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MSC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO) gill net sole

Public Surveillance Report

December 2010

Prepared For: Dutch Fisheries Organisation

(Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij)

Prepared By: Food Certification International Ltd

version 1.0 (18/10/10)

Assessment Data Sheet

Certified Fishery	**Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO) gill net sole**
Fishery Management Agency	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Fisheries Directorate
Species	Common Sole (Solea solea)
Fishing Method	Sole gill net
MSC Registration Number	F-FCI-0005
Certification Date	Certified as sustainable on 24th November 2009
Certification Expiration Date	23rd November 2014

Certification Body

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Surveillance Stage: **1st Annual Surveillance**

Surveillance Date: **w/c 15th November 2010**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is fourfold:

1. to establish and report on any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery.
2. to monitor progress made to improve those practices that have been scored as below "good practice" (a score of 80 or above) but above "minimum acceptable practice" (a score of 60 or above) – reflected in "conditions" detailed in the original Public Certification Report and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client.
3. to monitor actions taken in response to any (non-binding) "recommendations" made in the Public Certification Report.
4. to re-score any Performance Indicators (PIs) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of any "conditions" raised.

1.2 Recapitulation of Original Assessment

At the time of the original assessment, a scoring meeting was held on 4th & 5th February 2009. The scores allocated to the fishery for each performance indicator are shown schematically below. The weighted scores for those performance indicators where a score of below 80 has been allocated – and thus triggering the placing of a condition to bring that element up to good industry practice - are indicated in **red**.

Figure 1: Allocation of original weighted scores (2009)

Principle 1 – Stock Status / Harvest Control Rules			
1.1.1	**Outcome (status)**	Stock status	**75**
1.1.2		Reference Points	80
1.1.3		Stock Rebuilding	**75**
1.2.1	**Management**	Harvest Strategy	90
1.2.2		Harvest control rules & tools	80
1.2.3		Information & monitoring	90
1.2.4		Assessment of stock status	80

Principle 2 – Wider Ecosystem Impacts			
2.1.1	**Retained Species**	Outcome (status)	85
2.1.2		Management	85
2.1.3		Information	**75**
2.2.1	**Bycatch**	Outcome (status)	80
2.2.2		Management	80
2.2.3		Information	**75**
2.3.1	**ETP Species**	Outcome (status)	80
2.3.2		Management	80
2.3.3		Information	**75**

2.4.1	**Habitats**	Outcome (status)	95
2.4.2		Management	80
2.4.3		Information	85
2.5.1	**Ecosystem**	Outcome (status)	90
2.5.2		Management	85
2.5.3		Information	85

Principle 3 – Management / Governance			
3.1.1	**Governance & Policy**	Legal & customary framework	90
3.1.2		Consultation, roles & responsibilities	90
3.1.3		Long term objectives	90
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3.2.1	**Fishery-specific Management System**	Fishery specific objectives	80
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The fishery attained a score of 80 or more against each of the 3 MSC Principles and did not score less than 60 against any MSC Criteria. It was therefore recommended that the North Sea Dutch Sole Gill Net fishery be certified according to the Marine Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fisheries.

Figure 2: Original principle level scores (2009)

MSC Principle	Fishery Performance
Principle 1: Sustainability of Exploited Stock	Overall : 81 PASS
Principle 2: Maintenance of Ecosystem	Overall : 82 PASS
Principle 3: Effective Management System	Overall : 86 PASS

However, at the time of the original assessment in 2009, 3 conditions of certification were raised by the assessment team, and maintenance of the MSC certificate is therefore contingent on Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO) gill net sole moving to comply with these conditions within the time-scales set at the time the certificate was issued. In addition, **6** recommendations were made which, whilst not obligatory, the client is encouraged to act upon within the spirit of the certification.

Full details of these conditions and recommendations and full explanation of progress achieved by the client in meeting these since the time of the original assessment are outlined in report sections 3 and 4.

