



**Surveillance Report
Hastings Fleet Dover Sole Fishery (all gears)**

Certificate No.: **MML-F-008 (trammel net)**
MML-F-010a (trawl)
MML-F-010b (gill-net)

Intertek Moody Marine
June 2011

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Scope against which the surveillance is undertaken: MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as applied to the Hastings Fleet Dover Sole Fishery (trammel-net, trawl and gill-net)

Species: Dover sole *Solea solea*

Area: Within the Eastern English Channel (ICES Division VIIId) and specifically between Beachy Head and Dungeness and offshore to the six mile limit

Method of capture: Trammel-net, trawl and gill-net (three Units of Certification)

Date of Surveillance Visit:	19/20 May 2011			
Initial Certification	Date: 16 Sept 2005		Certificate Ref: MML-F-008	
	7 July 2009		MML-F-010a	
	7 July 2009		MML-F-010b	
Surveillance stage	1st	2 nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: A Hough Assessor(s): J Nichols, J Andrews			
Company Name: Address:	Hastings Fishery Management Group The Fishmarket Rock-a-Nore Road Hastings, East Sussex, UK.			
Contact 1	Joy Collins			
Tel No: Fax No: E-mail address:				

2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Three Dover sole fisheries (units of Certification) are certified within the Hastings Fleet; trammel net (certified 2005), trawl and gill-net (certified 2009). It is now the intention of Intertek Moody Marine to bring these onto a common timeframe. Accordingly, all are being audited during this same surveillance audit, and all will be re-certified in 2011. To proceed with the re-assessment, conditions relating to the Trammel-Net fishery should be closed and conditions relating to trawl and gill-net fisheries should be on-target.

This report contains the findings of the 2011 surveillance cycle in relation to these fisheries.

These audits have two principal functions:

1. To review any changes in the management of the fishery, including regulations, key management or scientific staff, or stock evaluation
2. To evaluate the progress of the fishery against any Conditions of Certification raised during the Main Assessment

The client's response to the Conditions of Certification was set out in an Action Plan. For each condition, the report sets out progress to date. This progress has now been evaluated by the Moody Marine assessment team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against the commitments made in the Action Plan. This assessment includes a re-evaluation of the scoring allocated to the relevant Performance Indicators in the original MSC assessment. Where the requirements of a condition are met, the Performance Indicators are re-scored and if the score is 80 or more, then the condition is closed.

Information regarding this years audit has been collected from meetings with HFMG and Sussex IFCA, together with stock assessment information from ICES.

Item	Comments
1	Stock status

Since the last surveillance audit in 2010 the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has remained stable and is currently well above the precautionary biomass level (Bpa) of 8,000t. It has been fluctuating around a mean of 10,000t since 1982 and remained above Bpa since 2002. In the last assessment, carried out in June 2010, (ICES, 2010a) the SSB at spawning time was 11,595t. This had declined slightly from the SSB of 13,210t in the previous year, which was the highest value in the time series dating back to 1982 (Figure 1). There is currently a less than 10% probability that the SSB will fall below Bpa in the short term because of the current run of strong year classes (see recruitment below). Spawning biomass is based on fish 3 years old and above with the assessment based on 'knife edged' maturity at age 3 (ICES, 2010a)

