



Second Annual Surveillance Report

**GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE NORTHERN SHRIMP
TRAWL FISHERIES – ESQUIMAN (SFA 8)**

Certificate No.: TVI-F-09003

Moody Marine Ltd.
March 15, 2011

Authors:

Lead Assessor: Steven Devitt

Surveillance Assessor: Jean-Claude Brêthes

Team Members: Don Parsons, Jean-Jacques Maguire

Moody Marine Ltd.
99 Wyse Road, Suite 815
Dartmouth
Nova Scotia,
B3A 4S5, Canada

Contact: Steven Devitt
Tel: +1 902 422-4511
Email: s.devitt@moodyint.com

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Scope against which the surveillance is undertaken: MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as applied to the GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE NORTHERN SHRIMP TRAWL FISHERIES – SFA 8 (Esquiman).

Species: *Pandalus borealis*

Area: Gulf of St. Lawrence shrimp fishing areas 8

Method of capture: Trawl

Date of Surveillance Visit:	November 9 and 10, 2010			
Initial Certification	SFA 8 - PCR Issued: March 19, 2009 Certificate: TVI-F-09003 Certificate Expiry Date: March 18, 2014			
Surveillance stage	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: Steven Devitt Assessors: Jean-Claude Brêthes			
Client 1 Name: Address:	Association Québécoise de l'Industrie de la Pêche, Québec Place de la Cité, Tour Belle Cour 2590, coul. Laurier Bureau 860, 8 ^e étage Québec (Québec) G1V 4M6			
Client 1 Contacts	Contact: Jean-Paul Gagné Phone: 1(418) 654-1831 Fax: 1 (418) 654-1376 Email: aqip@globetrotter.net			
Client 2 Name: Address	L'association Cooperative Des Pecheurs De L'île Ltee. 90, rue Principale Lamèque, New Brunswick E8T 1M8			
Client 2 Contacts	Contact: Serge Haché Phone: 1 (506) 344-2204 Fax: 1 (506) 344-0413 Email : serge@acpi-ifca.com			

Client 3 Name: Address:	Produits Belle-Baie Ltee. 10, rue du Quai Caraquet, New Brunswick E1W 1B6
Client 3 Contacts	Contact: Fernand Brideau Phone: 1 (506) 727-4414 Fax: 1 (506) 727-7166 Email : info@bellebaie.com
Client 4 Name: Address:	Association of Seafood Producers 10 Fort William Place Suite 103, Baine Johnston Building St. John's, NL A1C 1K4
Client 4 Contacts	Contact: Derek Butler Phone: 1 (709) 726-3730 Fax: 1 (709) 726-3731 Email: dbutler@seafoodproducers.org

2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report contains the findings of the second surveillance audit of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Northern Shrimp Trawl Fisheries. The scope of the certification of this unit of certification is the northern shrimp trawl fishery conducted by Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland harvesters in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 8 (Esquiman). The surveillance audit was carried out in accordance with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Certification Methodology (FCM) Version 6.

An announcement of the surveillance site visit was published on the MSC website on 1st November 2010 advising stakeholders that the audit site visit would take place 9th and 10th of November (See appendix A).

The surveillance team – Jean-Claude Brêthes and Steve Devitt - met with members of the client group via teleconference and with staff from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Information and evidence was gathered on the status of the stocks, the performance of the fishery throughout the year, measures to meet the Conditions of Certification and changes in management.

Moody Marine circulated the notification of surveillance audit to known, interested stakeholder groups advising that stakeholder consultation opportunities were available during the surveillance audit visit. No stakeholder groups requested meetings with assessment team members.

The following section is set out as a table within which general information about the status of the stock and the fishery for this reporting period is provided along with the surveillance team's observations, conclusions and recommendations on the current status of the fishery and the client's progress toward meeting the Conditions of Certification.

The table includes the original assessment scoring guideposts and scoring commentary and the requirements of the original Condition alongside the heading 'Activity assessed'. This identifies the areas in which the fishery was determined to perform below the level required by the MSC standard during the initial assessment, and the required actions to address these issues.

As required by the MSC assessment methodology, the client group produced an Action Plan setting out the activities and timeline which they proposed to address the Conditions raised. This is set out in the table alongside the heading 'Client Action Plan'.

According to the terms of the Action Plan, the client has provided information on the work undertaken to date.

