.5 There is an adequately funded research strategy to support the harvest strategy and to address information needed to support the identification and mitigation of ecosystem impacts. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3. 8]</i></p> <p>Elements considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of science in setting research agenda • Diversity and quality of input • Level of funding • Transparency of process • Relationship between those who design research and those responsible for implementation • Relationship to present and future management needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research is generally of good quality, but lacks strategic planning that anticipate future management needs • Cooperation between research staff and fishery managers is frequent but there are often disagreements regarding the significance of research findings for management • Funding is barely adequate or inadequate even to meet short-term information needs for stock assessment and ecological interaction research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system includes a stable, well-led, diverse and objective research planning organization • There is regular agreement between fishery managers and research scientists on near term research needs and priorities in the fishery • There are documented short-term research plans developed with advice from with stakeholders and external experts • Funding for research is adequate to address major short-term gaps in knowledge but inadequate for in-depth long-term research • Funding is adjusted to meet requirements of newly identified research priorities • Funding is predictable over long-enough time scale to allow continuity of all major stock assessment and ecological interactions research programs • There is regular peer review of the content and scope of the research program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system includes a stable, well-led, diverse and objective research planning organization • There is significant and regular agreement between fishery managers and research scientists on research needs and priorities in the fishery • There are well documented short- and long-term research strategies developed with advice from stakeholders and external experts • Funding for research is adequate to address all significant knowledge gaps • Funding is adjusted in a timely and appropriate manner to serve changing research priorities • Funding is predictable over a long-enough time scale to allow research planning appropriate to long-term research needs • There are regular reviews of the content and scope of the research program by peer groups and stakeholders.
3.1.2	The management system recognizes applicable legislative and institutional responsibilities and coordinates implementation on a regular, integral, and explicit basis		
3.1.2.1	<p>The fishery is managed and conducted in a manner that respects international conventions and agreements and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From time to time management actions may be taken which are questionable under terms of international conventions and 	<p>The fishery is managed and conducted in a manner that respects international conventions and agreements and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system is in full compliance with international fisheries and environmental law • The management system does not 	<p>The fishery is managed and conducted in a manner that respects international conventions and agreements and not under any controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement</p>

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	not under any controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.1]</i>	agreements	operate under any controversial exemption to an international fisheries or environment-related agreement.	
3.1.2.2	<p>The fishery is managed and conducted in a manner that respects domestic law. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.16]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency and quality of compliance with federal law (efforts to assure compliance, reasons for non-compliance, severity of consequences of non-compliance) Integration of compliance requirements among the multiple domestic legal regimes that apply to the fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system generally operates in accordance with all substantive and procedural aspects of applicable domestic law Harvest management decisions made by fishery managers are sometimes overturned or disallowed upon review by judicial authorities based on the same or substantially similar (i.e., chronic) violations of applicable substantive law The advice of experts in domestic law is sought only occasionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system makes consistent, good faith efforts to be in compliance with all substantive and procedural aspects of applicable domestic law The management system, including its component institutional entities, has not been found repeatedly by any domestic court of jurisdiction to be in violation of any significant aspect of any domestic law related to protection of the human or natural environment, individual species, ecosystems, or fishery dependent communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system is in compliance with all substantive and procedural aspects of applicable domestic law The management system, including its component institutional entities, has not been found at any time to be in willful violation of any order of any domestic court of jurisdiction on any matter related to performance of any statutory duty concerning the fishery No officer or agent of the management system, including its component entities, has at any time been found to be in contempt of any domestic court of jurisdiction on any matter related to performance of official duties on behalf of the management system concerning the fishery The management system regularly and consistently seeks and uses appropriately the advice of experts in domestic law, including independent experts
3.1.2.3	<p>The fishery is managed or conducted in a manner that observes legal and customary rights. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.4]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery management system generally recognizes property, subsistence, and customary rights in the fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery management system recognizes property rights in the fishery The fishery management system recognizes subsistence and customary rights in the fishery, including those of Aboriginal communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery management system specifically recognizes property rights in fisheries management programs The fishery management system specifically recognizes subsistence and customary rights in the fishery including those of Aboriginal communities The management system includes processes for