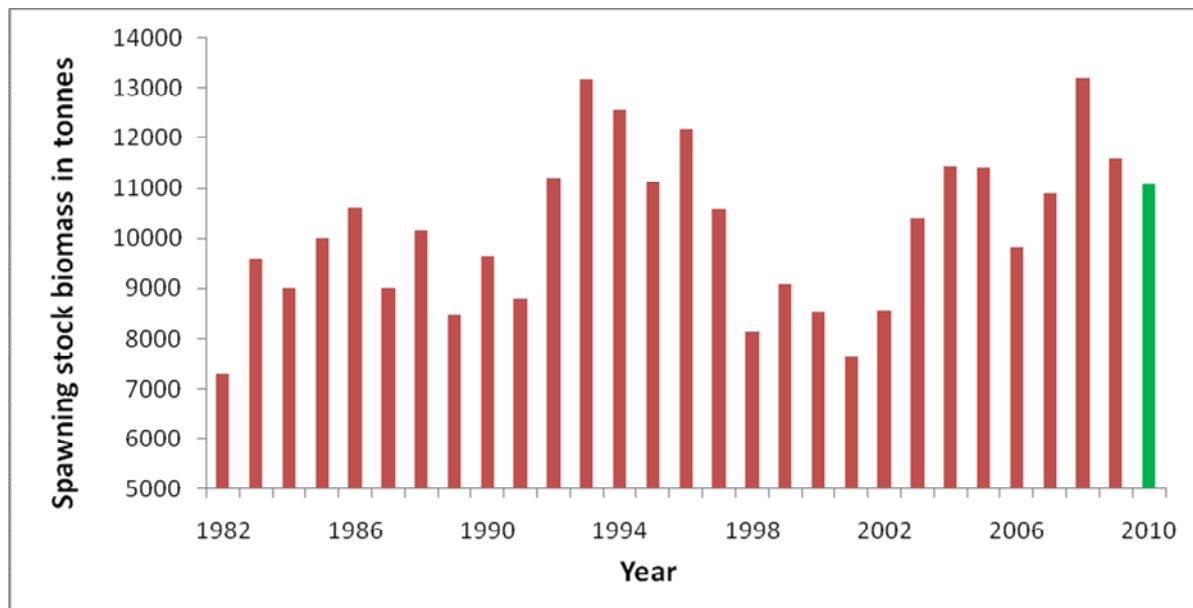


Figure 1. Spawning stock biomass, in tonnes, of the common sole in ICES Division VIIId over the period 1982 to 2009. The figure for 2010 is the predicted value from the assessment.

Recruitment, measured at age 1 year, over the most recent time series dating back to 1982 is shown in Figure 2. There has been a fourfold fluctuation in annual recruitment over that time period from the lowest value of 11,000 one year old recruits in 1987 to 47,000 recruits in 2002. The strong year classes of 2004 and 2005 have made a major contribution to raising the SSB to the current high level. This should be maintained in the immediate future with the potentially very strong 2008 year class currently predicted to be the highest in the time series (ICES, 2010a).

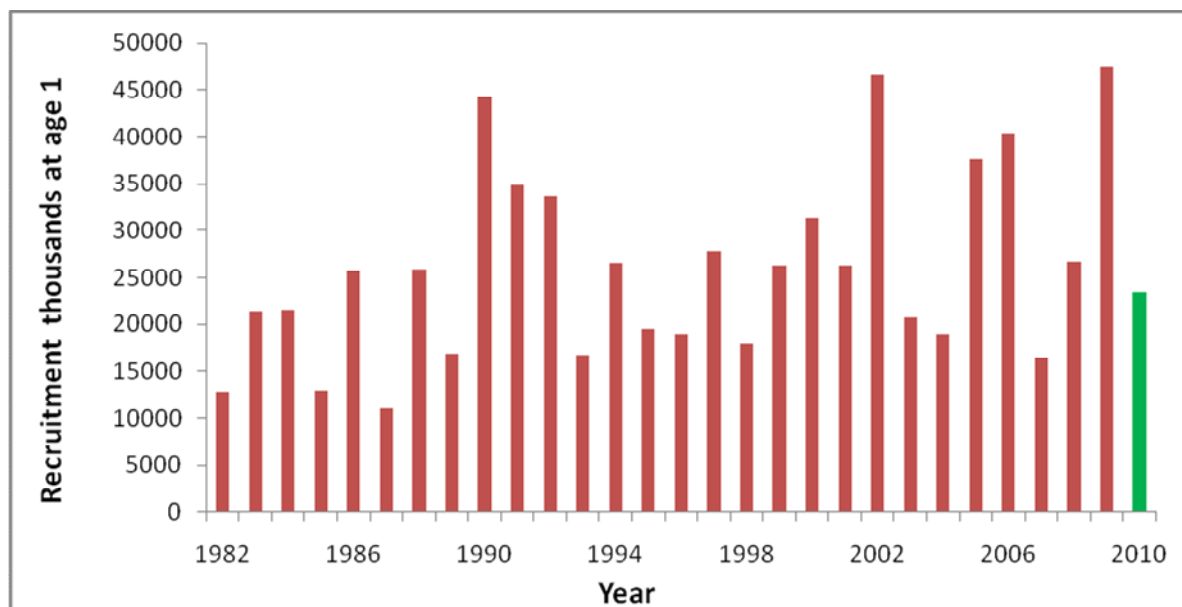


Figure 2. Annual recruitment of the common sole in ICES Division VIIId, as thousands of 1 year old fish over the time period 1982 to 2009. The value for 2010 (2009 year class) is the geometric mean of the values from 1982 to 2007.

Landings

Annual landings over the past five years have remained very stable fluctuating between 4,383t in 2005 to 5,166t in 2007. Landings in 2009 were 4,969t. Figure 3 shows the historic pattern of landings dating back to 1982 with the lowest value in that time series of 3,190t in 1982. Because of the well documented problem of area misreporting of common sole in the English Channel the

ICES assessment Working Group adjusts the official landings data to take account of sole caught in adjacent areas and misreported into Division VIIId.

