



**Surveillance Report
Hastings Fleet Pelagic Fishery**

Certificate No.: **MML-FC-009**

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 Pelagic Fishery

Species: Herring (*Clupea harengus*) and Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*)

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: Fishing is undertaken by under 10m boats launched from the beach at Hastings ('Stade-launched boats'). Fishing for pelagic species (herring and mackerel) is at a relatively low level (around three to five vessels only) using drift nets.

Date of Surveillance Visit:	28 – 29 November 2006			
Initial Certification	Date: 16 September 2005	Certificate Ref: MML-FC-009		
Surveillance stage	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: Andrew Hough Assessor(s): John Nichols			
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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
1	Condition of Certification 1: Recording of catches
Activity assessed	<p>It is acknowledged that levels of by-catch and discard are expected to be very low in this fishery. However, no quantitative information is available on this issue. 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: Recording should begin immediately after certification.</p>
HFMG Action Plan	<p><i>As with condition 2 of the Dover Sole Fishery, on certification 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.</i></p>
Observations	<p>No recording of by-catches in the pelagic fishery is currently taking place. It is clear from discussions between HFMG and CEFAS that, given the level of effort and catches involved with this fishery, that sampling of trips would be sufficient to address this issue.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Compliance with this condition is behind target. Full conformance with this Condition should commence immediately and shall now be evaluated in an expedited audit. Continuing non-compliance can result in suspension or withdrawal of the certificate. For reasons detailed below, the expedited audit shall take place in June 2007.</p>

Item	Comments
2	Status of stock - Herring
Observations	<p>The most recent assessment of the North Sea herring stock (the stock prosecuted by the Hastings Fishery) in March 2006 indicated a SSB at spawning time in 2005 of 1.69million tonnes. However there has been a succession of four below average year classes following a large year class in 2000. Early indications are that the 2005 year class is also below average.</p> <p>The reasons for this succession of poor recruitment cannot currently be explained. However it is the undisputed opinion of both scientists and the fishing industry that the phenomenon is not related to fishing activities, but that it is environmentally driven. Both sandeel and Norway pout have also suffered from recruitment failure in the North Sea in recent years whilst further north the Norwegian Spring spawning stock has enjoyed a succession of strong year classes.</p> <p>Annual scientific surveys have shown that North Sea herring larval production has been good, indicating that the spawning has been satisfactory and that there are no issues of egg quality or destruction of spawn on the sea bed. This suggests that the factors which are generating poor recruitment are occurring in the larval phase well after hatching.</p> <p>The possible causes of poor recruitment are numerous and may be acting together in a complex manner. Many decades of research have shown that these mechanisms are extremely difficult to understand and almost impossible to predict or quantify.</p> <p>Some of the possible causes of poor recruitment in North Sea herring are listed below, but it must be emphasised that the list is not exhaustive and that the true cause may never be known.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Density dependant factors such as high SSB leading to poor larval survival through cannibalism and / or competition for food. (<i>This type of stock and recruitment relationship is known for some species but it is also noted that herring have produced large year classes at high SSB levels in the past, including the 2000 year class</i>). • Changes in the composition of the plankton leading to a poor supply of suitable food items at key life history stages. (<i>It is known that there has been a gradual change, over the past decade, to more southerly species of plankton occurring in the North Sea, but again, there has not been a gradual corresponding change in recruitment</i>) • Subtle changes in the physical processes in the North Sea leading to possible changes in speed and direction of residual currents affecting natatory drift to suitable nursery areas. • Anthropogenic factors such as gravel dredging which could reduce the areas of suitable substrate on which herring depend for spawning. <p>Many of these have already been initially examined by ICES and will be the subject of further investigation by a special ICES Study Group (the Study Group on Recruitment Variability in North Sea Planktivorous Fish - SGREPVAP) early in 2007.</p> <p>The assessment in 2006</p> <p>Catches in the North Sea human consumption fishery (fleet A) in 2005 were 617,000t which was an overshoot of the TAC by 83,000t. Comparable figures for the previous year were a catch of 537,000t, an overshoot of 77,000t. Most of this excess is now taken in Divisions IVa and IVb. In the past much of the excess catch was taken from Divisions IVc/VIIId but since the introduction of a sub-TAC for this area the situation has dramatically improved and now the catch and TAC there are comparable.</p> <p>This increasing trend is fuelled by the increase in misreported catches mainly from Divisions IVa and IVb into IIa, IIIa and VIa North. Total misreported catches in 2005 was estimated at 79,000t compared with 57,000t in the previous year. Strong enforcement measures have now been applied which (it is to be hoped) will improve compliance and should considerably reduce this problem in the 2006 fishery with a consequent reduction in F.</p> <p>Herring by-catches, mainly from the Danish small meshed fishery for sprat in the North Sea increased in 2005 to 21,800t but were still well below the by-catch ceiling of 50,000t</p>