1.3 Process

The annual surveillance audit process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the MSC Fisheries Certification Methodology and policy / guidance documents[1].

In accordance with this methodology Food Certification International have actively sought the views of the client and stakeholders (including managers, scientists, industry and environmental NGOs)

[1] FCM v. 6 sections 3.4 & 6.7.2, TAB 13 & 14, PA 12v1 & (19v1)

about the fishery and its performance in relation to any relevant conditions of certification and issues relevant to the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The first surveillance audit for the Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO) gill net sole was announced on the MSC website on 11th November 2010. Direct email notification was also sent to the stakeholders that had previously been identified for this fishery, inviting interested parties to contact the audit team.

All three members of the original assessment team have been involved in the surveillance process, with Tristan Southall coordinating the process, Dr Paul Medley reviewing key aspects in relation to principle 1 and Bert Keus meeting with the client representative, fishermen and key stakeholders to discuss progress against milestones. Appendix 1.

2. Changes in Circumstance or Practice

2.1 Local Industry Organisation

Following successful certification, the client opted to sell the fish through the auction. Some of the expected benefits of certification were not realized, perhaps due to lack of adequate market differentiation. Efforts have been made to address this and improve future trade in the certified fish, through discussion in a new industry forum (Kenniskring). This group is now well organized and the discussions are broadening – this has included discussion with traders over ways to improve the marketing and market value of the product.

2.2 Regulatory changes

The Dutch government has implemented a new rule from 1 January 2010 which limits the number of under 10m vessels by restricting access (licensing / registration) to those with adequate track record (in the gill net fishery). New entrants must now buy both existing track record and licensed KW and a 'plaice document' (right to fish quotafish).

Additionally, new government regulations limit the maximum number of nets per vessel to 500 (nets of 50 meter) for both under and over 10m vessels.

2.3 Administrative changes

Recently the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has merged with the Ministery of Economic Affairs. Fisheries Directorate (Directie AKV) now in Ministery van EL & I. Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

2.4 Monitoring & Review

The EU established a multi-annual plan for fisheries exploiting stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea (Council Regulation (EC) No 676/2007). In August 2010, ICES received a request from the Netherlands to review an evaluation report on the multi-annual plan (Miller & Poos 2010). The evaluation in the report confirmed that the management plan is precautionary with regard to both the North Sea sole and plaice stocks (greater than 95% probability of being above B_{pa}). The evaluation is inconclusive concerning whether the management plan is consistent with principle of maximum sustainable yield because current reference point estimates are provisional, and MSY reference points will be re-evaluated before 2012 advice. Three independent ICES reviewers agreed with the findings of the report, which also indicated that mixed fishery effects are unlikely to compromise the precautionary nature of the management plan.

The plan was also revisited by the STECF (SGMOS 10-06). The final report of this meeting on impact assessments of management plans also concluded that the current plan can be accepted as precautionary and will reach MSY targets for both plaice and sole. While the plan for plaice appears robust to stock collapse through recruitment failure, the same is not the case for sole unless some additional action is taken. Such action is implied in the management plan but is not explicitly described. It is considered that the best trigger for remedial action should be a value for mean recent recruitment, though the most suitable period and value has not yet been determined.

2.5 Stock Status

The status of the spawning stock biomass has reduced from 37,601 tonnes in 2008 to 33,000 in 2010. This indicates that SSB is continuing to fluctuate around the precautionary biomass reference point (also now referred to a MSY $B_{trigger}$), although there is a clear recent downward trend. Fishing mortality has been steadily reduced in recent years, and remains below the precautionary level, although it does exceed the newly defined F_{msy} target. The TAC set for 2010 was in line with the ICES advice of 2009 (14,100t).