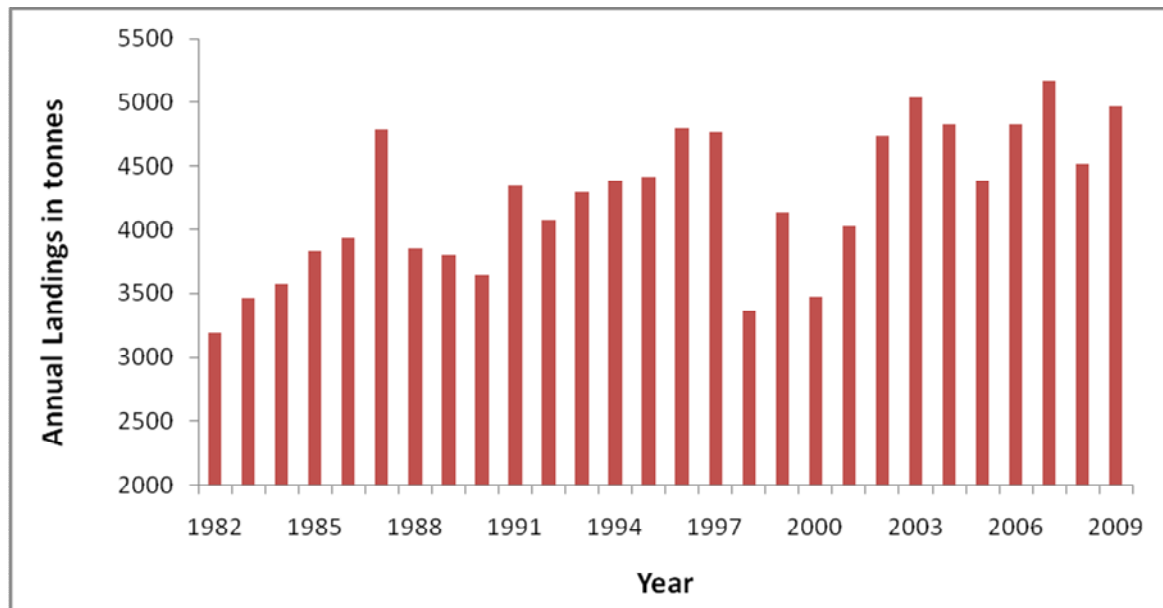


Figure 3. Annual landings, in tonnes, of common sole from ICES Division VIIId over the period 1982 to 2009.

The performance of the fishery, since it was regulated by an area TAC in 1987, is shown in Figure 4. Since the TAC was first set landings have generally been below it with the exception of 1987 and a short period between 1991 and 1996. The TACs in 2008 and 2009 were 6,593t and 5,274t against landings of 4,517t and 4,969t respectively (ICES, 2010a). For the third successive year neither France, Belgium nor the UK (E&W) have taken all their quota allocation.

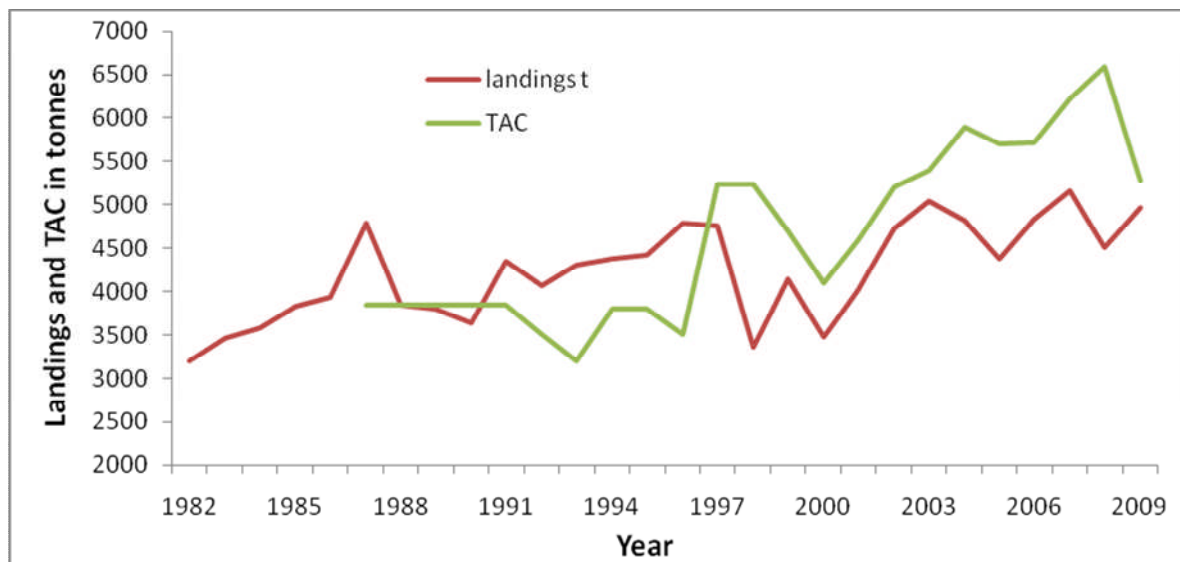


Figure 4. Annual landings in tonnes vs the annual TAC for the common sole in ICES Division VIIId over the period 1987 to 2009.