	<p>The TAC of 535,000t for 2005 included a sub-TAC of 74,293t for Divisions IVc/VIIId. For 2006 the TAC was reduced by 15% in accordance with the EU / Norway agreement and the constraints of the harvest control rules (para. 5). The final TAC was 454,751t including a sub-TAC of 50,023t i.e.11% of the total TAC. The by-catch ceiling for other fisheries which take herring as a by-catch in the North Sea (fleet B) was also reduced by 15% to 42,500t.</p> <p>The fishing mortality for 2005 on adults (2-6wr) increased to $F=0.35$ compared with an $F=0.27$ in 2004. Fishing mortality on the juveniles (0-1wr) also increased to $F 0.08$ from 0.06 in the previous year.</p> <p>The estimated SSB for 2005 from the assessment (1.69mt) was 7% lower than the predicted value of 1.82mt. This has been affected by the slow growth rate of the very large 2000 year class, resulting in a lower % mature at age. This year class has now fully matured about 1 year later than the long term average. It is noted that this low growth rate has contributed to the current lower than predicted SSB. Retrospective analysis shows a similar trend for the 2004 SSB which was predicted at 1.89mt in 2005 and is now estimated at 1.81mt.</p> <p>The succession of below average year classes, since the good recruitment from the spawning in 2000, is a cause for considerable concern. This recent trend appears likely to continue with the 2005 year class, in spite of the adult stock currently being at full reproductive capacity. This situation is considered to be unusual and managers were advised to take this into consideration in their advice for 2007 in particular in relation to paragraph 5 of the EU Norway agreement which protects the TAC from falling by more than 15% in any one year.</p> <p>The EU Norway agreement for the management of North Sea autumn spawning herring (below) embraces all the aspects of the Precautionary Approach and in particular the provision in rule 6 to permit managers to reduce the TAC by more than 15% when appropriate.</p> <p><i>1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than the 800,000 tonnes (Blim).</i></p> <p><i>2. Where the SSB is estimated to be above 1.3 million tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.25 for 2 ringers and older and no more than 0.12 for 0-1 ringers.</i></p> <p><i>3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 1.3 million tonnes but above 800,000 tonnes, the Parties agree to set quotas for the direct fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate equal to: $0.25(0.15*(1,300,000SSB)/500,000)$ for 2 ringers and older, and $0.12 (0.08*(1,300,000-SSB)/500,000)$ for 0-1 ringers.</i></p> <p><i>4. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 800,000 tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of less than 0.1 for 2 ringers and older and less than 0.04 for 0-1 ringers.</i></p> <p><i>5. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the Parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.</i></p> <p><i>6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may, where considered appropriate, reduce the TAC by more than 15% compared to the TAC of the preceding year.</i></p> <p><i>7. By-catches of herring may only be landed in ports where adequate sampling schemes to effectively monitor the landings have been set up. All catches landed shall be deducted from the respective quotas set, and the fisheries shall be stopped immediately in the event that the quotas are exhausted.</i></p> <p><i>8. The allocation of TAC for the directed fishery for herring shall be 29% to Norway and 71% to the Community. The by-catch quota for herring shall be allocated to the Community.</i></p>
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	<p>9. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2007 .</p> <p>ACFM advice</p> <p>With continuing low recruitment, SSB is likely to fluctuate around 1.3mt but only if Fishing mortality is maintained at or below the agreed rate of F=0.25 adults and F=0.12 for juveniles. To ensure a 95% probability of SSB remaining above 1.3mt F will have to decrease to 0.17 for adults and to <0.05 for juveniles.</p> <p>The advice for 2007 is based on a series of five options only three of which aim to return SSB to above a B_{pa} of 1.3mt in the following year. Options 2 to 4 include the effect of reducing the juvenile fishing mortality in the small mesh fisheries (herring by-catch) in the North Sea and increasing it in the Skagerrak and Kattegat. Option 5 is based on restricting the reduction in the TAC for fleet A to 15% (rule 5)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 611 1284 898"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th> <th>F adult</th> <th>F juv</th> <th>Catch fleet A</th> <th>Catch fleet B</th> <th>SSB 2007</th> <th>SSB 2008</th> <th>fleet A TAC reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>0.147</td> <td>0.063</td> <td>177,500t</td> <td>13,400t</td> <td>1.301mt</td> <td>1.51mt</td> <td>- 61%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.05</td> <td>242,200t</td> <td>9,100t</td> <td>1.253mt</td> <td>1.390mt</td> <td>- 47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.05</td> <td>231,100t</td> <td>5,300t*</td> <td>1.256mt</td> <td>1.393mt</td> <td>- 49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>0.25</td> <td>0.05</td> <td>300,300</td> <td>8,900</td> <td>1.209mt</td> <td>1.286mt</td> <td>- 34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>0.25</td> <td>0.05</td> <td>289,600</td> <td>5,100*</td> <td>1.212mt</td> <td>1.288mt</td> <td>- 36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>0.25</td> <td>0.12</td> <td>300,000</td> <td>31,500</td> <td>1.209mt</td> <td>1.271mt</td> <td>-34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>0.25</td> <td>0.12</td> <td>289,100</td> <td>27,800*</td> <td>1.212mt</td> <td>1.274mt</td> <td>-36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>0.331</td> <td>0.065</td> <td>387,800</td> <td>13,400</td> <td>1.141mt</td> <td>1.134mt</td> <td>- 15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>0.341</td> <td>0.137</td> <td>387,900</td> <td>32,600</td> <td>1.135mt</td> <td>1.102mt</td> <td>- 15%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* reduced F in fleet B but increased in fleets C and D in the Skagerrak and Kattegat</p> <p>All prediction are based on average recruitment over the recent poor years only, a precautionary approach to projected stock status that is supported by the industry through the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council (PRAC)</p>	Option	F adult	F juv	Catch fleet A	Catch fleet B	SSB 2007	SSB 2008	fleet A TAC reduction	1	0.147	0.063	177,500t	13,400t	1.301mt	1.51mt	- 61%	2	0.2	0.05	242,200t	9,100t	1.253mt	1.390mt	- 47%	2	0.2	0.05	231,100t	5,300t*	1.256mt	1.393mt	- 49%	3	0.25	0.05	300,300	8,900	1.209mt	1.286mt	- 34%	3	0.25	0.05	289,600	5,100*	1.212mt	1.288mt	- 36%	4	0.25	0.12	300,000	31,500	1.209mt	1.271mt	-34%	4	0.25	0.12	289,100	27,800*	1.212mt	1.274mt	-36%	5	0.331	0.065	387,800	13,400	1.141mt	1.134mt	- 15%	5	0.341	0.137	387,900	32,600	1.135mt	1.102mt	- 15%
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<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Quite clearly a precautionary approach needs to be followed. There is also a clear need to try to understand the reasons behind the current succession of poor year classes. In this context ICES, supported by recommendations of the RAC, are active in promoting relevant investigations.</p> <p>It is accepted that the poor recruitment in herring is not the result of fishing activities and that it is unlikely to be the result of any other anthropogenic influences.</p> <p>See also item 3 below</p>																																																																																

