

MSC Assessment Bristol Channel Sea Bass Trawl Fishery

We are pleased to announce that the MSC fishery certification assessment is underway for the **Bristol Channel Sea Bass Trawl Fishery**. This assessment will evaluate this fishery for compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. The certification body contracted to assess this fishery is Moody Marine.

The fishery under assessment is defined here as the fishery for bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax* L.) using otter trawls in ICES area VIII_f east of a line of longitude at 5°30'W, an area known as the Bristol Channel. The client for the assessment is the **North Devon Fishermen's Association**.

The provisional assessment schedule sets out the key stages and approximate timings involved. Initially, Moody Marine 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 Moody Marine. The assessment schedule identifies future key consultation stages (marked in red). For reference, month 1 is taken to be June 2009. The target date for certification of the fishery is **1st April 2010**.

We are also in the process of assembling an assessment team of individuals with experience of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management appropriate to this fishery. Any nominations of suitable individuals are also welcomed.

The Contact details for Moody Marine are:

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19th June 2009

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