Fishing mortality

Fishing mortality is based on the calculated mortality over the age range 3 to 8 years. The precautionary approach level for fishing mortality F_{pa} is currently set at $F_{0.4}$ with the maximum, or limit level F_{lim} set at $F_{0.55}$. Figure 5 shows the annual fishing mortality over the period 1982 to 2009 and the mean F over the same period. Fishing mortality has fluctuated about the mean

(F0.43) but has been generally above the precautionary level in most years. In 1987 and 1989 it was above Flim. Between 2001 and 2005 fishing mortality remained below Fpa but it has subsequently increased and in 2009 was F 0.51 which is the highest recorded since 1999 (ICES, 2010a).

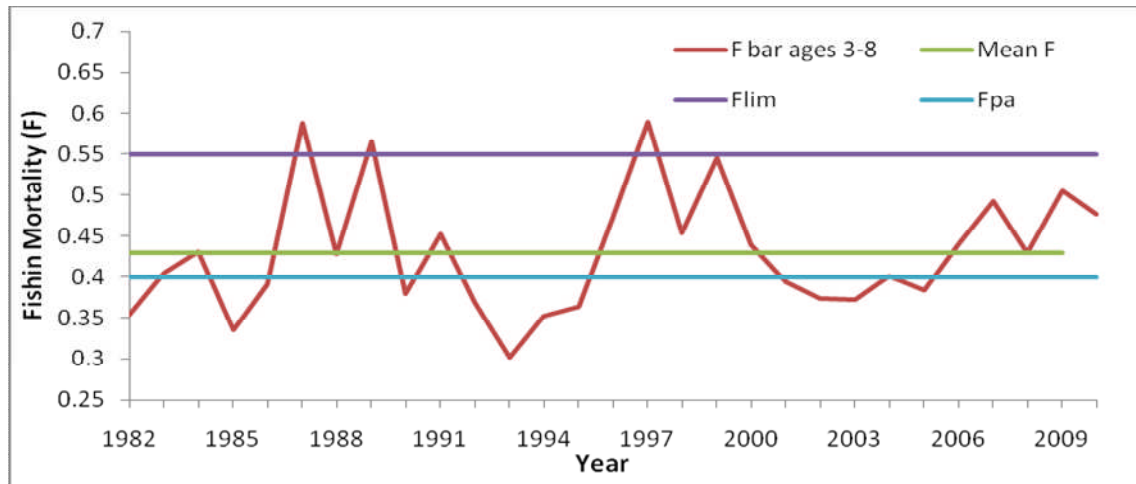


Figure 5. Annual fishing mortality (F ages 3-8) of the common sole In ICES Division VIIId over the period 1982 to 2009 also showing the mean value over that period and Flim and Fpa.

Management issues.

There are no explicit management objectives set for this stock. Management is by technical measures plus an annual TAC. The technical measures currently in force are:

- Minimum mesh size of 80mm for beam and otter trawls. For static gear the minimum mesh size is 120mm with the exception of trammel nets which are permitted to use a 100mm mesh and static gear targeted at red mullet and sea bass which are permitted to use 90mm mesh.
- The minimum landing size for common sole is 24cm (total length).
- Technical measures relating to effort control in the form of restrictions on KW/days are also in force as defined in various European Council regulations (ICES, 2010).

The 80mm mesh size in use in the beam and otter trawl fisheries is incompatible with the mixed fishery which also catches plaice. As a consequence large numbers of undersized plaice are discarded. ICES notes that measures to reduce discarding would greatly benefit the plaice fishery (ICES, 2010b). In particular they mention the potential benefits of an increase in mesh size and an increase in the minimum landing size for sole.

ICES Advice for the fishery.

The advice in 2009 for the fishery in 2010 was based on the precautionary approach reference points (ICES, 2009). The advice in 2010 for the fishery in 2011 also takes into account new guidelines on the transition towards advice based on maximum sustainable yield (MSY). This in effect leaves the recommended TAC based on the precautionary approach fishing mortality Fpa. A suite of other options for the short term management of the stock are also detailed in the advice.

In both the 2009 and 2010 advice ICES considered the stock to have full reproductive capacity but to be at risk of being harvested unsustainably (because of the fishing mortality level). This statement is based on classification of the stock in terms of the EU Policy paper on fisheries management, 17/05/10 COM (2010) 241 where it is classified as category 3 which would result in a lower TAC than under the ICES precautionary approach principle.