Item	Comments
<p>3</p> <p>Observations</p>	<p>Management responses to changes in stock status - Herring</p> <p>As described above, the current projections for the stock are that, with continued poor recruitment, the SSB will fall below B_{pa} in 2007. When last assessed in March 2006 the SSB at spawning time in 2005 was well above B_{pa} at 1.69mt and was projected to be <u>at</u> B_{pa} at spawning time in 2006 (the time of the present audit).</p> <p>If rule 5 of the EU / Norway agreement, which prevents the TAC from falling by more than 15% in any one year is followed then there is a high probability of the stock falling below B_{lim} of 800,000t in the medium term. Such an approach could not be considered precautionary.</p> <p>The recommendation of the ICES ACFM was for a 47% reduction in the TAC for fleet A which would return SSB to above B_{pa} in 2008 – an immediate (within-year) return to levels over the ‘Precautionary Reference Point’ of B_{pa}.</p> <p>Regional Advisory Councils (RAC’s) have been established to, amongst other remits, give all stakeholders an opportunity for an input to the discussions on the scientific advice for a fishery. The Pelagic RAC have played an active role in putting forward the industry’s case for a less swingeing cut, in the TAC for 2007, than the 47% proposed by ICES. The PRAC have also requested of ICES an exploration of alternative scenarios with cuts in the TAC of over 15% but below 47%. These were then considered by the PRAC in terms of both biological effects and socio-economic consequences on industry.</p> <p>As a result of the discussions within the PRAC there was a majority decision to advise a 25% cut in the quota for 2007 to 341,063 tonnes. Two members of the PRAC (WWF and North Sea Foundation) tabled an alternative cut of 35%. The 25% cut was agreed in the EU/ Norway negotiations. A TAC for North Sea herring of 341,063 tonnes for 2007 has now been agreed by the Council of Ministers of the EU.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>It is noted that when last assessed in March 2006 the spawning stock remained well above the biomass precautionary limit of 1.3 million tonnes and was predicted to be <u>at</u> B_{pa} in autumn 2006, the time of the present audit. In terms of the Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts used in the original assessment of this fishery (notably Performance Indicator 1.1.6.1), the fishery therefore still achieves a level of 80.</p> <p>However, based on the current poor recruitment continuing into the future (a precautionary projection), the spawning stock is predicted to decline further. The EU / Norway agreement on the management of the North Sea herring stock allows for a precautionary framework to prevent future catastrophic declines such as that seen in the 1970’s and again in 1995. The adoption of a 25% cut in TAC, and exceedance of the 15% limit on reduction in the TAC, while implementing a <u>more</u> precautionary approach, is recognised as not being as precautionary as that proposed by ICES.</p> <p>The North Sea herring stock will next be assessed by the ICES Working Group in March 2007 and the ICES ACFM advice for 2008 will be promulgated in May 2007. This timeframe will give stakeholders an opportunity for discussion on how to react to the latest assessment. It also provides management with the opportunity to act quickly to prevent any catastrophic decline in the SSB</p> <p>The future status of the stock is a clear concern to industry, scientists and managers. The status of the stock and management responses to change in the stock are of critical significance to ongoing MSC certification of the herring component of the Hastings Pelagic Fishery.</p> <p>As discussed above, a lack of progress in meeting certain of the Conditions of Certification means that an expedited audit of the fishery is required. In light of the urgent need to review the next (latest) stock assessment outputs, this additional audit shall also be used to evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the latest assessment results (including 2006 recruitment indices) • ACFM advice <p>To allow the above management factors to be evaluated (these representing a potentially major change in the fishery), this expedited audit is planned to take place early in June 2007.</p>