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of and respect for applicable private property rights • Recognition of and respect for applicable subsistence or customary rights 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system includes processes for regular consultations with such communities regarding exercise of their rights • The fishery management system provides a fair means to avoid and reconcile conflicts between legal and customary rights. 	<p>regular consultations with such communities regarding exercise of their rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery management system provides a fair, efficient, predictable means to avoid and reconcile conflicts between legal and customary rights.
3.2 The management program is implemented in an effective manner to meet MSC Principles and Criteria			
3.2.1. The management system includes a rational and effective process for acquisition, analysis and incorporation of new scientific, social, cultural, economic, and institutional information.			
<p>3.2.1.1 The management system solicits and takes account relevant information. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.2]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitation and treatment of scientific information • Solicitation and treatment of information from stakeholders • Accommodation of dissent and respect for differing perspectives • Training at all appropriate levels with respect to management principles and criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has mechanisms to receive information and advice from stakeholders and outside technical sources, but does not vigorously solicit such information and advice. • Information and advice is evaluated but there are no well defined procedures for making assessments and responding to such information and advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a stable, well-led, predictable, open and tolerant process to solicit relevant information • The management system accepts information that may be controversial or reveal weaknesses in the management system • The management system shows evidence of listening and responding to diverse points of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a stable, well-led, predictable, open and tolerant process to solicit relevant information • The management system seeks affirmatively to acquire information that may be controversial or reveal weaknesses in the management system, including matters related to compliance with applicable international and domestic law • The management system evaluates information in an unbiased, objective manner and does not discriminate against information solely upon the basis of the identity of stakeholder category from which it was supplied • There is an active program of familiarizing stakeholder groups with the management system's principles and criteria for decision making

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<p>3.2.1.2 The management system involves all categories of stakeholders appropriately on a regular, integral, explicit basis. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.2]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition of decision-making and advisory bodies and terms of service • Process for appointment to standing or ad hoc bodies, criteria for selection and rejection • Quality of advance notice of meetings, availability of information, and other elements of management process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system provides for involvement of representative groups from all parts of the fishing community, but may omit involvement by one or more significant stakeholder interests • Procedures for considering information and advice from stakeholders are not specific and comprehensive • Articulation of management decisions does not necessarily address concerns of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system provides for involvement by all significant public and private stakeholders and consideration of their interests • The management system does not show any distinct evidence of a pattern of discrimination against significant stakeholder interests • The management system operates pursuant to stable, predictable, objective procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system provides for direct representation of all significant public and private stakeholder interests • The management system does not show any distinct evidence of a pattern of discrimination against significant stakeholder interests • The management system operates pursuant to stable, predictable, objective procedures • The management system produces decisions that take fully into account and, specifically and publicly address all significant stakeholder interests
<p>3.2.1.3 The management system assesses relevant information pursuant to objective, fair, and equitable processes. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.2]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burden of proof/persuasion applied to types of proposal or category of stakeholder • Efforts to quantify relative risks borne by different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system does not have specific procedures for assessing information from outside sources, but , generally, gives fair consideration to such information • The management system’s approach to identifying and reducing sources of uncertainty affecting the quality of management decision-making is inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system allots analytical and deliberative resources in a manner that does not show any distinct evidence of a pattern of discrimination against significant stakeholder interests • The management system attempts to characterize and reveal the risks of harm to different species, ecological systems, and stakeholders arising from management decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system allots analytical and deliberative resources in a manner that does not show any distinct evidence of a pattern of discrimination against significant stakeholder interests • The management system does not place an unfair burden of proof on proposals of a certain type or arising from a particular category of stakeholder • The management system attempts to quantify and document the degree of risk imposed on different species, ecological systems, and stakeholders by particular decisions or courses of action, particularly

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species, ecological systems, and stakeholders as a result of uncertainty			in light of scientific uncertainty.
<p>3.2.1.4 The management system provides for timely and fair resolution of disagreements. <i>[Relates to MSC Criteria 3.2, 3.5]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established, routine system available to all • Objective decision maker • Explanation of decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispute resolution mechanisms in place are theoretically adequate but are not used in a consistent manner • The management system fails to demonstrate meaningful progress toward resolution of outstanding disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has established mechanisms for resolution of significant disputes arising within the system • The management system's dispute resolution procedures is clearly open to all significant participants and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has established mechanisms for resolution of disputes at the principal levels of, and for major issues arising within, the system • The management system provides for appropriate documentation of the nature and resolution of disputes • The management system's dispute resolution procedures is clearly open to all significant participants and stakeholders • The management system's dispute resolution procedures show no evidence of a pattern of discrimination against any participants or significant stakeholder interest
<p>3.2.1.5. The management system presents managers with clear, useful, relevant information, including advice. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.2]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of alternatives • Characterization of risk, uncertainty, consequences • Opportunity for deliberation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system regularly presents decision makers with a reasonable number of carefully analyzed alternatives for action, but alternatives do not necessarily reflect all substantial proposals made by stakeholders • Due to lack of resources or institutional problems, decision makers sometimes find information provided by technical sources to be inadequate, particularly in respect to assessing risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system regularly presents decision makers with a reasonable number of carefully analyzed alternatives for action that fall in a range that includes all legally permissible options proposed by stakeholders • The management system's decision makers show evidence of relying consistently upon the information provided to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system regularly presents decision makers with a reasonable number of carefully analyzed alternatives for action that fall in, and extend to the margins of a range that includes all legally permissible options • The management system provides decision makers with time and opportunity for deliberation in a manner suitable for the nature of the decisions under consideration • The management system shows evidence of a pattern of behavior by decision makers that reveals that they have found the information provided to them to be useful, adequate in scope and detail, and otherwise appropriate to the performance of their

