



**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

<b>Date of Surveillance Visit:</b>	<b>28 – 29 November 2006</b>			
<b>Initial Certification</b>	<b>Date: 16 September 2005</b>		<b>Certificate Ref: MM-FC-008</b>	
<b>Surveillance stage</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>
<b>Surveillance team:</b>	<b>Lead Assessor: Andrew Hough</b> <b>Assessor(s):</b>			
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## **2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report contains the findings of the first surveillance cycle in relation to this fishery. This report concentrates on the compliance of the Hastings Fishery Management Group with the Conditions of Certification set out in the original certification report. As conditions are closed out (i.e. actions are completed), the assessment focus will concentrate more and more on the overall ongoing operation of the fishery in relation to the MSC Principles and Criteria.

Information has been collected principally from consultations with Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society, Hastings Borough Council and DEFRA and other stakeholders, together with relevant ICES reports.

The clients response to Conditions of Certification is set out in the Hastings Fishery Management Group Action Plan and this has been reproduced below as appropriate. 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. The influence of any overall legislative and management changes in the fishery are also taken into consideration.

Item	Comments
<b>1</b>	<b>Condition of Certification 1: Recording of catches</b>
<b>Activity assessed</b>	<p>Misreporting in the offshore fishery and under-reporting in the inshore fisheries has been identified as a significant potential source of uncertainty in the stock assessment and in forecasts for this stock. Whilst it is recognised that the Hastings fishery does not now appear to contribute to such under-reporting, it is important that accurate reporting of all catches (including by-catch), discards and landings take place to the relevant scientific agency, in this case 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.</p> <p><b>Timescale:</b> Contact with CEFAS should be initiated within three months of certification and data collection underway within 3 months of specification by CEFAS. This would then be an ongoing condition of certification.</p>
<b>HFMG Action Plan</b>	<p><i>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 is being met.</i></p>
<b>Observations</b>	<p>At the time of the first surveillance audit, Initial contact had been made with CEFAS as required by the Condition and Action Plan (19/20 October 2005). However, this was not followed up and no data requirements have been confirmed or met. This represents a non-compliance with this Condition which is therefore behind target.</p> <p>However, on identification of this issue during the surveillance audit, contact with CEFAS was immediately initiated. A response from CEFAS has been received which indicates that they are content with current recording of landings of commercial species and estimates of discarding. Some data requests have been made, however and these should be met as required in the original condition.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>Full conformance with this Condition shall now be evaluated in an expedited audit. Continuing non-compliance can result in suspension or withdrawal of the certificate. The expedited audit shall take place in June 2007, coincident with the expedited audit of the Hastings Fleet Pelagic fishery.</p>

Item	Comments
<b>2</b>	<b>Condition of Certification 2: Interactions with endangered, threatened or protected species</b>
<b>Activity assessed</b>	<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>Records of incidental catches (of sea birds, sea mammals etc) should be maintained and made available through an appropriate body such as the Sea Fisheries Committee.</p> <p>Shad are currently caught and landed by the trammel-net fishery and this <b>may</b> include both Allis and Twaite shad. This should be raised with the relevant agency (DEFRA and/or English Nature) with a view to establishing or confirming the conservation significance of catches within the certified fishery. If necessary, any required modifications to fishing practices should be implemented as soon as practically possible.</p> <p><b>Timescale:</b> This issue should be raised immediately upon certification.</p>
<b>PFA Action Plan</b>	<p><i>Records of all by-catches shall be made on the relevant form as approved by the certification body. These data shall be made available for inspection through the Sea Fisheries Committee. Contact will be established with DEFRA and EN immediately on certification, in order that the conservation significance of catches within the fishery can be established. If any modifications are necessary, this shall be communicated to the certification body forthwith.</i></p>
<b>Observations</b>	<p>Recording of such by-catches is addressed under Condition 1. Landings of shad are recorded through normal landings data, however.</p> <p>At the time of this surveillance audit, no formal contact had been made. This represents a non-compliance with this Condition which is therefore behind target.</p> <p>However, on identification of this issue during the surveillance audit, contact with English Nature was immediately initiated. An initial response from English Nature has been received which indicates no immediate conservation concerns in this regard, but the matter is being progressed.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>As for Condition 1, full conformance with this Condition shall now be evaluated in an expedited audit. Follow-up contact with English Nature is required to reach a conclusion on this issue. Continuing non-compliance can result in suspension or withdrawal of the certificate. The expedited audit shall take place in June 2007</p>

