

MSC Re-Assessment of the New Zealand Hoki Fishery

We are pleased to announce that the MSC fishery certification re-assessment is underway for the New Zealand Hoki Fishery. This assessment will follow the same procedure as for a main assessment and will evaluate this fishery for compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria for a Well-Managed and Sustainable Fishery. The certification body contracted to assess this fishery is SGS New Zealand Ltd.

The fishery under assessment is defined here as the mid-water and bottom trawl fishery for New Zealand hoki (*Macruronus novaezelandiae*) in the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters under the management of the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries. The client for the assessment is the Hoki Fishery Management Company (HFMC).

The current certificate is due to expire in March 2006 and the provisional assessment schedule sets out the key stages and approximate timings involved. Initially, SGS seeks to open a dialogue with all organisations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery. Anyone wishing to become a consultee 'stakeholder', to nominate other organisations/individuals as stakeholders or to provide comments or information to the assessment process (in terms of the status of the stock, ecosystem interactions or fishery management practices) is invited to contact SGS at the address shown below.

SGS is assembling a highly experienced team of auditors and technical specialists to assess the fishery. Proposed team members for this fishery assessment are set out below, together with a brief description of their background. A highly experienced stock assessor will also be included in the team. The local coordinating Assessor from SGS New Zealand will be Dr John Bryden and the teamleader will be Aldin Hilbrands from SGS The Netherlands.

Stakeholders are invited to comment on the proposed membership of the Assessment Team by contacting SGS at the address shown below. SGS expects to appoint an expert stock assessor to the Team by May 2005.

Nominated Assessment Team Members

Aldin Hilbrands (M.Sc.) (Team Leader)

Aldin is a member of the SGS Audit team for the existing certification of the Hoki fishery. He is the MSC Programme Manager with SGS Netherlands and has been involved in the MSC Programme since its inception in March 2000. He is responsible for the managing the MSC accreditation for SGS worldwide and also responsible for managing the programme on an operational basis. He has been involved in MSC fisheries pre-assessments and main assessments such as Thames herring (UK) and New Zealand Hoki and conducted numerous MSC Chain of Custody audits.

Aldin holds a Master of Science in Aquaculture and Fisheries Management and has gained professional experience in the seafood industry since 1996 as a management systems and ecolabelling consultant. Since 2000, he has been with SGS and specialised in seafood auditing. At this moment he holds the corporate position of Global Food Technical Sales Manager for the CTS line of business within SGS being responsible for international food sales.

Dr. John Bryden (Assistant Team Leader)

John has been a Senior Auditor with SGS for 10 years conducting quality, and environmental management system audits to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, plus HACCP audits covering a wide range of industry sectors. He holds a Ph.D and M.Agr.Sc. He has worked in New Zealand as well as being seconded to SGS China for two years and SGS India for a period of five years.

John provides the necessary skills on auditing methodology and reporting into the Audit team.

With SGS Netherlands being the issuing office of the MSC certification, John will provide the necessary link in New Zealand between SGS, HFMC and the locally consulted organisations.

Dr. Trevor Ward (Technical Specialist Fishery Ecosystem Impacts)

Trevor is a member of the SGS Audit team for the existing certification of the Hoki fishery. Trevor is one of the most experienced expert auditors for MSC environmental impacts and is currently involved with MSC assessment and surveillance audits of three other fisheries. Trevor also has provided pre-assessments and advisory services to a range of Northern and Southern hemisphere fisheries contemplating seeking certification by the MSC program, and advice to the MSC.

He brings a strong scientific background in the impacts of fishing in marine environments, the design of marine performance assessment systems, together with a history of successful global consulting with many different government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector in policy and planning for sustainable fisheries and management of marine biodiversity. Trevor's science expertise involves management of the impacts of fishing, design and management of marine protected areas, impacts of pollution in marine ecosystems, and planning and policy guidance for sustainable fisheries.

He is Principal of Greenward Consulting, Perth, Western Australia, and holds adjunct appointments in the School of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Western Australia, Perth, WA (Senior Research Fellow), and in the Faculty of Science at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore, Qld (Associate Professor). He has published more than 120 papers, book chapters and articles in the technical marine literature, and is an acknowledged international expert in the assessment and management of sustainable fisheries. In 1996, he was awarded the CSIRO Chairman's Medal, CSIRO's peak award for excellence in science.

Jo Akroyd (Technical Specialist Fisheries Management)

Jo is a member of the SGS Audit team for the existing certification of the Hoki fishery. Jo is highly experienced with the fisheries management systems in New Zealand and has a strong background in scientific research involving fisheries and natural resource management. She also has a background in Quality Management.

Jo has worked in New Zealand fisheries management area for 30 years. She was a scientist and Senior Manager in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for 20 years before starting her own fisheries consultancy.

Jo was actively involved in the development of the Quota Management System and has an excellent understanding of the scientific, cultural and environmental issues surrounding the management of the NZ fisheries. She is highly regarded by key sectors and stakeholders in the fishery.

In the last 10 years Jo she has carried out fisheries research primarily for Government Departments, marine resource uses and tertiary education bodies as well as the private sector, in New Zealand, the Pacific and Asia.

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