This progress has been evaluated by the surveillance audit team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against:

1. the commitments made in the Action Plan;
2. the intent of the original Condition; and,
3. the original scoring indicator, guideposts and commentary.

The influence of any overall regulatory and management changes in the fishery are also taken into consideration.

When the Condition has been judged to have been met, a re-evaluation of the scoring allocated to the relevant Performance Indicator(s) in the original MSC assessment will be included within the evaluation.

Item	Comments regarding <i>P. Borealis</i> stock status in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
1	Stock status
Observations	<p>The following information was extracted from the Fisheries and Oceans Science Advisory Report (2010/008), entitled “Assessment Of Shrimp Stocks In The Estuary And Gulf Of St. Lawrence In 2009”, published in March 2010. Figures referenced within the text below are those within the above document, and are not necessarily found within this report.</p> <p>Landings of northern shrimp in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence have risen gradually since the fishery began. Landings rose from approximately 1,000 tons to 7,500 tons between the early and late 1970s, and to 15,000 tons by the late 1980s. They remained mostly stable between 1990 and 1995 (Figure 1 below). The TACs increased gradually beginning in 1996, and landings totalled over 23,000 tons by the late 1990s. TACs rose again in 2000, 2001 and 2004, and landings followed, totalling over 36,000 tons in 2004. The TAC had however been lowered in the Esquiman area in 2003 in order to reduce the exploitation rate. The TACs did not change in 2005, except in Esquiman where the TAC was increased by 10%. They remained stable in 2006 and 2007. In 2008 and 2009, they were increased relative to 2007 by 2.0 and 2.3% respectively. Preliminary statistics indicate that the Gulf landings were close to 36,000 tons in 2009</p> <div data-bbox="456 951 1463 1535"> </div> <p>Figure 1: Landings and total allowable catch (TAC) by fishing area and year. 2009 landing data preliminary. (Source: DFO, 2010)</p> <p>There was no noticeable change in the distribution of fishing effort in 2009. The sectors that sustain fishing in the four areas have not changed in recent years and correspond to the spots where high concentrations of shrimp were observed during the survey (Figure 2). In 2009, the total number of fishing hours increased by 23% in Estuary and 11% in Sept-Iles but decreased by 2% in Anticosti and 8% in Esquiman.</p>

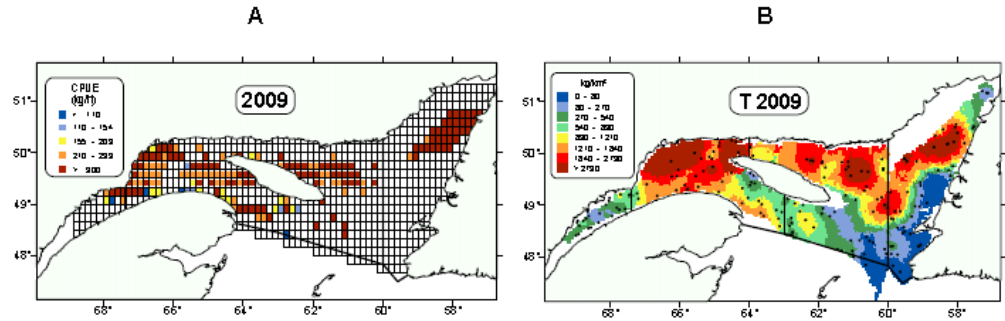


Figure 2: A) Spatial distribution of catch rates (CPUE) from the shrimp fishery in 2009. B) Spatial distribution of shrimp biomass estimated by kriging during the research survey in 2009.

The catch rate from the commercial fishery and the biomass index from the research survey are considered as good indicators of the size of the stocks. In 2009, the annual standardized catch rate from the commercial fishery was similar to that of 2008 in Sept-Iles and Anticosti, decreased in Estuary and increased in Esquiman. The catch rates are higher than the mean except in Estuary where the rate is similar. In 2009, the biomass index from the research survey was similar to that of 2008 in all areas. The biomass indices are similar to the mean in all areas.

An index of the exploitation rate is obtained by dividing the commercial catches in number by the abundance estimated from the research survey. This method cannot be used to estimate the absolute exploitation rate nor to relate it to target exploitation rates, but the method does make it possible to track relative changes in the exploitation rate over the years. The exploitation rate index increased in 2009 in Estuary and Sept-Iles but decreased in Anticosti and Esquiman (Figure 3). The index is situated close to the mean in all areas except in Estuary where the index is largely above the mean. The 2009 value represents the third highest value of the series.