Item	Comments
<b>3</b>	<b>Status of stock</b>
<b>Observations</b>	<p>The most recent ICES assessment of the Dover Sole stock in Division VIId (Eastern Channel) is that the stock has full reproductive capacity and is being harvested sustainably. The most recent estimate of the Spawning Stock Biomass is 12 000 t, and this has been fluctuating around a mean of 10 000 t since 1982. A precautionary biomass level <math>B_{pa}</math> of 8 000 t has been set for this stock.</p> <p>Also, recent recruitment has been strong with the 2001 and 2004 year classes being the second highest and highest in the data time-series (1982-2005).</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	The stock is highly likely to be consistently above target reference levels.

Item	Comments
<b>4</b>	<b>Response to recommendations.</b>
<b>Activity assessed</b>	<p>In addition to the conditions, two recommendations were made as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Improved communication.</b> Whilst fishermen are aware of general regulatory requirements, more efficient and comprehensive dissemination of information to the whole fleet appears desirable. The Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society and DEFRA may wish to consider more effective means of communicating information on regulations and other fishery-related matters to fishermen, such as through regular meetings, informative notice boards etc. Such communication should include the outcome of this certification and associated conditions.</li> <li><b>Waste management.</b> As this is a day fishery, waste production, particularly at sea, is low. However, this could be further improved by the provision of better waste disposal facilities on shore together with raising of awareness on this issue within the fishing community. The HFPS should consider working with the local authority to address this issue.</li> </ol>
<b>Observations</b>	<p>The client action plan for meeting conditions of certification also made the following comments in relation to these recommendations:</p> <p><i>Since the beginning of the accreditation process, the local authority has employed a Fishing Sector Development Officer, one of whose tasks is to explain the MSC Certification not only to the fishing community, but to the wider public. This officer is considering many of the points raised in the recommendations, and will soon inaugurate a Newsletter, so that the fishermen can be better informed of the various projects and initiatives that are taking place. The authority is also soon to employ a "Stade<sup>1</sup> Education Officer", which will further help this process.</i></p> <p>It is not apparent that the newsletter has been produced as yet, but communication appears to have improved through the actions of the Hastings Fishery Management Group.</p> <p><i>The FSDO has been invited to partake in Stade Management meetings, and one of the major agenda items is waste management improvement. The local authority is aware of the various issues, and is working with the Fishermen's Protection Society to resolve them.</i></p> <p>Waste management facilities at the Stade have improved significantly as a result of this initiative.</p>

<sup>1</sup> The Stade is the name given to where the fishing boats are landed and launched

<b>5</b>	<b>Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned</b>
	There were no reported incidents of any complaints against the Hastings fishing vessels in relation to the scope of this MSC certification.
<b>6</b>	<b>Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.</b>
	Registration of First Time Buyers and Sellers regulations came into force in September 2005. By requiring data on fish landed and fish bought, this is expected to provide better recording of landings.
<b>7</b>	<b>Any relevant changes to management regime.</b>
	The Monitoring Control and Surveillance functions of UK fisheries, previously carried out by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is now vested with the Marine Fisheries Agency, an executive agency of DEFRA. No change in the 'on-the-ground' execution of these functions is expected with respect to this fishery.
<b>8</b>	<b>Overall Conclusions</b>
	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.  MSC Certification should continue at least until the expedited audit has been completed..

**Information Sources:****Meetings**

1. 28/11/06. Hastings Fishery Management Group, Hastings.
2. 28/11/06. Marine Fisheries Agency, Hastings.
3. 29/11/06. Hastings Fishery Management Group, Hastings.

**Reports etc**

1. ICES advice, 2006. sole in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)
2. Correspondence, HFMG – CEFAS, 19 – 20 October 2005.

**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