3. Progress in meeting the conditions of certification

Figure 3: Condition 1: Target Stock Status / Rebuilding (Source Public Certification Report)

Condition 1: Target Stock Status / Rebuilding	
Performance Indicators:	1.1.1 & 1.1.3
Timelines	Within 2 years
Summary of issues	It is not currently possible to state with a high degree of certainty that the recently agreed rebuilding strategy in place for the fishery is effective. Once it can be demonstrated that the stock is being rebuilt, and the rebuilding strategy has been effective then 1.1.3 will be rescored above 80.
Suggested Action	The rebuilding strategy (which includes the harvest control rule) should be re-evaluated, followed by an appropriate management response.

3.1 Background information on condition 1

Although the June 2010 ICES advice continues to state that the 2007 management plan is "provisionally precautionary", later evaluations conclude that it is in line with the precautionary approach even in the mixed fishery (see below). The management plan has achieved a reduction in fishing mortality in recent years.

At the time of this annual surveillance audit, the 2011 TAC is still to be determined. However, it is expected that the 2011 TAC will be set in line with the management plan (EC 676/2007), but also taking into account the transition to an MSY framework, which will seek to rebuild the stock to an MSY target. As a result, the 2011 TAC should result in a 10% reduction in F, which corresponds to a 4% reduction in landings.

The 2010 report evaluating the current management plan is inconclusive concerning whether it is consistent with the maximum sustainable yield principle. It is not clear, for example, whether the MSY targets can be reached simultaneously for both plaice and sole stocks, with regards to joint management plan (Miller & Poos 2010). Therefore, current reference point estimates are provisional, and MSY reference points will be re-evaluated before the 2012 advice. This may mean that targets and limits may change from current levels, and relevant performance indicators may need to be re-evaluated in 2012.

3.2 Progress in meeting Condition 1

In 2010 IMARES scientists undertook a fresh evaluation of the EU management plan for plaice and sole in the North Sea (Miller & Poos 2010). This replaced the previous incomplete evaluation for 2008 (Machiels *et al* 2008). In response to a request by the Dutch Government, the evaluation was reviewed and further updated. Subsequently, ICES has concluded that the multi annual management plan is consistent with the precautionary approach. STECF (SGMOS 10-06) also concluded that the current plan is in line with the precautionary approach. It was also noted in main MSC assessment that the retrospective bias was a significant source of uncertainty not accounted for in the evaluation, but this problem has now been greatly reduced through improved treatment of the data.

The fishing mortality in 2007 was 0.43 year^{-1}, which was above the precautionary level (Fpa=0.4) and well above the provisional long term target (F_{MSY}=0.22). More recent fishing mortalities have been below 0.4 year^{-1} (a mean of 0.36 year^{-1} over the last three years), and 2011 TAC should be set in line

with a fishing mortality of 0.33 year^{-1}. This shows a significant downward trend in fishing mortality. However, at the time of audit, it is not yet possible to confirm that the TAC has been set in line with the management plan, although this is expected to be the case.

Success in rebuilding the spawning stock biomass is less clear. The spawning stock biomass rose dramatically from 18 to 38 thousand tonnes in 2008, which in retrospect was above the trigger point (35000 t). It is expected to decline to 33000 t in 2010. The biomass is expected to rise again above the trigger point in 2012. While in the long term it is clear that the biomass will rise, the shorter term behaviour of rebuilding plan is less precautionary than it could be, with the most recent biomass estimates subject to greater uncertainty.