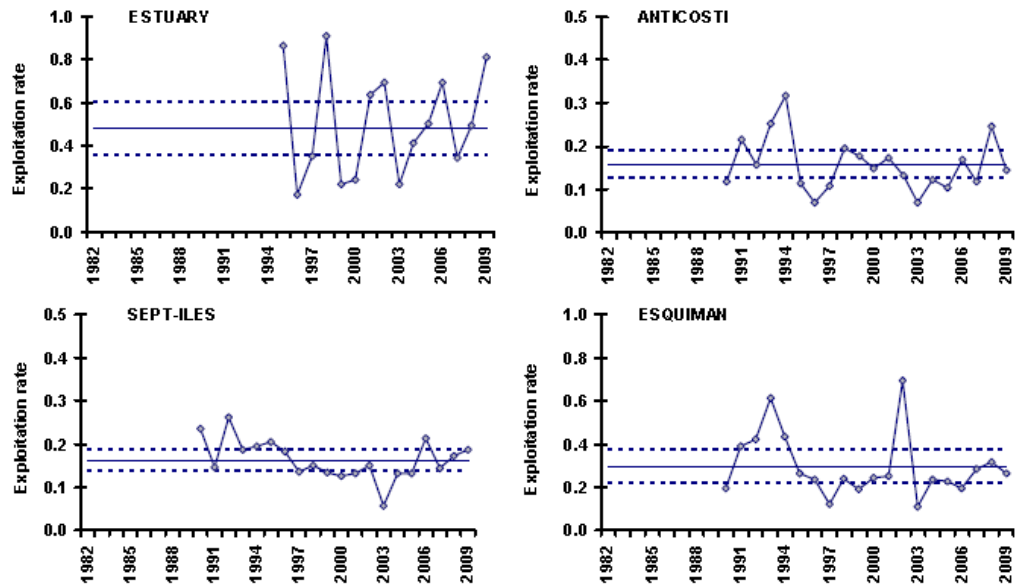


Figure 3: Indices of the exploitation rate. The full horizontal line represents the 1990-2008 mean \pm 0.5 standard deviation

The abundance of primiparous females which will recruit to the spawning stock a given year can be predicted from the abundance of males the preceding year. Similarly, the abundance of reproductive females which will hatch the larvae at spring can be predicted from the abundance of females the preceding year. The abundance indices for males and females are therefore good indicators of the quantity of females that will be available to the fishery and the reproduction the following year and constitute, when they are combined, the main indicator for the stock status.

The male and female combined indicator is calculated from the fishery data in summer (number per unit of effort for June, July and August) and from the survey data (abundance). Each index is first standardized relatively to the 1990-1999 period (annual value of the index divided by the 1990-1999 geometric mean). An index by sex is estimated by the mean calculated between the index from the fishery and the index from the survey. The combined index is obtained by calculating the mean between the indices estimated for each sex.

In 2009, the male and female combined index decreased by 37% in Estuary, 9% in Sept-Iles and 5% in Esquiman while it increased by 25% in Anticosti (Figure 4). The index was higher than the mean in all areas except in Estuary where the 2009 value decreased below the mean.

