

# Marine Stewardship Council – Expedited Assessment Audit Announcement

<b>Name of Fishery</b>	SZLC, HNSFC & CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery																							
<b>Expedited Audit and UoA</b>	<p>ME Certification Ltd (MEC) would like to announce the intent to conduct an expedited assessment for an extension of scope to the SZLC, HNSFC &amp; CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery (MEP-F-031 - Valid from 9 June 2015 to 8 June 2020).</p> <p>The expedited audit is to assess the addition of three new client groups as separate UoAs. Details of the client groups are shown in the UoA tables below.</p> <p>It is noted that an expedited assessment for the addition of yellowfin tuna as P1 species is currently ongoing. More information on this process is available here: <a href="https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/pacific/cook-islands-tuna/expedited-assessment-yellowfin-tuna">https://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/pacific/cook-islands-tuna/expedited-assessment-yellowfin-tuna</a>. While two separate site visits are being held for both expedited audits, MEC proposes that a single Public Comment Draft Report, Final Report and Public Certification Report are produced for both processes. The proposed process is summarised as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="454 967 1390 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="461 976 911 1055">Expedited assessment for yellowfin</th> <th data-bbox="919 976 1383 1055">Expedited assessment for 3 new client groups</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1064 911 1317">Site visit taking place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016</td> <td data-bbox="919 1064 1383 1317">As an on-site visit is already being carried out in July, a remote site visit via video conferencing is being proposed for this expedited assessment on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, pending approval of a variation request by the MSC.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1326 1383 1368">Scoring carried out by same team</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1377 1383 1420">Client Draft Report (CDR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1429 1383 1471">Peer Review Draft Report (PRDR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1480 1383 1523">Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1532 1383 1574">Final Report (FR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="461 1583 1383 1626">Public Certification Report (PCR)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The proposed UoAs are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="454 1753 1410 2011"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1762 691 1805">Species</td> <td data-bbox="699 1762 1404 1805">Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1814 691 1928">Geographical range</td> <td data-bbox="699 1814 1404 1928">Area 81 Pacific, Southwest - Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (excluding the internal waters and territorial sea of the Cook Islands)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="461 1937 691 2011">Method of capture</td> <td data-bbox="699 1937 1404 2011">Longline</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Expedited assessment for yellowfin	Expedited assessment for 3 new client groups	Site visit taking place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	As an on-site visit is already being carried out in July, a remote site visit via video conferencing is being proposed for this expedited assessment on the 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2016, pending approval of a variation request by the MSC.	Scoring carried out by same team		Client Draft Report (CDR)		Peer Review Draft Report (PRDR)		Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR)		Final Report (FR)		Public Certification Report (PCR)		Species	Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> ).	Geographical range	Area 81 Pacific, Southwest - Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (excluding the internal waters and territorial sea of the Cook Islands)	Method of capture	Longline
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	Stock	South Pacific albacore	
	Management System/s	At national level: Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources At regional level: Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	
	Client group	<b>UoA 1:</b> Luen Thai Fishing Venture (LTFV), with Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd (SZLC); China Southern Fishery Shenzhen Co. Ltd (CSFC); and China Fishing Agency Ltd. (CFA) ( <u>note: this client group is part of the originally certified albacore fishery</u> )  <b>UoA 3:</b> C.F Incorporated C/- Cook Islands Trust Corporation Ltd / C.B. Incorporation Ltd.  <b>UoA 5:</b> Shenzhen Shengang Overseas Industrial Co., Ltd / Rongcheng Ocean Fishery Co., Ltd.  <b>UoA 7:</b> Chang Shu Chen/ Chuang Ya Wen / Lin, Bi Lian	
	Species	Yellowfin ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ).	
	Geographical range	Area 81 Pacific, Southwest - Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (excluding the internal waters and territorial sea of the Cook Islands)	
	Method of capture	Longline	
	Stock	Western Central Pacific yellowfin	
	Management System/s	At national level: Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources At regional level: Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	
	Client group	<b>UoA 2:</b> Luen Thai Fishing Venture (LTFV), with Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd (SZLC); China Southern Fishery Shenzhen Co. Ltd (CSFC); and China Fishing Agency Ltd. (CFA) ( <u>note: this client group is part of the originally certified albacore fishery and the expedited yellowfin assessment</u> )  <b>UoA 4:</b> C.F Incorporated C/- Cook Islands Trust Corporation Ltd / C.B. Incorporation Ltd.  <b>UoA 6:</b> Shenzhen Shengang Overseas Industrial Co., Ltd / Rongcheng Ocean Fishery Co., Ltd.  <b>UoA 8:</b> Chang Shu Chen/ Chuang Ya Wen / Lin, Bi Lian	
	<b>Surveillance number (tick one)</b>	1st Surveillance	
		2nd Surveillance	
		3rd Surveillance	
4th Surveillance			
Other (expedited etc)		x	

<p><b>Proposed Team Leader</b></p>	<p><b>Chrissie Sieben</b></p> <p>Chrissie Sieben has a Master’s Degree in Marine Environmental Protection which she obtained at the University of Wales, Bangor. She is the MSC Fisheries Scheme Manager at MEC and specialises in marine and fisheries ecology, marine environmental impact assessment and sustainable fisheries. Previous to joining MEC, she worked as a fisheries consultant for MacAlister Elliott and Partners (MEP), where she worked on a number of projects including the application of WWF Common Methodology to wild capture and aquaculture fisheries for the WWF Hong Kong ‘Good Fish Guide’, Sustainable fisheries in the Trilateral Wadden Sea, acted as Fisheries Liaison for the London Gateway Project and carried out socio-economic characterisations and impact assessments of commercial fisheries for coastal developments. Prior to her work at MEP, she worked inter alia as a marine ecologist on environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and completed an internship with the Global Environment Facility / UNDP International Waters Programme. She is a fully qualified MSC Team Leader with particular expertise in Principle 2 and is involved in MSC full assessments, pre-assessments and fishery surveillance audits. Chrissie participates regularly in MSC CAB training sessions and workshops and has received in-depth Risk-Based Framework training. Within MEC she has also worked as a Chain of Custody auditor.</p> <p>Chrissie will act as Team Leader for this assessment while also providing P2 input to the process.</p>
<p><b>Proposed team members</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Jo Gascoigne</b></p> <p>Dr. Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales. She is an expert on fisheries science and management, with over 15 years’ experience as a consultant, working mainly on MSC pre-assessments and full assessments, as well as FIP scoping, planning and implementation. Jo has been involved as expert and lead auditor in the majority of MEP’s and MEC’s full MSC assessments and numerous pre-assessments. She regularly participates in the MSC training sessions and workshops, the most recent of which was the MSC scoring calibration workshop for the new fisheries standard.</p> <p>In addition to numerous pre-assessments, Jo’s experience with tuna fisheries includes the SZLC, HNSFC &amp; CFA Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore longline fishery and the Walker Seafood’s Australian Eastern tuna and billfish tuna fishery.</p>
<p><b>Audit/review time and location</b></p>	<p>As an on-site visit is already being carried out in July, a remote site visit via video conferencing is being proposed for this expedited assessment on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, pending approval of a variation request by the MSC.</p>
<p><b>Assessment/ review activities</b></p>	<p>A gap analysis was conducted to identify the assessment components which are the same for the new proposed UoAs and the certified fishery. The results of the gap analysis are shown in the Appendix.</p>

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

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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: Gavin Fitzgerald, MSC Fisheries Officer  
Date: 12/07/2016