3.3 Status of condition 1 ('on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target'):

It is not yet possible to conclude with a high degree of certainty that the rebuilding strategy in place for the fishery is fully effective. This is largely the result of uncertainty over the spawning stock biomass and trends. However, it appears likely that the stock will rebuild above the trigger and the overall trend in the longer term will increase the stock to the MSY target. In summary:

- Fishing mortality has been reduced from 0.43 in 2007 to 0.33 in 2011 in line with the current management plan.
- The TAC has shown overall decline, but by a smaller amount, as the stock has increased in size. With the exception of 2007, the TAC has been set at approximately the same level or decreased with landings reduced from 14.6 to 13.6 thousand tonnes between 2007 and 2011.
- The management plan has been fully reviewed and it has been confirmed that it is consistent with the precautionary approach. Therefore, the working group is confident that the stock will reach its target in the medium to long term as fishing mortality is reduced.
- Applying the current plan, the spawning stock should increase above the MSY trigger (SSB = 35000 t) in 2012 in line with the requirements of this condition. Note that rebuilding should continue above the MSY trigger point as the target fishing mortality (0.22) is well below the current fishing mortality (0.33). However, this target may be subject to re-evaluation in 2012.

Confirmation of the ongoing decrease in fishing mortality and corresponding increase in spawning stock biomass should result in the fishery successfully meeting this condition in 2012.

Status of condition 1 ('on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target'):

On Target.

Figure 4: Condition 2: Retained Species Information (Source Public Certification Report)

Condition 2: Retained Species Information	
Performance Indicators:	2.1.3
Timelines	By the first assessment audit.
Summary of issues	All retained catches by the fleet under assessment must be reported accurately. At present it is not possible to differentiate between different gill net types within either the log sheet recording system, or the national database (VIRIS). This undermines the assessment of Retained Species, and makes it harder to monitor trends in species landings from specific gear types. In the future data should be available to assessors which provide landings information for the sole gill net only.
Suggested Action	Assessors should be provided with accurate and verifiable data on all landings, specific to (i) this gear type and (ii) the certified fleet (for example - one year total catch recording - including below 50kg landings outside the quota).

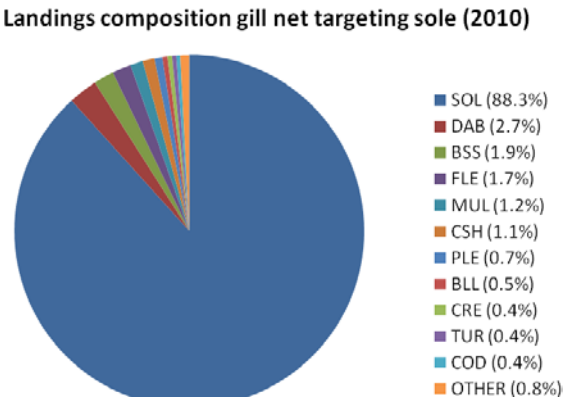
3.4 Background information on condition 2

At the time of the original assessment, the Dutch Fisheries Directorate could not produce landings data specific to the gear type. Although the fishing gear (mesh size) was filled in the log book, this information was not transposed into the database. Now this is done and the data for only sole gill nets could be produced.

3.5 Progress in meeting condition 2

The client has discussed this issue with both IMARES (Floor Quirijns) and the Dutch Fisheries Directorate. Additionally this has been discussed at the meeting of the Kenniskring on 16 April 2010. As a result of this work, the client has now been able to present to the assessment team with exact details of client landings (of all retained species), when fishing with the specific net covered by the assessment. This presents a far more precise understanding of the landings composition.

Figure 5: Landing composition of gill netters targeting sole, using 90-110 mm mesh size, as recorded in EU logbooks and sold through the auctions in 2010. Data are extracted by the Ministry of EL&I on the 12th of November, so the data do not cover the the whole of 2010. SOL=sole; DAB=dab; BSS=seabass; FLE=flounder; MUL=mullet; CSH=shrimp; PLE=plaice; BLL=brill; CRE=edible crab; TUR=turbot; COD=cod.



These figures cover the whole of 2010 (as the fishery is now closed for the year) and include all landings of < 50 kg landings. Vessels < 10 m (the majority of the client vessels) must fill in all landings in the logbook (regardless of size). Although technically vessels over 10m are not obliged to fill in < 50 kg landings, most of the client vessels in this size category do so and this should be maintained for all boats as standard.