The reference points in place for this stock are:

	Type	Value
MSY approach	MSY biomass trigger	8,000t
	MSY fishing mortality	F 0.29
Precautionary approach	Blim	Not defined
	Bpa	8,000t
	Flim	F 0.55
	Fpa	F 0.4

The advice for the 2009 fishery (ICES, 2008) was for fishing mortality <Fpa which corresponded to landings of 4,350t. The agreed TAC for 2009 was 5,274t and the eventual landings were 4,969t.

The advice for the fishery in 2010 (ICES, 2009) was again based on a fishing mortality no greater than Fpa which corresponded to landings of 3,190t. The agreed TAC for 2010 was 4,219t and the UK share was 811t.

The eventual agreed TAC for the 2011 fishery was 4,852t which is very close to the precautionary approach advice and the transition to MSY targets. The advice was based on the MSY fishing mortality transition, of F0.4 giving a total landings of 4840t in 2011 leading to an expected SSB of 12,900t at spawning time in 2012. The UK (E&W) share of the TAC in 2011 is 933t.

In terms of Maximum Sustainable yield targets the spawning stock biomass has been well above the current MSY approach trigger level of 8,000t for the whole of the time series dating back to 1983 with the exception of 2001 when it was 7,634t. Since 2003 the SSB has been fluctuating well above that trigger level ranging from 9822t in 2006 to 13,210t in 2008.

The TAC for 2011 is now firmly based on the MSY fishing mortality transition target of F0.4. This, together with the current SSB levels, clearly shows that management of the fishery is moving satisfactorily to an MSY based approach.

The ICES Working Group assessment of the current status of the stock based on the catches in 2010 will be carried out in June 2011. The resultant ICES advice on the TAC for the 2012 fishery is expected in October 2011.

Conclusion	Stock status is assessed as being stable, with good recent recruitment and spawning stock biomass above the precautionary (Bpa) and MSY approach biomass trigger level of 8000t. The TAC is now based on the MSY fishing mortality transition target of F0.4. Catches have been below the TAC in recent years.
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Conditions: Trawl Fishery

Item	Comments
2	Condition 1. Recording of by-catches and discarding
Activity assessed	<p>Action required: The assessment team noted that there was limited accurate or verifiable information available on bycatch and discard levels from the fishery, though all indications are that these are presently low. It is important that accurate reporting of all catches (including by-catch), discards and landings take place to the relevant scientific agency, so as to allow their significance to be determined - in this case with CEFAS.</p> <p>Accordingly, the data requirements of the relevant scientific agency (CEFAS) should be determined and these requirements should be met from within the fishery. Should these detect any unexpected levels of by-catch or discarding, then appropriate management actions should be determined.</p> <p>Timescale: Contact with CEFAS should be initiated within three months of certification and data collection underway within 3 months of specification by CEFAS. Any necessary management actions should be implemented over appropriate timescales (as determined with science and management bodies and implemented during the current certification). This would then be an ongoing condition of certification.</p> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 2.1.2.2, 2.1.4.2</p>
Action Plan	Contact will be made with CEFAS immediately upon Certification, and their requirements for data recording will be met within 3 months of specification. Their requirements will also be made known to the certification body as will the relevant contact details, in order that the certification body may be satisfied that condition 1.1 is being met.
Observations	<p>Contact with CEFAS was made under the original certification for the trammel net fishery and CEFAS data requirements determined and met. Contact has been maintained and data provision continues through existing programmes.</p> <p>As detailed in Section 10 below, the Hastings fishery has been awarded FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) status. This involves regular meetings between industry, regulatory and other bodies. The Sussex IFCA is also represented on the HFMG.</p> <p>A form for recording by-catch and discards has been implemented, but returns are not consistent. However, records are kept of catches and approximate amounts. These are reported at quarterly meetings of HFMG (Hastings Fishery Management Group) and more recently Hastings FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) meetings; these are attended by IFCA and/or MMO representatives. It is therefore anticipated that any significant issues would be reported and actioned.</p> <p>Tim Dapling of SIFCA also sits on the board of the SAIF project, which aims to identify among other things appropriate technical measures to reduce by-catches etc. Such developments would therefore feed back to HFMG.</p> <p>No significant issues have been raised and so no specific management actions required.</p>
Conclusion	This condition has been largely met and is on target. As the fishery is to undergo re-assessment in 2011, the issues covered by the PIs (2.1.2.2 and 2.1.4.2) will be rescored as part of the MSC FAM based re-assessment currently underway.