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			duties	
3.2.2 The management system applies information through implementation of measures and strategies (by rule or by voluntary action of fishery) that demonstrably control the degree of exploitation of the resource in the light of the natural variation in ecosystems				
3.2.2.1	<p>Catch levels are set to maintain high productivity of the target population and the ecosystem <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.10]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch levels are varied in relation to target species population goals, but setting of goals and the degree of conformity with such goals is variable Setting of catch levels takes into account ecological considerations, but only in a subordinate and variable manner Evidence of the effects of the management program on productivity is equivocal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch levels and/or catch arrangements are regularly set in a precautionary manner directly tied to, and limited by, target species population goals, including goals for population subcomponents Catch levels are set in a manner that considers ecological productivity goals, such as, but not limited to, protection of biodiversity, predator-prey dynamics, prey abundance and spatial distribution, food web requirements, and habitat needs No clear-cut indications of substantial declines in productivity of the target species or the ecosystem as a consequence of harvest levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch levels are set regularly in a precautionary manner directly tied to, and limited by, target species population goals, including goals for population subcomponents Catch levels are set in a manner directly tied to, and limited by, specific ecological productivity goals, such as, but not limited to, protection of biodiversity, predator-prey dynamics, prey abundance and spatial distribution, food web requirements, and habitat needs No evidence that the productivity of target populations, including population subcomponents, is declining as a consequence of harvest levels No evidence that ecological productivity is declining as a consequence of harvest levels
3.2.2.2	<p>There are gear restrictions and mandatory practices to avoid catch of non-target species, minimize mortality of this catch, and reduce unproductive use of non-target species that cannot be released alive. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.12]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fisheries management system has a system for minimizing catches of non-target species, including the setting of targets, but it is difficult to assess its effectiveness Multi-year trends in catch levels of non-target species are equivocal Progress in encouraging productive uses of previously discarded non-target species is slow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system applies an established, widely accepted program to minimize catch of non-target species, including specific goals, such that the take of these species does not exceed established thresholds where appropriate, or is precautionary. There is evidence of a fishery-wide, multi-year trend of reduced catch of non-target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system applies an established, widely accepted program to minimize catch of non-target species, including specific goals, such that the take of these species does not exceed established thresholds where appropriate, or is precautionary. The management system has achieved a fishery-wide, multi-year trend of reduced catch of non-target species through restrictions in gear and fishing practices The management system has achieved a fishery-

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is evidence of a fishery-wide, multi-year trend of reduced non-productive economic or social use of non-target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wide, multi-year trend of reduced discards through restrictions in gear and fishing practices The management system provides for productive economic or social uses of non-target species that are not released alive
3.2.2.3	<p>The management system accounts for catch of non-target species. [Relates to MSC Criteria 3.10, 3.17]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system requires monitoring and accounting of catch of non-target species, but the effectiveness of the measures is uncertain Information available to managers from monitoring of catches of non-target species is barely adequate or inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system requires reliable, timely monitoring of and accounting for catch of non-target species and use or discard of that catch throughout all significant components of the fishery Measures taken substantially reduce the capture of non-target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is real-time, reliable monitoring of and accounting for catch and use or discard of non-target species throughout the fishery The management system has achieved continued improvement in the accuracy and precision of monitoring and accounting of catch and use or discard of non-target species
3.2.2.4	<p>The management system minimizes adverse impacts on habitat. [Relates to MSC Criteria 3.10, 3.13]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system prohibits destruction of habitat by fishing, but monitoring of effectiveness is inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has information on the effects of the fishery on habitat The management system has taken significant actions to restrict fishery gear and practices to reduce fishery impacts on habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system conducts continuing studies to identify, document, and assess the risks of fishery impacts on habitat The management system has demonstrated a pattern of actions to restrict fishery gear and practices to reduce adverse impacts on habitat The management system has achieved a demonstrated trend of reductions in adverse habitat impacts from fishery
3.2.2.5	<p>The fishery does not use destructive fishery practices. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.14]</p>	<p>There is no evidence that destructive fishing practices take place within the fishery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery management system prohibits use of destructive fisheries practices There is no evidence that destructive fishery practice is occurring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system affirmatively prohibits fishery or operational practices that damage or destroy natural geologic, biologic, or chemical features or characteristics of the aquatic area in which the fishery occurs, except those impacts that are physically unavoidable consequences of

