

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement – Expedited Assessment Audit (Extension of Scope)

Name of Fishery	Walker Seafood albacore and yellowfin tuna, swordfish and mahi mahi longline fishery
------------------------	--

Assessment number	<p>An expedited assessment audit for the addition of the mahi mahi to the existing Walker Seafood albacore and yellowfin tuna, swordfish longline certificate (MEP-F-032). Mahi mahi was assessed as a P2 'main retained' species in the original assessment in 2014/5. The unit of assessments (UoAs) for the scope extension to the current certificate and that for the current certificate are given below:</p> <p>UoC 1 - Current</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Species:</td> <td>Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Geographical Area:</td> <td>Western and Central Pacific Ocean</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Method of Capture:</td> <td>Pelagic longline</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Management System:</td> <td>Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Client Group:</td> <td>Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean</td> </tr> </table> <p>UoC 2 - Current</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Species:</td> <td>Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Geographical Area:</td> <td>Western and Central Pacific Ocean</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Method of Capture:</td> <td>Pelagic longline</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Management System:</td> <td>Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #006666; color: white;">Client Group:</td> <td>Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean</td> </tr> </table>	Species:	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean	Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline	Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management	Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean	Species:	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean	Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline	Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management	Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Species:	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)																				
Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean																				
Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline																				
Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management																				
Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean																				
Species:	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)																				
Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean																				
Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline																				
Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management																				
Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean																				

	UoC 3 - Current	
	Species:	Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)
	Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
	Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline
	Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management
	Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
	UoC 4 – Extension of Scope	
	Species:	Mahi mahi (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>)
	Geographical Area:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
	Method of Capture:	Pelagic longline
	Management System:	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Australian Commonwealth Fishery Management
	Client Group:	Walker Seafood Australia Pty Ltd vessels targeting albacore tuna using pelagic longline in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	N/A. This assessment is an extension of scope.	

<p>Statement that the fishery is within scope</p>	<p>The CAB confirms that the fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1]. The CAB further confirms the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery is within scope of the MSC standard, i.e. it does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute; • The fishery has not failed an assessment within the last two years (mahi mahi was assessed as a 'main-retained species' in the initial certification: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/walker-seafood-australian-albacore-yellowfin-tuna-and-swordfish-longline/@@assessments); • The certificate is not open to certificate sharing; • IPI stocks are not caught; • The fishery is not enhanced; • The mahi mahi UoC does not overlap with any other MSC fishery; • The fishery is not based on an introduced species; and • The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.
<p>Certificate sharing statement</p>	<p>This fishery is not open to certificate sharing</p>

Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	<p>Predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification of the new UoC awarded is August 2017.</p> <p>An indicative timetable for the assessment is provided below along with an indication as to the key stakeholder engagement periods during the assessment.</p>		
	Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period
	Fishery announcement	8 th December 2016	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process
	Site visit	12 th January 2017	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit. Exact dates TBC.
	Peer Reviewer Announcement	1 st April 2017	Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment
	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	15 th May 2017	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment
	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	1 st July 2017	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination
	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	1 st August 2017	

Name of proposed Team Leader	<p>It is proposed that Kat Collinson will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this assessment. Kat Collinson Kat Collinson has a Master's degree from King's College University in Aquatic Resource Management. She has worked on a number of MSC pre- and full assessments including North Menai Strait mussel fishery, Vietnam Ben Tre clam hand gathered fishery and Walkers Seafood Pty Ltd Australian albacore and yellowfin tuna and swordfish longline fishery. Kat also been involved fishery improvements projects (FIPs) and has recently been involved in a project studying the habitat use and niche partitioning in two species of juvenile shark using active and passive tracking and diet stable isotope analysis.</p> <p>Up until recently Kat has also been the Manager of MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) projects at MEC and has undertaken over 150 assessments and therefore will also act as the team's expert on the traceability for the fishery.</p> <p>Kat will not be present at the site visit, but will be available remotely.</p>
-------------------------------------	---

<p>Name of proposed assessors</p>	<p>Dr Stephanie Brodie</p> <p>Dr Brodie is currently a Research Associate at the University of New South Wales (NSW), Fisheries and Marine Environmental Research Facility. She completed her PhD in 2016, in the “The ecology and distribution of two pelagic fish: yellowtail kingfish, <i>Seriola lalandi</i> and dolphinfish, <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>”. Stephanie’s current job role is researching the distribution and ecology of pelagic fish. Her previous work has given her direct contact with the recreational side of the fishery. Stephanie was an observer on charter fishing boats, operating out of Sydney, NSW, at the southern end of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF). Here she collected catch data, identified species caught and conducted research into recreational fisher behaviour.</p> <p>Stephanie has recently completed the necessary team member MSC online training modules. She will act as the Principle 1 expert for this assessment.</p> <p>Mr Peter Trott</p> <p>Prior to co-founding FishListic, Peter had been with WWF-Australia fisheries programme for over eight years, where he led work on international and domestic seafood markets, providing technical expert advice concerning imported and domestic seafood products, supply chains and traceability. Peter was the architect of developing and establishing several key strategic seafood market partnerships between WWF and a major Australian seafood retailer (Coles), brand owners (John West, Birdseye, I&J, Blackmores) and aquaculture companies (Tassal). He has attended numerous international fisheries forums as a member of Australian Government delegations, including at meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisation’s for tunas at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. Peter has also worked in fisheries management with two Australian state fisheries agencies (Tasmania and Western Australia) managing sharks, squid, octopus, small pelagics, rock lobster, and scalefish. Peter has over 15 years’ experience in fisheries management, resource sharing, ecosystem principles, seafood markets and supply chains. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture and an Honors degree in Aquatic Sciences (aquaculture systems and disease) from Deakin University.</p> <p>Peter has experience conducting stakeholder meetings and has completed his Risk Based Framework MSC online training module. This will be vital for the assessment process, as the RBF will be used. He will be present on-site and will chair the meeting. He also has the required Principle 2 and 3 expert knowledge for this fishery.</p>
<p>Assessment tree to be used</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Default Assessment Tree will be used for this extension of scope.</p> <p>The RBF will be used to score PI 1.1.1, as no stock information or reference points are available for mahi mahi.</p>

Site visit	<p>12th January 2017 – Mooloolaba, Queensland, Australia</p> <p>The location will be at the Mooloolaba Yacht Club, 33-45 Parkyn Parade, Mooloolaba QLD 4557, Australia.</p> <p>The exact time will be announced shortly. MEC welcomes anyone who would like to participate. It is proposed that Peter Trott and Stephanie Brodie will attend the site visit.</p> <p>The Risk Based Framework (RBF) is being used. A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF) see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.</p>
-------------------	--

MEC would like to welcome anyone who would like to participate in the site visit. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Kat Collinson (kat.collinson@me-cert.com) or Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

ME Certification
56 High Street
Lymington
SO41 9AH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1590 613007
Fax: +44 (0)1590 671573

Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team in person, this can be arranged. Remote meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above-mentioned email addresses.

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.



Submitted by: Kat Collinson, Fisheries Assessment Manager

Date: 1st December 2016