

Bristol Channel Bass Trawl Fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Certification

Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts

We are now entering the next stage of the assessment of this fishery against MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The assessment team propose to use the default assessment tree contained within the MSC Fishery Assessment Methodology version 1 (FAM v2) in the independent evaluation of this Fishery.

Further information regarding the FAM can be found at <http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/fam>. The complete FAM and guidance will be provided on request.

In addition, we intend to consider some elements of the assessment under the MSC's Risk-Based assessment Framework (RBF). The performance indicators which may be assessed using the RBF are listed below, along with a justification for the use of the RBF in each instance. Information on the RBF can be found on the MSC website.

1.1.1 – Stock Status

There is limited information available about the absolute size of the stock, although the age structure and trends in population abundance are known. There are no clearly defined reference points for the stock. It is therefore appropriate to assess this PI using the RBF

2.1.1 – Retained Species

Data are available to describe the species retained in the fishery, but the status of populations of all retained species may not all be fully determined. The RBF may enable this aspect of the fishery to be most appropriately assessed

2.2.1 – Bycatch (discarded) species

Data are available to describe the species discarded from the fishery, but the status of populations of all discarded species may not all be fully determined. The RBF may enable this aspect of the fishery to be most appropriately assessed.

2.4.1 – Habitats

Generic information is available to describe the effect of the fishing method on benthic habitats, and some data are also available to describe the broad distribution of these habitats relative to fishing grounds. The RBF may enable the assessment team to most appropriately determine the relationship between the fishery and benthic habitats affected by it.

2.5.1 – Ecosystems

Generic information is available to describe the effect of the fishing method on ecosystems. The RBF may enable the assessment team to most appropriately determine the relationship between the fishery and ecosystems affected by it.

We welcome any comments on the Fishery Assessment Methodology that we propose to use in relation to this fishery and our intent to apply the RBF. All comments should be sent to Moody Marine using the contact details shown below. Comments should be made as specific as possible to individual performance indicators and scoring guideposts, and their suitability or not for use in assessing this fishery.

Your comments are welcomed, in the first instance, up until 1700 GMT on 30th December 2009. We would, of course, be available to discuss these during any future meetings.

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>. As a certification body, Moody Marine Ltd has dispute resolution procedures available should these prove necessary.

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