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1st April 2008

Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group

North Sea Herring – Scottish mid-water RSW pelagic trawl fleet

Marine Stewardship Council Certification

Certification Body: Food Certification International Ltd

Notification of proposed Peer Reviewers

FCI would like to nominate the following individuals as potential peers reviewers for the Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group North Sea herring fishery, they will review the draft final assessment report as required under the MSC Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. Below are their names and a short description of experience.

All stakeholders are now given the opportunity to object to this choice, any comments on the suitability of these scientists should be sent to Ms. Melissa McFadden no later than **18 May 2008** at:

Email: melissa.mcfadden@foodcertificationscotland.com
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The proposed peer reviewers are:

Mr John Nichols

Mr Nichols is a retired UK government fisheries biologist with 42 years experience of plankton ecosystem research specialising in the taxonomy of North Atlantic & NW European plankton including phytoplankton, micro and meso-plankton, ichthyoplankton and young fish. He has been involved with plankton surveys for stock assessment from 1977 and has had direct involvement with the assessment of pelagic and western demersal fish stocks from 1994 to 2000. These stocks include North Sea herring and Thames Estuary herring. He has been a member of ICES working groups on herring, sprat, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardine and anchovy assessments; and mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys. He was also a member of ICES study groups on herring larval surveys and plankton sampling. In 1992 he set up the original CEFAS programme for monitoring phytoplankton in shellfish harvesting areas and was responsible for it's compliance with the EU Directive. Since retiring from CEFAS he has been involved as an expert in the assessment of five separate fisheries for Marine Stewardship accreditation and subsequent surveillance visits.



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Dr Gary Melvin

Dr Melvin has been the Research Scientist responsible for research and assessment of the Georges Bank and 4WX herring stocks for the past 18 years. As one of DFO's recognized herring experts he has been an active participant in national and international assessment meetings and coordinator for several reviews. While at the ICES south of 62 herring working group, he co-authored the initial user's manual for the ICA assessment model. In addition, for the past 10 years he has been lead scientist for the hydroacoustic program in the Region and project leader for the multi-beam sonar component of the National Hydroacoustic Program (1996-2002). His current position duties include the preparation of annual research plans and proposals, budgeting, program implementation, supervision of technical support staff, scientific report writing, assessment of stock status, providing scientific advice to Fisheries Managers and industry, liaison with industry representatives and US counterparts, and bilateral discussions/negotiations of assessment and management approaches. Additional duties include the herring advisory committee DFO Science representative, design and conducting annual research surveys (larval and hydroacoustic), investigation of the application of multi-beam sonar to fish biomass estimates, presentation of results at scientific conferences/ international workshops, collaborative research, and development of cooperative research programs with the fishing industry. He also been a FAO/World Bank team member (scientific advisor) for several international missions (US, Asia and Argentina), as well as senior scientist responsible the development, implementation and coordination of several national and international research projects. In 2004 he took a 2 year leave of absence to work for the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council as a scientific advisor for multiple species stock assessments and research review and planning.



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