When vessels fill in < 50 kg landings in the logbook the AID will subtract these from the vessels and the national quota.

Status of condition 2 ('on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target'):

On Target – condition closed – score 80.

Figure 6: Condition3: Discarding and ETP Information (Source Public Certification Report)

Condition 3: Discarding & ETP Information	
Performance Indicators:	2.2.3, 3.3.3
Timelines	By the 3rd surveillance visit
Summary of issues	Although it is anticipated that discarding level is low, there is no independent corroboration of this available to assessors. Discard levels (both species and quantity) should be independently assessed by research project(s). Any such on-board observations should also take the opportunity to record interactions with ETP species. IMARES and other national environmental groups with relevant expertise should be consulted in the design of any such program.
Suggested Action	Analysis of focused research on discard levels and interaction with ETP species in the Dutch sole gill net fishery should be made available to MSC assessors.

3.6 Progress in meeting condition 3

The client industry group discussed how to address this issue at the Kenniskring meeting of 16 april 2010, a meeting also attended by an IMARES scientist. , able to advise in this area). Initial contact was made with another MSC sole gill net fishery, also required to undertake similar actions. It was finally concluded following the meeting with IMARES that the industry group would adopt a method for sampling and registering discarding, which will be implemented from the 1st of January 2011 onwards.

By trip the fishermen will estimate the weight of the discards, by species and these will be recorded in the available space on the EU log sheet, with appropriate species code. IMARES will then do a check of these records. The client fishery have pointed out that due to the slow market reaction to the certified sole, there is currently a shortage of finance to support a more comprehensive IMARES analysis.

3.7 Status of condition 3 ('on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target'):

The time line for this condition was for the condition to be closed by the 3rd surveillance audit, so it is tough at this early stage to conclude that progress on the condition is ‘behind target’. However, the language of the original condition makes reference to the need for ‘independent’ research, and for this to be carefully and appropriately designed (in short to be scientifically robust). The voluntary initiatives proposed by the fleet are welcome and an important step in focusing attention on the question of discards, however this alone will not meet the requirements of the condition, therefore considerable further attention will be required in this area if the condition is to be met within the requisite timeline.

4. Progress in taking forward recommendations

4.1 Stock Assessment

4.1.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicator 1.2.4)

The stock assessment should take account of wider uncertainties and evaluate stock status relative to reference points in a probabilistic way (e.g. confidence intervals on key parameters of interest). The 2010 benchmark assessment should include an improved system to address uncertainty.

4.1.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 1

Some aspects of the stock assessment are based on probability and risk evaluation. F_{MSY} was estimated from stochastic simulations. The management plan has been evaluated probabilistically, evaluating the current non-probabilistic stock assessment approach in a stochastic simulation, suggesting the method was low-risk. While an important development, this remains somewhat implicit in addressing uncertainty.

The basic assessment method continues to be a "tuned" VPA (XSA). An alternative modelling approach (SAM) was rejected due to the current lack of expertise in using it and interpreting the results. Nevertheless, the 2010 benchmark assessments recommended moving to this approach as the results will be able to report basic probabilistic output in the form of confidence intervals.

Note that this recommendation does not necessarily require alternative stock assessment methods to be used to the current XSA in applying the harvest control rule, but it does suggest uncertainties and probabilities should be more explicitly considered in the harvest strategy, harvest control rule and management advice.

4.2 Gear Loss

4.2.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicator 2.5.1)

Although all stakeholder consultations suggest that gear loss was a minor issue, it would be advantageous to future scoring of the fishery if this could be quantified more accurately to confirm that it is indeed a minor problem. Records of gear loss should therefore be kept.

4.2.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 2

The client industry group discussed how to address this issue at the Kenniskring meeting of 16 April 2010.