Item	Comments
3	Condition 2. Precautionary management
Activity assessed	<p>Condition 2. Precautionary management</p> <p>Action required: Some ecosystem interactions, such as by-catches of non-commercial species or effects on benthic communities, do not appear to be constrained by formalised precautionary procedures. Measures should be introduced provide an appropriate level of precautionary management – such as, for instance, the introduction of voluntary or statutory measures to protect important benthic habitats in the area.</p> <p>Timescale: This issue should be raised within HFMG, and with other relevant scientific and management bodies immediately upon certification. Appropriate measures should be determined within 2 years of certification and implemented within 4 years of certification.</p> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 3.A.3.3</p>
Action Plan	This condition will be raised within HFMG immediately upon certification, consultation on the issue raised with appropriate bodies, and acted upon within the required timescales.
Observations	<p>Under the UK Marine Bill, a programme has been established to identify marine protected areas (MCZs). In the South East, this is under the Balanced Seas project. One of the areas identified as a candidate MCZ is the inshore area east of Beachy Head – within the area of the certified fishery. Habitats within this area have been mapped (to biotope level). This and other investigations have benefited from support under the Hastings FLAG programme. As and when designated, a management plan will be established to preserve habitats and species (e.g. on chalk outcrops) within the area.</p> <p>No voluntary areas have been identified.</p>
Conclusion	The identification of the MCZ is deemed to meet the requirements of this condition which is considered to be well on target. The issues covered by the PI (3A.3.3) will be rescored as part of the MSC FAM re-assessment now underway.

Conditions: Gill-Net Fishery

Item	Comments
4	Condition 1. Recording of by-catches and discarding
	As for Item 2 trawl fishery Condition 1 above

Item	Comments
5	Condition 2. Interactions with endangered, threatened or protected species
Activity assessed	<p>Condition 2. Interactions with endangered, threatened or protected species</p> <p>Interactions of the fishery with endangered, threatened or protected species appear limited but are not formally quantified. Such interactions may be with groups such as seabirds, sea mammals and shad (<i>Alosa</i> spp).</p> <p>Action required: Records of incidental catches (of sea birds, sea mammals, shad and other ETP species etc) should be maintained and made available to appropriate scientific and management bodies.</p> <p>The conservation significance of catches of ETP species within the certified fishery should be established, and if necessary, any required modifications to fishing practices should be implemented as soon as practically possible and at most within the present certification (5 years).</p> <p>Timescale: Action should be taken to start addressing this condition immediately upon certification. Recording of by-catches and communication with relevant agencies should be begun with the first year of certification.</p> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 2.2.1.2</p>
Action Plan	This condition will be raised within HFMDG immediately upon certification, consultation on the issue made with appropriate bodies, and acted upon within the required timescales.
Observations	<p>As detailed in Section 10 below, the Hastings fishery has been awarded FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) status. This involves regular meetings between industry, regulatory and other bodies. The Sussex IFCA is also represented on the HFMDG.</p> <p>A form for recording by-catch and discards has been implemented, but returns are not consistent. However, records are kept of catches and approximate amounts. These are reported at quarterly meetings of HFMDG (Hastings Fishery Management Group) and more recently Hastings FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) meetings; these are attended by IFCA and/or MMO representatives. It is therefore anticipated that any significant issues would be reported and actioned.</p> <p>No significant issues have been raised and so no specific management actions required.</p>
Conclusion	This condition has been largely met and is on target. As the fishery is to undergo re-assessment in 2011, the issues covered by the PIs (2.2.1.2) will be rescored as part of the MSC FAM based re-assessment currently underway.
Item	Comments
6	Condition 3. Precautionary management
	As for Item 3 trawl fishery Condition 2 above

Conditions: Trammel-Net Fishery

Item	Comments
7	Condition: Recording of discards
Activity assessed	<p>As a consequence of limits on allowable cod landings, it is understood that discards of this species from this fishery have risen. Discarding mainly takes place in the months Sept – December as the cod move inshore and enter the trammel net fishery. There is some recording of this discarding as part of the a monitoring programme of the sole fishery for aggregate dredging interests, but this is limited to only 4 of the 27 boats fishing the certified fleet. This is in contradiction to the HFMG's Action Plan response to Condition 1 (recording of catches) in the original certification.</p> <p>Action required: The rate of discarding of cod from this fishery once quota for this species has been exhausted appears to have risen. Discarding mainly takes place in the months Sept – December as the cod move inshore and enter the trammel net fishery. It is important that accurate reporting of all catches, including discards is recorded and made available to the relevant scientific agency, in this case CEFAS.</p> <p>Records of fish by-catch and discard should be maintained by species and approximate numbers or weight, and any other incidental catch (such as seabirds etc) should include numbers caught. Records should be kept on a regular basis e.g. monthly/quarterly. These records should be made available to relevant agencies on request.</p> <p>Timescale: Within 12 months</p> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 2.1.2.2</p>
Action Plan	N/A – condition raised in previous surveillance audit
Observations	<p>All cod catches are landed. This is verified by regular inspections carried out on Hastings fishermen from officers of MMO and Sussex IFCA. All landings proceed through Hastings market and so are recorded on MMO figures. Catches are constrained within quota by modifications to mesh sizes (increases in mesh size as the season progresses from 100 to 200mm mesh), gear used (e.g. moving to cuttlefish pots) and fishing locations.</p> <p>As detailed above, a form for recording by-catch and discards has been implemented, but returns are not consistent. However, records are kept of catches and approximate amounts. These are reported at quarterly meetings of HFMG and more recently Hastings FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) meetings; these are attended by IFCA and/or MMO representatives. It is therefore anticipated that any significant issues would be reported and actioned. No infractions have been reported by Sussex IFCA in 2010 or 2011.</p>
Conclusion	This condition has been largely met, and sufficient information is available to estimate the potential effect of the fishery on stocks affected. As the fishery is to undergo re-assessment in 2011, the issues covered by the PIs (2.1.2.2) will be rescored as part of the MSC FAM based re-assessment currently underway.