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			<p>authorized uses of fishing gear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no evidence that destructive fishery practice is occurring 	
3.2.2.6	<p>The management system provides for rebuilding and recovery, where applicable. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.10]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system takes steps to rebuild over-fished stocks, but lacks approaches to reliably ascertain when stocks are over-fished, including those stocks not subject to targeted fisheries at the present time, but depressed due to earlier fishery activity The management system does not respond in a timely manner to information regarding the need to rebuild and recover stocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system sets goals and has demonstrated a trend toward achieving rebuilding and recovery goals for all over-fished stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system sets goals and has demonstrated a trend toward achieving rebuilding and recovery goals for all over-fished stocks The management system does not allow fishing on any stock impacted by the fishery that has declined below limit reference points until the fishery can be demonstrated to be significantly above the limits imposed.
3.2.2.7	<p>The management system applies closures or restrictions when catch limits are reached. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.10]</p>	<p>The management system applies closures or restrictions in a manner that generally prevent catch limits being exceeded, but from time to time there are significant over-runs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has demonstrated a consistent ability and willingness to close or restrict the fishery to prevent over-runs of catch limits by all participants in the fishery The management system has a record of identifying and eliminating factors that impair the effectiveness of catch limit-related closures or restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has demonstrated a consistent ability and willingness to close or restrict the fishery to prevent over-runs of catch limits by all participants in the fishery The management system has a record of identifying and eliminating factors in season that impair the effectiveness of catch limit-related closures or restrictions.
3.2.2.8	<p>The management system incorporates no-take zones, and MPAs, or other mechanisms, where appropriate, to achieve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has established some control mechanisms but their effectiveness is doubtful or has not been evaluated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has established no-take zones, MPAs, or other control mechanisms, where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has demonstrated a consistent ability and willingness to establish no-take zones or MPAs or other mechanisms where appropriate in order to achieve harvest limit or

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	harvest limits and ecosystem protection objectives. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.10]</i>	adequately		ecosystem protection goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has identified criteria and standards for establishment of control mechanisms
3.2.2.9	The management system minimizes operational waste. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.15]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many participants in the fishery lack internal programs or controls to minimize operational waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has established rules to minimize operational waste, including monitoring and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has established rules to minimize operational waste such as lost fishing gear, oil spills, on-board spoilage of catch, etc. The management system has established a monitoring and enforcement program for operational waste and has achieved a significant trend in reduction of such waste
3.2.3		A comprehensive research program is conducted		
3.2.3.1	There is a comprehensive research program that provides for short- and long-term needs for technical guidance and information required for management of target species and protection of the ecosystem. <i>[Relates to MSC Criterion 3.8]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research program contributes substantially to the information base required for management of the fishery but more comprehensive approaches are needed There is some longer-term research contributing to improvements in basic understandings of fluctuations in target and impacted non-target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research program, in conjunction with monitoring activities provide the management system with reliable, on-time information on the status of the stocks and of the ecosystem required for management Longer term research periodically provides improvements in basic scientific understandings of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluctuations in target and impacted non-target species Effectiveness of harvest strategies Effects of fishing on the ecosystem Ecosystem management strategies Economic considerations related to the fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research program, in conjunction with monitoring activities provide the management system with reliable, on-time information on the status of the stocks and of the ecosystem required for management Research provides continuing, significant progress in scientific understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluctuations in target and impacted non-target species Effectiveness of harvest strategies Effects of fishing on the ecosystem Ecosystem management strategies Economic considerations related to the fishery