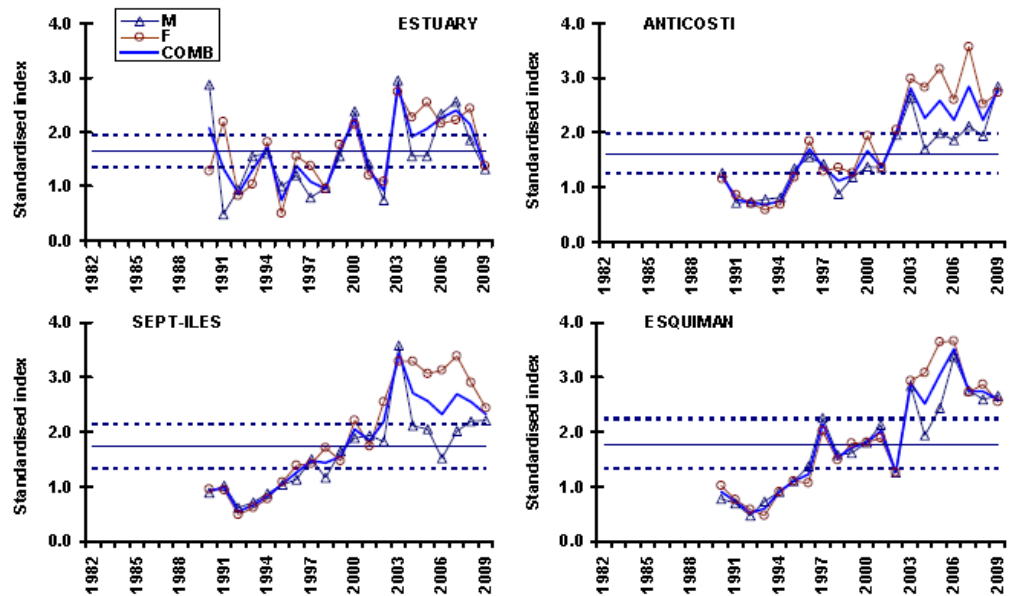


Figure 4: Standardized indices for males (M) and females (F) and, male and female combined index (COMB). The full horizontal line represents the 1990-2008 mean \pm 0.5 standard deviation.

The mean standardized index for female abundance in 2009 is compared to the provisional reference points to determine in which zone each of the four stocks is situated (Figure 5). In 2009, the indicator for the abundance of the spawning stock has maintained in the healthy zone in Sept-Iles, Anticosti and Esquiman but decreased in the cautious zone in Estuary. Between 2008 and 2009, the mean standardized index for females decreased by 43% in Estuary, 16% in Sept-Iles and 12% in Esquiman and increased by 8% in Anticosti.

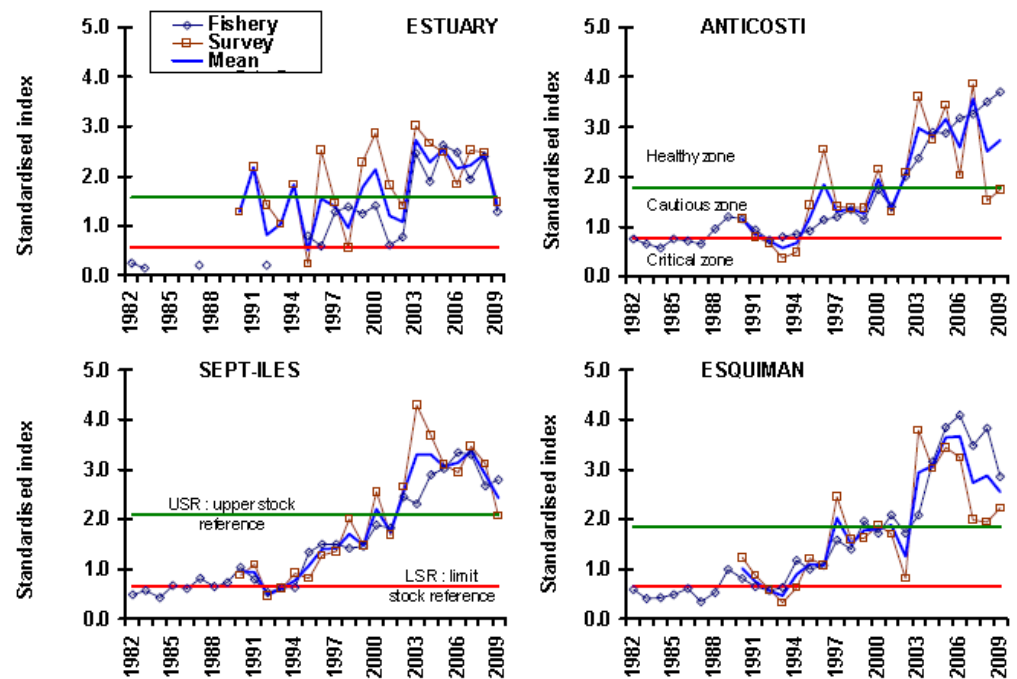


Figure 5: Standardized index for females from the fishery and from the survey and mean standardized index by fishing area and by year. The horizontal lines correspond to the provisional reference points (USR and LSR, see Sept-Iles panel) that delineate the healthy, cautious and critical zones (see Anticosti panel).