8	Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned
	<p>At-sea and shore-based inspections are carried out by SIFCA officers. For Hastings, this may comprise 1 at-sea inspection and an average of 12 shore-based inspections per annum. No specific problems were identified in Hastings and no warnings or prosecutions were issued to Hastings-based fishers in 2010 or 2011.</p> <p>No other complaints have been received in relation to the Hastings Fishery.</p> <p>An incident of setting static nets in inshore waters has been traced to recreational fishers.</p>

9	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.
	None, although consultation is currently underway on the reform of fishery management, including the issue of quota allocation to under 10m vessels.

10	Any relevant changes to management regime.
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	<p>Shortly before the audit, we were informed of the death of Steve Potter, former liaison officer with Hastings BC. His inputs to the MSC programme here will be sadly missed. He has been ably replaced by Joy Collins.</p> <p>The only other significant change in the management regime is the establishment of Sussex IFCA. Sussex SFC transferred to Sussex IFCA on 1 April 2011, the transfer involved some changes in the boundaries of the IFCAs. All previous bye-laws remain, and the areas affected by the bye-laws are unchanged (i.e. same as SFC boundaries). This is relevant to Hastings, as some bye-laws affected Rye Bay.</p> <p>Governance of IFCAs extended beyond previous SFC to include wider academic, nature conservancy, Environment Agency etc membership. IFCA officers also given wider and greater powers in relation to enforcement and nature conservation issues.</p>
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11	Recommendations
	<p>Assessment of the trawl and gill-net fisheries also identified a number of (non-binding) recommendations of the assessment team, discussed below.</p> <p>Genetic composition and by-catch composition – was reported in HFMG minutes of October 2009. This issue will be monitored by monitoring carried out in relation to dredging in the area.</p> <p>By-catch reduction will be implemented via outputs of the SAIF project (see above) or local measures, such as increases in mesh sizes.</p> <p>Habitat protection – see discussion above regarding the Balanced Seas projects and MCZ to east of Beachy Head.</p> <p>Improved communication – the Hastings FLAG programme includes regular meetings between stakeholders in the fishery and significant elements of training.</p>

12	Overall Conclusions
	<p>Progress against all conditions is satisfactory and on-target.</p> <p>No changes in management have taken place that would detrimentally affect the performance of this fishery against the MSC standard and the fishery continues to meet the requirements of the MSC Standard.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue. The fishery is appropriately placed to continue with MSC re-assessment.</p>

Information Sources:

Meetings

19 May 2011 – Hastings FMG (Joy Collins, Yasmin Ornsby, Paul Joy)

19 May 2011 – Sussex IFCA (Belinda Vause)

20 May 2011 – Hastings FMG (Joy Collins, Yasmin Ornsby, Paul Joy)

Reports etc

Introducing the Hastings FLAG

HFMG Minutes

DEFRA consultation document on Reform of the English Fisheries Management Arrangements

ICES (2008). ICES Advice Book 6 Section 6.4.11 pp 151-159.

ICES (2009). ICES Advice Book 6 Section 6.4.11 pp 99-107.

ICES (2010a). Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak. (WGNSSK) ICES CM 2010 / ACOM:13. 1058pp

ICES (2010b). ICES Advice Book 6 Section 6.4.11 pp 101-108.

Standards and Guidelines used:

1. MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. MSC Fishery Certification Methodology Version 6. September 20063. TAB Directives - all |
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MSC Interview Record

IMM Attendees

Lead Auditor/Coordinator: A Hough

Team Members: J Nichols

Stakeholders:

Affiliation

1. Hastings FMG

Representatives

Joy Collins, Yasmin Ornsby, Paul Joy

Location: Hastings

Date: 19/20 May 2011

1. Introduction. MML Lead Auditor to introduce MSC assessment to Stakeholders, including

- Fishery Unit of Certification (and client)
- Assessment Team
- Intertek Moody Marine as independent CB accredited to carry out MSC assessments
- Purpose of meeting – information collection and identification of issues relevant to fishery assessment
- MSC Principles & Criteria and Assessment Process being followed; FAM Assessment Tree
- RBF (if applicable)
- That stakeholder comments may be non-attributable if required

Comments:

The status of the assessments were discussed, including current surveillances, forthcoming re-assessment and status of harmonised conditions for herring and mackerel.