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3.2.4	The management system effectively monitors all relevant aspects the fishery		
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3.2.4.1	<p>The management system has procedures to measure and record and independently evaluates all aspects of the fishery to provide a basis for assessments of stocks and program performance. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.10, 3.11, 3.17]</p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery includes a monitoring program • Monitoring procedures are followed • Monitoring results are useful and used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a monitoring program but lacks means for evaluating its completeness and accuracy. • The monitoring programs have not been subjected to adequate independent outside review and comment • To the extent available, the results of monitoring efforts are compiled, analyzed, and disseminated to fishery managers such that management and research efforts can be informed as to needed improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a comprehensive monitoring program • The monitoring programs established in the fishery have been subject to outside review and comment • The results of monitoring efforts are compiled, analyzed, and disseminated to fishery managers such that management and research efforts can be informed as to needed improvements in a timely manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a comprehensive monitoring program • The management system has demonstrated a consistent ability to monitor all relevant aspects of the fishery and employs an independently verified system for validation of reported results • The fishery operates with no significant “blind spots” • The results of monitoring efforts are compiled, analyzed, and disseminated to fishery managers such that management and research efforts can be informed as to needed improvements in a timely manner
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3.2.5	The management system ensures that there is a high degree of compliance in the fisheries with management measures and directives regarding fishing practices required by the system		
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3.2.5.1	<p>Fishing operations are fully compliant with regulations and directives regarding fishing practices developed by the management system. [Relates to MSC Criteria 3.11, 3.16]</p> <p>Elements considered in scoring include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a comprehensive enforcement system but means of assessing the degree of compliance are inadequate • Information on the actual extent of compliance is incomplete • Prosecutions, convictions and penalties for violations are often inadequate and do not act as strong deterrents to illegal fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a comprehensive compliance and enforcement system • There no indications of consistent violations in the fishery • There is a record of consistent enforcement and prosecution of violations in the fishery • Convictions and penalties for prosecuted violations are generally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has a comprehensive compliance and enforcement system • The management system has demonstrated a consistent ability to enforce applicable rules, including an independently verified system for validation of reported results • The fishery operates with no significant patterns of evasion or non-compliance • Prosecutions, convictions and penalties for violations are sufficient to act as strong deterrents to
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SCORING CRITERIA	SCORING GUIDEPOST 60	SCORING GUIDEPOST 80	SCORING GUIDEPOST 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains procedures for effective compliance, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement which ensure that management system controls are not violated and appropriate corrective actions are taken Actual adherence to procedures 		adequate to deter illegal fishing	illegal fishing

3.3 The performance of the management system is regularly and candidly evaluated and adapted as needed to improve

3.3.1 Evaluations are conducted in a systematic fashion and the system responds positively to appropriate recommendations for change

3.3.1.1	<p>The management system provides for internal program evaluation and review. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.3]</p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency Candor (accuracy and precision) Transparency Participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system may conduct internal expert program reviews, but does not do so in a systematic manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has a provision for an objective system for evaluation of management performance that is conducted periodically as need arises The criteria for and results of the on-going evaluation of management performance are made public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system has an internal, continuing, objective system for evaluation of management performance The criteria for and results of the on-going evaluation of management performance are made public and reflect input from all interested participants and stakeholders The management system shows a consistent pattern of seeking and using the results of the on-going evaluation of management performance
3.3.1.2	<p>The management system provides for external program evaluation and review. [Relates to MSC Criterion 3.2, 3.3]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system may conduct external expert program reviews, but does not do so in a systematic manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system conducts independent, expert reviews of all significant aspects of management performance on an as required basis The criteria for evaluation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system conducts an independent, open, expert review of all significant aspects of management performance on a regular and continuing basis The criteria for evaluation of management

SCORING CRITERIA	SCORING GUIDEPOST 60	SCORING GUIDEPOST 80	SCORING GUIDEPOST 100
<p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency • Candor (accuracy and precision) • Transparency • Participation 		<p>management performance are set outside the management system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of any independent review are made public 	<p>performance are set outside the management system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the independent review are made public • The management system shows a consistent pattern of seeking and using the results of the independent evaluation of management performance
<p>3.3.1.3 The management system includes guidelines for responding to assessment outcomes. <i>[Relates to MSC Criteria 3.3, 3.7]</i></p> <p>Elements considered in scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of the guidelines • Timing, scope of response to assessment outcomes (actual relevance of process) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system is responsive to assessments of management performance, but has no structured approach for reviewing assessments or for making decisions on relevant actions to bring about consequent improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has established objective guidelines for responding to internal and external assessments of management performance • The management system shows evidence of improved performance based on the results of internal and external assessments of management performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management system has established comprehensive, objective standards or triggers for responding to internal and external assessments of management performance • The management system has demonstrated a consistent pattern of responding to the results of internal and external assessments of management performance • The management system has not demonstrated a consistent pattern of disregarding significant recommendations for improvement developed through internal or external assessments of management performance