The variations in female sizes follow an east-west gradient, the smallest being observed in the Esquiman and the largest in the Estuary. In 2009, the mean size of females was similar to the mean in Estuary and Sept-Iles. The size remained below the mean in Esquiman and Anticosti and reached in 2008 or 2009, the lowest value of the series.

The 2004 year-class which dominated the male catches in Anticosti and Esquiman areas in 2007 contributed as females to the fishing success in 2009. However, a proportion of this year class had already changed sex and had been recruited to the female component already in 2008 which explains the small sizes of females observed in 2008 and 2009 in these areas.

The 2005 year class (males of about 20 mm in 2009) that should contribute to the fishery in 2010 as primiparous females seems of average abundance in all areas except in Anticosti. On the other hand, the combined index for males and females gives an indication of the quantity of females that will be available to the fishery one year later. The index decreased in 2009 in Estuary, Sept-Iles and Esquiman and increased in Anticosti. It is likely that the fishing success in 2010 reflects the variations observed in this index.

The 2006 year-class seems to be more abundant than the average in all areas in 2008 and 2009. The individuals of this year-class should contribute to the fishery as 4 year old males in 2010. They should change sex and be caught as primiparous females in 2011. These females will spawn in fall 2011 and should contribute to the spring fishing success in 2012, when the reproductive females are particularly targeted.

Item	Condition 1																		
2																			
<p>Performance Indicator 2.1.4.2</p> <p>All significant effects of the fishery on the ecosystem have been identified and quantified.</p>	<p>80 Scoring Guidepost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main effects of the fishery that are known to impact the ecosystem have been evaluated. 																		
<p>Condition</p> <p>The client must demonstrate that it can meet the 80 scoring guidepost within the 5 year certification period. Specifically, the client must define, through a Corrective Action Plan, how the main effects of the fishery which are known to impact the ecosystem will be evaluated. The assessment team would expect that this plan should consider both habitat components as well as bycatch species.</p>																			
<p>Proposed Client Action Plan</p> <p>Benthic fauna data, collected during research conducted by DFO in 2006 and 2007 as well as 2008 data, will be used to characterize the benthic fauna of the northern GSL, including the areas exploited by the shrimp fishery. Sediment sampling will be performed during research surveys in 2008, 2009 and 2010; these data will be used to characterize habitat patterns. Fishery statistics from the fishing fleet collected since 1982 by DFO will allow a description of the fishing effort distribution and identify areas where trawling impact could be more important. Statistical analysis will permit to relate the abundance and the diversity of the benthic fauna with perturbed areas and sediments types. Tasks 1, 2 and 3 of the following table will be completed by the <i>Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski</i> (ISMER). The certification clients have agreed to finance the certification conditions projects with aid from the Quebec and New Brunswick Governments.</p>																			
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="235 1169 729 1234">Project Tasks</th> <th data-bbox="729 1169 943 1234">Responsible Organization</th> <th data-bbox="943 1169 1195 1234">Personnel</th> <th data-bbox="1195 1169 1398 1234">Timeline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1234 729 1472"> 1. Finalization of the epibenthic megafauna characterization project for the northern GSL which includes environmental parameters (from data collected by DFO research in 2006, 2007). </td> <td data-bbox="729 1234 943 1472"> ISMER, Masters thesis project started in 2006 (DFO support) </td> <td data-bbox="943 1234 1195 1472"> ISMER Masters Student </td> <td data-bbox="1195 1234 1398 1472"> Results available in 2009. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1472 729 1843"> 2. Continuation of the project by integration of new data: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> on epibenthic fauna in 2008, on sediments in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Researchers from ISMER will be tasked to collect samples, identify benthic organisms and to perform sediment granulometry </td> <td data-bbox="729 1472 943 1843"> ISMER with DFO (IML) support </td> <td data-bbox="943 1472 1195 1843"> ISMER employees: 1 Masters student and 1 summer student, who will participate to DFO surveys and will collect samples. </td> <td data-bbox="1195 1472 1398 1843"> Work in 2008,2009 and completed throughout 2010 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1843 729 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="729 1843 943 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="943 1843 1195 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="1195 1843 1398 1904"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Project Tasks	Responsible Organization	Personnel	Timeline	1. Finalization of the epibenthic megafauna characterization project for the northern GSL which includes environmental parameters (from data collected by DFO research in 2006, 2007).	ISMER, Masters thesis project started in 2006 (DFO support)	ISMER Masters Student	Results available in 2009.	2. Continuation of the project by integration of new data: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> on epibenthic fauna in 2008, on sediments in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Researchers from ISMER will be tasked to collect samples, identify benthic organisms and to perform sediment granulometry	ISMER with DFO (IML) support	ISMER employees: 1 Masters student and 1 summer student, who will participate to DFO surveys and will collect samples.	Work in 2008,2009 and completed throughout 2010				
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3. Evaluation of shrimp fishery impact on benthic fauna and its habitat. To be completed using the benthic fauna and habitat characterization work (tasks 1 and 2) and shrimp fishery statistics.	ISMER with DFO (IML) support.	Biologist contract by ISMER for 28 weeks	Contract work in 2009 and 2010
4. Inventory survey of Gulf shrimp fleet to fully characterize the nature of all fishing trawls used. Based on this information, expected trawl impacts will be hypothesized and results will be integrated into Task 3.	Quebec and NB clients	Consultant or contractor	Work in 2009