As nets are well marked and anchored (so do not drift) and are easily relocated by GPS, occurrences of net loss is rare. In case the net is broken (perhaps as result of being caught in trawl nets) the two ends can normally be picked up, as still well marked with a buoy. If that does not work it is possible to 'dredge' for the net, with a grappling hook until it is found. The nets are valuable so fishermen do everything to avoid losing them.

If a net becomes entangles by a trawler fishermen will report this to the Nederlandse Vissersbond. In the summer (2010) there has been a low incidence of interaction (shrimp fishermen in the fishing further North or went to German and Danish waters, the fleet have good communications with the beam trawl fishermen, who are keen to avoid the risk of gill nets becoming entangled in their propellers.

It appears possible that The Nederlandse Vissersbond may keep a record of these interactions, but there is the potential for this to be improved, perhaps coordinated by Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij, to enable records of interactions to provide a meaningful resource for management puposes.

4.3 Stakeholder / Spatial Issues

4.3.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicator 3.1.2)

The fishery should actively engage with other Dutch or North Sea marine stakeholders with an interest in both the resource and the spatial elements of the fishery. In particular the fishery should cooperate fully in any on-going efforts to develop spatial planning and stakeholder management initiatives which may result from the EU Marine Strategy Directive. A spatial overview of netting per month could help to assess cumulative spatial pressures.

4.3.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 3

A representative of Sportvisserij Nederland contacted the Nederlandse Vissersbond in March 2010, to query how this recommendation would be responded to. The client industry group discussed how to address this issue at the Kenniskring meeting of 16 April 2010. A response was sent on 28 June 2010 stating that although a net free zone of 250 meters would be unacceptable for the fishermen, there may be scope to map the spots where potentially problematic interaction exists, to seek a more localised special solution.

Additionally, alongside the gill net fishermen of Belgium and the Belgian Fisheries Research Institute (ILVO), the sector has had discussions with wishing to develop wind energy in the North Sea, seeking a solution that will enable continue access for gill net fishery in these wind mill parks.

Proactive, progressive and positive interactions with other sectors will continue to be an important aspect of the work of industry representatives, in particular prioritising resolution of outstanding issues, such as those detailed above.

4.4 Recommendation 4 – Incentives

4.4.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicators 3.1.4, 3.2.1)

Assessors recommend that efforts are made to develop a clear national policy and strategy for gill net fisheries (building further on those measures announced in August 2009 and reported in section 2.5 of this report). In particular, this should examine the appropriate fleet size and number of nets per vessel. Within the context of the certified fishery, the assessors are of the view that the 300 net limit appears to be high, and recommend that this figure is either re-evaluated or more clearly justified in the future.

4.4.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 4

There has been progress in this area with the Dutch Government confirming that fleet size will be capped at the current level, and all under 10m boats will be limited to 500 nets per vessel from 1st January 2010.

The client advocated of a lower net level at a meeting with a government representative (Kenniskring on 4 februari 2010) in which the official pointed out that the 500 limit was justified on

the grounds that it would 'limit and not to restrict' and that some fishermen, such as those targeting turbot require a higher number (as carrying 2 net types). The representative did however agree to take the message of industry concerns over the new 500 limit back to the ministry.

The certified fleet continue to restrict all vessels for 300 net. The original MSC assessment posed the question as to whether this 300 net limit was too high or well justified, as most client vessels used considerably less. Whilst setting a national limit is a welcome initiative for the fishery as a whole, setting this at 500, may make efforts by the certified fleet to reduce their own 300 limit, more difficult.

4.5 Recommendation 5 – Enforcement

4.5.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicator 3.2.3)

Although it is thought that the overall scale of under-reporting is low, there is a clear opportunity to remove any possibility or incentive for under-reporting. For example, if the total amount (either as kilos, or as boxes) was reported to AID, at the same time as notifying of an intention to land (2 hours prior), this would provide greater assurance that the log sheet data was correct, and filled in prior to landing.