	<p>If the 2007 stock assessment (to be evaluated in the expedited audit in June 2007) predicts the stock falling below Bpa (i.e. 2006 recruitment is again poor), then Moody Marine would need to carry out a limited assessment of Performance Indicators relating to stock status. This could lead to the requirement to raise further conditions of certification. Clearly, continuing poor recruitment will require further significant and precautionary reductions in the TAC, such as to allow the stock to be rebuilt to a specified level, consistent with the precautionary approach , and within a specified time frame, as required under MSC Principle 1, Criterion 2.</p>
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Item	Comments
3	Status of stock - Mackerel
Observations	<p>Since 1996 the three components, southern mackerel, western mackerel and North Sea mackerel have been combined for stock assessment and management purposes. It is generally accepted that the western component comprises around 85% of the total stock and that the North Sea spawning component is still severely depleted. An egg survey in 2005 has indicated a further increase in the North Sea SSB to 220,000t compared with 2002. Consideration is now being given as to whether or not this should be added to the total area SSB as currently it is excluded.</p> <p>The total catch of North East Atlantic mackerel in 2004 was 611,000t, similar to the 2003 catch of 617,000t. The catch corresponds to a TAC of 532,168t which was approximately 50,000t lower than the 2003 TAC. Around half of that catch 294,000t was taken in the North Sea (division IVa) in the third and fourth quarters of the year, whilst most of the remainder (217,000t) was taken in the old western stock area. A nominal catch of 10,000t was ascribed to the North Sea and the remainder of the catch was taken in the southern area, mainly south Biscay. The continued overshooting of the TAC is a cause for some concern. Combined with uncertainty surrounding the level of misreporting and discarding this does generate problems in relation to the robustness of the stock assessment.</p> <p>The North East Atlantic mackerel assessment suffers from having only two input sources; the catch at age data from the fishery and the triennial egg survey estimate of SSB, which is not age disaggregated and is the only fishery independent data source at present. In 2004 ICES decided that the egg survey estimates of SSB should be used as an index series and not as an absolute estimate of SSB as they had been used previously. There were valid reasons for this change particularly related to the uncertainty of the catch data through misreporting and discarding. Using the egg survey as an absolute estimate leads to a conflict between the two sources of information. In practice the egg survey dominates in an egg survey year while the catch data dominates in the intervening years. The 2004 egg survey was the first year in which the data could be used as an index, because a minimum of five surveys were needed. Prior to the 1992 survey the survey area coverage had not been good enough to be included in a time series.</p> <p>As a consequence of the methodology changes the assessments in 2004 and 2005 show a reduction in the perception of SSB compared with the previous assessments. It now appears that the perception of SSB in previous years has been below the B_{pa} of 2.3 million tonnes since 2000. The most recent estimate is 1.98 million tonnes, which is an increase over the previous two years. The perception of fishing mortality has also changed and, at $F_{(ages\ 4-8)}$ of 0.295 in 2004, continues to remain well above the precautionary approach level of $F\ 0.17$ and is now above the F_{lim} level of 0.26 which is the fishing mortality estimated to lead to potential stock collapse. The F_{pa} was set at this 0.17 in 1999 following an agreement between the EU, Norway and the Faroes that TAC's should be consistent with an F between 0.15 and 0.20 for appropriate age groups. The ACFM subsequently opted for the 0.17 as F_{pa} and 0.26 as F_{lim}. ICES considers that the agreement is consistent with the precautionary approach and provides a 95% probability of avoiding F_{lim} taking into account the uncertainties in the assessment.</p> <p>Based on the most recent estimates of fishing mortality ICES classifies the stock as being harvested unsustainably. However because the assessment is based only on catch data and a very short triennial egg survey index, it is considered to be borderline with respect to the estimate of the present state of the stock and its exploitation. For an example of the conflict, the last egg survey estimate, in 2004, gave a combined area SSB of 2.7 million tonnes which is well above the B_{pa} of 2.3 million tonnes.</p> <p>For the immediate future the 2002 year class is predicted as the highest in the time series although preliminary estimates of the 2003 year class suggest that it is low. The big 2002 year class does inevitably invoke concerns about increased discarding in by-catch fisheries and also of high grading. This may reduce the positive affect that this year class has on the future SSB.</p> <p>Based on a status quo F of 0.29 for 2006 the landings would increase to 689,000t resulting in</p>