2. Status

What is the nature of the organisations interest in the fishery (e.g. client / science / management / industry / eNGO etc)

Client

3. IMM Questions

Assessment team questions for stakeholder response

All conditions of certification were discussed for Dover sole fisheries, and herring and mackerel harmonisation conditions. Also any complaints and changes in management. All are reported in surveillance report.

4. Stakeholder Key Issues

What, if any, specific substantive issues or concerns are identified regarding the fishery? (P1 – P2 – P3)

What information is available to allow us to determine the status of the fishery in relation to each issue?

Issues raised are reported in 2011 surveillance report

5. Other issues

(e.g. any other stakeholders we should contact, any written submissions to follow?)

None.



6. Closing

IMM Lead Auditor:

- Summary of key points – stakeholder to confirm in writing (sign if hard copy)
- Are comments to be attributed?
- Timescale for completion, including further opportunities for stakeholder input

Confirmed

IMM Lead Auditor

Stakeholders



MSC Interview Record

IMM Attendees

Lead Auditor/Coordinator: A Hough

Team Members: J Nichols

Stakeholders:

Affiliation

1. Sussex IFCA
2. MSC

Representatives

Belinda Vause
Claire Pescod

Location: Shoreham

Date: 19 May 2011

1. Introduction. MML Lead Auditor to introduce MSC assessment to Stakeholders, including

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- Assessment Team
- Intertek Moody Marine as independent CB accredited to carry out MSC assessments
- Purpose of meeting – information collection and identification of issues relevant to fishery assessment
- MSC Principles & Criteria and Assessment Process being followed; FAM Assessment Tree
- RBF (if applicable)
- That stakeholder comments may be non-attributable if required

Comments:

Sussex IFCA have management role for inshore fisheries in Sussex district (formerly Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee).



2. Status

What is the nature of the organisations interest in the fishery (e.g. client / science / management / industry / eNGO etc)

Inshore Fishery Managers

3. IMM Questions

Assessment team questions for stakeholder response

Various aspects of the management of fisheries in Sussex, particularly Hastings were discussed.

Compliance

At-sea and shore-based inspections are carried out by SIFCA officers. For Hastings, this may comprise 1 at-sea inspection and an average of 12 shore-based inspections per annum. No specific problems were identified in Hastings and no warnings or prosecutions were issued to Hastings-based fishers in 2010 or 2011.

No other complaints have been received in relation to the Hastings Fishery.

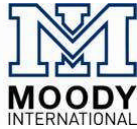
Changes to management

Sussex SFC transferred to SIFCA 1 April 2011, the transfer involved some changes in the boundaries of the IFCA's. All previous bye-laws remain, and the areas affected by the bye-laws are unchanged (i.e. same as SFC boundaries). This is relevant to Hastings, as some bye-laws affected Rye Bay.

Governance of IFCA's extended beyond previous SFC to include wider academic, nature conservancy, Environment Agency etc membership. IFCA officers also given wider and greater powers in relation to enforcement and nature conservation issues.

Marine Protected Areas (MCZs)

There are no voluntary closed areas within the SIFCA district.



Under Marine Bill, establishment of MCZs required. In England this is proceeding through a consultative process (Balanced Seas) Relevant to Hastings, an potential MCZ has been identified in the area East of Beachy Head; this area has been biotope mapped. MCZs to be proposed to Secretary of State in Feb 2012 and then to have management plans in place within 4 years. Hastings has been awarded FLAG (Fishery Local Action Group) status and funding, in part this is being used to map the MCZ.

Benthic habitat information

Significant recent mapping and data synthesis of benthic habitat data within the district, including Hastings area, undertaken (MALSF Synthesis study on eastern English channel, Feb 2011). Data on habitats also supplemented by underwater photography.

Other Issues

Landings data to be obtained from MMO.

4. Stakeholder Key Issues

What, if any, specific substantive issues or concerns are identified regarding the fishery? (P1 – P2 – P3)
What information is available to allow us to determine the status of the fishery in relation to each issue?

No specific concerns, Supportive of Hastings MSC status.

5. Other issues

(e.g. any other stakeholders we should contact, any written submissions to follow?)

None



6. Closing

IMM Lead Auditor:

- Summary of key points – stakeholder to confirm in writing (sign if hard copy)
- Are comments to be attributed?
- Timescale for completion, including further opportunities for stakeholder input

Confirmed

IMM Lead Auditor

Stakeholders