Activity Completed in Previous Surveillance Cycles

- Samples collected during research surveys conducted by DFO in 2006 and 2007 will be used to characterize the benthic fauna of the northern GSL.
 - *Objective attained. Data collected during the 2006 and 2007 research surveys were analyzed and were published in a M.Sc. thesis in oceanography by Ms. Mélanie Lévesque in April 2009. Reference as follows: Lévesque, Mélanie. Avril 2009. Caractérisation de la macrofaune benthique de l'estuaire et du nord du golfe du Saint-Laurent (Québec, Canada) en relation avec les paramètres environnementaux : analyses multivariées et approche géostatistique. Mémoire de maîtrise en océanographie, Université du Québec à Rimouski, 107 p.*
- Continuation of the project of characterization of the benthic fauna of the northern GSL.
 - Benthic fauna data will be collected during research surveys conducted by DFO in 2008 data to complete the characterization of the northern GSL.
Objective partially completed. Samples were collected during part of the 2008 research survey and throughout the entire survey in August 2009. Collected organisms to be identified and data archived over the course of the winter, prior to end of March 2010. Responsible person: P. Archambault, ISMER.
 - Sediment sampling will be performed during research surveys in 2008, 2009 and 2010; these data will be used to characterize habitat patterns.
Objective modified. It was not possible to sample sediments during the 2008 and 2009 research cruises. However, a research team from DFO at MLI worked on characterising the benthic environment of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence using previously collected or published data. Close to 20 variables including depth, temperature, salinity and sediment type were analyzed using a 10 x 10 km grid and form the basis to describe the benthic environment at a megahabitat scale. Responsible person: J.-D. Dutil, DFO.
- Inventory survey of Gulf shrimp fleet to fully characterize the nature of all fishing trawls used. Based on this information, expected trawl impacts will be hypothesized and results will be integrated into the next task.
 - *Objective modified. After further consideration, it was decided that it will not be necessary to conduct a full inventory of the types of trawl gear used by the fleet in order to describe the potential impact on the shrimp fishing habitat. A description of the typical shrimp fishing trawl equipment in the Gulf (doors and foot gear) and gear variations that might have impacts*

on the ocean bottom and benthic organisms will be the subject of a report completed by a specialized group to be identified.

- *This report will be included in a report identifying trawling impacts in the Gulf. Responsible person: L. Savard, DFO*
- Statistical analysis will permit to relate the abundance and the diversity of the benthic fauna with perturbed areas and sediments types.
 - *Objective to be completed in 2010-2011. Trawling impacts to be determined by superimposing the three layers of information, habitat, benthic fauna and fishing effort. Responsible person: P. Archambault, ISMER.*
- Statistical analysis will allow a description of the importance of by-catch.
 - *New objective established in 2010-2011. Importance of bycatch (in weight and numbers of individuals) will be evaluated and compared with the abundance and stock health of the primary species of fish which constitute the bycatch of the shrimp fishery. Responsible person: L. Savard, DFO*