4.5.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 5

All vessels have to 'hail' 2 hours prior to returning to port. Prior to landing the catch the vessel must report again and post the pink copy of the logsheet in the AID postbox. This means that control can still take place after the landing weight has been reported and it is therefore not possible to delay completing the logbook.

4.6 ETP Interactions

4.6.1 Original recommendation

(Performance Indicator 2.3.2)

WWF and North Sea Foundation have offered to distribute guidelines (in the form on an onboard sticker) for what to do in event of a mammal bycatch. Having these displayed on board all member vessels would contribute to the overall strategy for ETP interactions.

4.6.2 Progress in meeting recommendation 6

The client has taken this matter up with an NGO, the Association Coast and Sea (Vereniging Kust en Zee). A representative of this NGO was present at the meeting of the Kenniskring on 16 April 2010. It has been agreed that the Vereniging Kust en Zee in cooperation with WWF and North Sea Foundation will provide a sticker for the client fishermen vessels, giving species identification and detailing how to handle sea mammal by-catches.

5. Conclusions

5.1. Consequential Re-scoring of Performance Indicators

Figure 7: Consequential Re-Scoring of Performance Indicators

Condition	PI	Original Score	Revised Score	On Target, Behind Target, Ahead Target	Condition Remaining?
1	1.1.1	75	75	On Target	Yes
	1.1.3	75	75	On Target	Yes
2	2.1.3	75	80	On Target	Condition Closed
3	2.2.3	75	75	Behind Target	Yes
	2.3.3	75	75	Behind Target	Yes

5.2 Summary of Progress

The progress to date and the action by the client has been reasonable. There is clear evidence of client action – setting up a working group, meeting with key stakeholders, in particular scientists, and implementing new procedures. Furthermore there has been good action at a national administrative level, in terms of establishing clearer controls for other gill net vessels (outside of the client group) and taking a lead in seeking a review of the sole and plaice management plan.

Inevitably the first year of certification takes some adjusting to, both from an operational and a market perspective. Also with a number of conditions and recommendations, it is unsurprising that some will progress quicker than others, perhaps due to priorities within the client action plan. The client for this assessment (DFPO) have mentioned that they have not managed to capitalize on the successful certification as much as expected.

However, it must be stressed that failure to meet conditions, will result in loss of certification, unless meaningful mitigating circumstances (typically beyond the control of the client group) can be presented. For this reason further client action and prioritization is still required to address the remaining outstanding conditions.

Appendix 1 – Listing of Consultees and Documents Referred to

Consultees

» Derk-Jan Berends (Client and Nederlandse Visserbond)…

» Rems Cramer, fisherman, KW 2…

» Adrie Meeldijk, fisherman, WR 152

» Douglas Beare, scientist, IMARES

» Floor Quirijns, scientist, IMARES

Documents referred to

» ICES (2010). 6.4.10 Advice – North Sea Sole in Subarea IV (North Sea).

» ICES. (2010)b. Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak, 5-11 May 2010 ICES CM 2010/ACOM13

» Machiels, M.A.M., Kraak, S.B.M., and Poos, J.J. 2008. Biological evaluation of the first stage of the management plan for fisheries exploiting the stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea according to Council Regulation (EC) 676/2007. Report number CO31/08: 39 pp.

» Miller. C.M; J. J Poos 2010. Combined Ex post and ex ante evaluation of the long term management plan for sole and plaice in the North Sea, including responses to ICES review. ICES CM 2010/ACOM: 62.

» STECF (2010). Evaluation of the North Sea Sole & Plaice Management Plan. In Report of the Scoping meeting for Evaluation and Impact Assessments (SGMOS-10-06a) PREPARED IN DRAFT BY THE SGMOS 10-06A COPENHAGEN 7-11 JUNE 2010,FINALISED IN STECF PLENARY 12-16 JULY 2010

Stakeholders

A total of 69 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO) Gill net Sole Fishery assessment were identified and consulted during this surveillance audit. The interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.