



Surveillance Report
Hastings Fleet Dover Sole Trammel Net Fishery

Certificate No.: MML-FC-008

Moody Marine Ltd.
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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 Trammel Net Fishery

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

Date of Surveillance Visit:	26 – 29 February 2008			
Initial Certification	Date: 16 September 2005		Certificate Ref: MM-FC-008	
Surveillance stage	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: Andrew Hough			
	Assessor(s): J Andrews and J Nichols			
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2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The first surveillance audit of this fishery (carried out in November 2006) reported the following conclusions:

“The actions taken by Hastings Fishery Management Group in meeting Conditions of Certification is judged to be insufficient. However, some actions have been taken and measures are currently being taken to address the conditions raised. To ensure that conditions are met, an expedited audit shall take place in June 2007.”

	Expedited audit June 2007
	The timing of the expedited audit was delayed slightly in relation to the two Conditions raised and was carried out in July 2007. Those two outstanding conditions were met at the audit, the relevant scores revised to 80 and the conditions closed. This report was published on the MSC web site.
	Status of the stock
	<p>Since the first Audit in November 2006 the ICES assessments of the state of the sole stock in Division VIId have shown that it continues to be in a healthy state. ICES currently classifies the stock as having full reproductive potential and is being harvested sustainably. Due to recent large recruitments, SSB is expected to remain well above the Bpa of 8,000t in the short term provided that fishing mortality does not exceed the Fpa level of 0.4. The fishing mortality which is consistent with taking a high long term yield with a low risk of depleting the productive potential of the stock is F 0.3.</p> <p>The current fishing mortality F 0.36 is close to Fpa but well below Flim of 0.55. The most recent assessment, in 2007, shows that the SSB at spawning time in 2007 was 16,900t. If fishing mortality is maintained at current levels and with average recruitment, SSB is predicted to increase to around 17,500t at spawning time in 2008 decreasing to 15,600t in 2009.</p>
	Current advice
	<p>The ICES advice for 2008 provides a range of options consistent with a precautionary approach. Fishing at, F status quo (0.36) would lead to a catch of 6,070t in 2008, Fpa (0.4) would lead to a catch of 6,590t whilst F max long term yield (0.3) would lead to a catch of 5,170t.</p> <p>At the December 2007 Fisheries Council the agreed TAC for sole in ICES Division VIId for 2008 was 6,593t consistent with the Fpa of 0.4. This represents an increase of 6% over the 2007 TAC of 6,220t. The UK allocation of the 2008 TAC is 1,268t with 3,550t allocated to France and 1,775t to Belgium.</p>
	Overall Conclusions
	All the outstanding conditions of certification were closed at the last audit. Conduct of the fishery and the actions of the Hastings Fishery Management Group continue to meet the required standard. MSC Certification shall now continue at least until the next annual audit.

Information Sources:**Reports**

1. ICES (2007) Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management ICES ACFM.
2. ICES (2007) Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak – Combined Spring and Autumn (WGNSSK). ICES CM 2007/ACFM: 18 and 30.

Meetings

1. 22/2/2008. Sven Kupchus. CEFAS Lowestoft (by telephone)
2. 26/2/2008. Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee
3. 27/2/2008. Steve Potter. Hastings Borough Council
4. 27-28/2/2008. Hastings Fishery Management Group, Hastings
5. 27/2/2008. Angus Radford. MFA Hastings

Standards and Guidelines used:

1. MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing
2. MSC Fishery Certification Methodology Version 6. September 2006
3. TAB Directives - all