Activity Completed in Current Surveillance Cycle

- Continuation of the project of characterization of the benthic fauna of the northern GSL.
 - Benthic fauna data will be collected during research surveys conducted by DFO in 2008 data to complete the characterization of the northern GSL.
Objective completed. Benthic fauna samples collected in 2008 have been sorted and identified. Data has been prepared for use in future modeling work to identify potential impacts.
 - Characterization of the benthic environment including habitat identification.
Objective completed. In 2010, a research team from DFO at MLI completed characterising the benthic environment of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence using previously collected or published data. Close to 20 variables including depth, temperature, salinity and sediment type were analyzed and mapped using a 10 x 10 km grid and form the basis to describe the benthic environment at a megahabitat scale. The final results are presented in: Dutil, J.-D., Proulx, S., Chouinard, P.-M., and Borcard, D. 2011. A hierarchical classification of the seabed based on physiographic and oceanographic features in the St. Lawrence. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2916: vii + 72 p.
- Statistical analysis will permit to relate the abundance and the diversity of the benthic fauna with perturbed areas and sediments types.
 - *Objective continuing. In 2010, a contract was issued to ISMER (P. Archambault) to begin analyzing impacts of trawling. Trawling impacts to be determined by superimposing the three layers of information, habitat, benthic fauna and fishing effort. Results are expected in late 2011.*
- Statistical analysis will allow a description of the importance of by-catch.
 - *New objective continued. Importance of bycatch (in weight and numbers of individuals) will be evaluated and compared with the abundance and stock health of the primary species of fish which constitute the bycatch of the shrimp fishery. Responsible person: L. Savard, DFO*

Activity Evaluation (Milestone deliverables, timeline, results)

The assessment team has been provided evidence that work continues to attain the required results defined in the client action plan in response to the prescribed certification conditions.

The assessment team concludes that the milestone associated with the second annual surveillance audit has been met.

Status of Condition

First Surveillance Audit

The surveillance audit concludes that the intent of the deliverable has been met at the time of the audit. Ongoing progress on this condition will be evaluated in 2010.

Second Surveillance Audit

The surveillance audit concludes that while work continues on the client action plan, task #3, evaluation of the impact on benthic fauna and habitat, has been delayed by a number of months. As the Certification body of record, Moody Marine reminds the clients that work on this task must be completed in time to allow subsequent conditions (PI 2.1.4.3 and PI 2.1.4.4) to be met prior to the five year period of the certification. Ongoing progress on this condition will be evaluated in 2011.

Item	Condition 2	
3		
<p>Performance Indicator 2.1.4.3</p> <p>Management objectives are set in terms of impact identification and avoidance/reduction.</p>	<p>80 Scoring Guidepost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management objectives are set to detect and avoid/reduce adverse impacts on key ecosystem components. Avoidance/reduction measures have been defined and implemented and their effectiveness is being evaluated. • These measures have demonstrated effective avoidance/ reduction in similar fisheries. 	
<p>Condition</p> <p>The client must present a corrective action plan which will define how the 80 scoring guidepost will be met within the certificate period of five years. The client should provide a work plan, timeline and milestone deliverables which will result in characterization of adverse impacts on key ecosystem components including habitat. Avoidance/reduction measures must be defined and implemented and their effectiveness evaluated.</p> <p>The assessment team’s opinion is that the requirements of this performance indicator can be met within the workplan to be established for performance indicators 2.1.4.2 and 2.1.4.4.</p>		
<p>Proposed Client Action Plan</p> <p>The proposed action plan for 2.1.4.4 will address the required performance improvements for this indicator.</p>		

<p>Activity Completed in Previous Surveillance Cycle</p> <p>Ongoing work in relation to the condition set for performance indicator 2.1.4.2 is on schedule and will be necessary in order to complete the client action plan for performance indicator 2.1.4.4.</p>
<p>Activity Completed in Current Surveillance Cycle</p> <p>Ongoing work in relation to the condition set for performance indicator 2.1.4.2 is slightly behind schedule. However, it will be necessary to complete the tasks associated with PI 2.1.4.2 in order to complete the client action plan for performance indicators 2.1.4.3 and 2.1.4.4.</p>
<p>Activity Evaluation (Milestone deliverables, timeline, results)</p> <p>The activities for PI 2.1.4.2 are deemed slightly behind schedule but task 3 is expected to be completed in 2011.</p>
<p>Status of Condition</p> <p>First Surveillance Audit</p> <p>No result was set for this condition for the first surveillance audit.</p> <p>Second Surveillance Audit</p> <p>No result was set for this condition for the second surveillance audit.</p>

Item	Condition 3	
4		
Performance Indicator 2.1.4.4	80 Scoring Guidepost	
Acceptable impacts are determined and reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable impacts for all key non target species and habitats have been determined and are reviewed periodically. 	
Condition		
The client must present a corrective action plan which will define how the 80 scoring guidepost will be met within the certificate period of five years. The client should provide a work plan, timeline and milestone deliverables which will result in identification of all key non target species and habitats impacted by the shrimp fishery and then indicate acceptable impact and the process by which impacts will be periodically reviewed.		
Proposed Client Action Plan		
Shrimp fishery impacts in the GSL will be the focus of a peer review during a scientific workshop conducted by the <i>Centre des Avis Scientifiques</i> MPO-Quebec Region. The fishery impact on benthic communities and habitat, as well as on non-targeted fish species that are caught, will be determined for		

each fishing area. For each area, different characteristics of fishing, habitat, benthic invertebrates and fishes will be considered. Possible negative impacts will be determined and proposals will be made to reduce these impacts. The DFO Quebec Region will organize the workshop. The Quebec and New Brunswick fishery certification clients have agreed to finance this workshop with aid of Quebec and New Brunswick.

Project Task	Responsible Organization	Personnel	Timeline
1. Convene a workshop to evaluate acceptable fishery impacts	Centre des avis scientifiques-MPO(IML)	External and Quebec based scientists, including ISMER.	2011 (or 2010 if the different tasks described above are finalised)
2. Identify and implement necessary avoidance/ reduction measures for identified adverse impacts on key ecosystem components.			

Activity Completed in Previous Surveillance Cycle

Ongoing work in relation to the condition set for performance indicator 2.1.4.2 is on schedule and will be necessary in order to complete the client action plan for performance indicator 2.1.4.4.

Activity Completed in Current Surveillance Cycle

Ongoing work in relation to the condition set for performance indicator 2.1.4.2 is slightly behind schedule. However, it will be necessary to complete the tasks associated with PI 2.1.4.2 in order to complete the client action plan for performance indicators 2.1.4.3 and 2.1.4.4.

Activity Evaluation (Milestone deliverables, timeline, results)

The activities for PI 2.1.4.2 are deemed slightly behind schedule but task 3 is expected to be completed in 2011. Client actions for PI 2.1.4.4 are planned for fall of 2011.

Status of Condition

First Surveillance Audit

No result was set for this condition for the first surveillance audit.

Second Surveillance Audit

No result was set for this condition for the second surveillance audit.

Item	Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned
6	No complaints that would potentially compromise the certification were reported or brought to the attention of the audit team during the site visit.

Item	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.
7	There were no significant changes to legislation or regulation of the GSL shrimp fisheries during the past year. The fishery continues to operate under the measures published in 2010 (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisions/fm-2010-gp/atl-031-eng.htm).

Item	Any relevant changes to management regime.
8	A new Integrate Fishery Management Plan is expected to be completed in 2011. No other changes to the management regime were identified.

Item	Any other relevant changes.
9	<p>The 2010 surveillance audit team was informed of a number of forthcoming, important changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stock assessment model is under development. It is expected that the model will be used to define reference points for the Gulf shrimp stocks. • In 2011, DFO will prepare, with participation from industry, a position paper on application of the Precautionary Approach for northern shrimp in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The document is expected to identify examples of operational decision models, based on reference points and will also identify possible measures to be implemented should stocks decline. • After concerns were raised in regards to the percentage of at-sea observer coverage in SFA 8 (Esquiman) in 2009, DFO confirmed that the coverage for the 2010 season was 5% through all four shrimp fishing zones.

Item	Overall Conclusions regarding <i>P. borealis</i> in Gulf of St. Lawrence waters
10	<p>The Gulf shrimp resource remains healthy in shrimp fishing area 8, the TAC for these areas remained unchanged for the 2010 season.</p> <p>No other changes in management have taken place that would detrimentally affect the performance of this fishery against the MSC standard. The fishery continues to make progress in meeting the prescribed conditions and requirements of the MSC Standard.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue with audits annually.</p>

Information Sources:**Meetings**

Meetings and conference calls were conducted with DFO personnel and client members on November 9th, 2010 at the IML facility in Mont Joli, Quebec. Additional information was provided after the site visit by DFO Resource Management Staff after request by the surveillance audit team.

Interviewees included.

Cédric Arseneau, DFO
Daniel Boisvert, DFO
Bernard Morin, DFO
Louise Savard, DFO

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