	<p>SSB increasing to the B_{pa} level of 2.3 million tonnes at spawning time in 2006. The forecast landings for 2006 based on the recommended F_{pa} of 0.17 are 419,000t. This would result in an SSB of 2.4 million tonnes increasing to 2.5 million tonnes in 2005. At the upper bound of the management plan, a fishing mortality of $F_{0.2}$, landings in 2006 would be 487,000t and SSB would increase to 2.4 million tonnes in 2006 and to 2.45 million tonnes in 2007.</p> <p>These forecasts are all highly dependent on the catches in 2005 being consistent with the TAC of 422,000t with an additional allowance of 11,000t estimated for discarding.</p>
Conclusion	<p>MSC Principle 1, Criterion 2 requires that “<i>Where the exploited populations are depleted, the fishery will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level consistent with the precautionary approach and the ability of the populations to produce long-term potential yields within a specified time frame.</i>” For this stock, it is apparent that appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery within reasonable time frames.</p>

Item	Comments
4	Response to recommendations.
Activity assessed	<p>In addition to the conditions, two recommendations were made as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved communication. 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. 2. Waste management. 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.
Observations	<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 "Stade¹ 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>

¹ The Stade is the name given to where the fishing boats are landed and launched

5	Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned
	There were no reported incidents of any complaints against the Hastings fishing vessels in relation to the scope of this MSC certification.
6	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.
	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.
7	Any relevant changes to legislation or management regime.
	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.
8	Overall Conclusions
	<p>The actions taken by Hastings Fishery Management Group in meeting the Condition of Certification is judged to be insufficient. To ensure that conditions are met, an expedited audit shall take place June 2007.</p> <p>The status of herring stocks is being detrimentally affected by four years of poor recruitment. The effects of recruitment in 2006 will be evaluated in the next surveillance. This could have critical implications for ongoing MSC certification of the Herring component of the Hastings Fleet Pelagic Fishery.</p> <p>The mackerel stock has been the subject of a re-evaluation due to a change in stock assessment methodologies. While not expected to be a significant issue, the status of this stock will also be specifically evaluated in the next surveillance audit.</p> <p>MSC Certification should continue for both species, at least until the expedited audit has been completed.</p>

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. EC Council Regulation No 27/2005
2. ICES Advice 2005, ACFM/ACE Report. Mackerel.
3. ICES (2005a). Report of the Working Group on Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Surveys (WGMEGS). ICES Living Resources Committee. ICES CM 2005 / G: 09 Ref: D
4. ICES (2005b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management ICES ACFM: (Section 1.4.2). Oct. 2005.
5. ICES (2006) Report of the Working Group on Mackerel, Horse Mackerel, Sardine and Anchovy. ICES CM 2006 / ACFM:08.
6. ICES (2006). Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N. ICES C.M.
7. ICES (2006) Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management ICES ACFM: May 2006.
8. Pelagic Regional Advisory Council. Minutes 4/11/05; 13/2/06; 21/6/06; 3/11/06
9. Pelagic Regional Advisory Council. Recommendations. 17/11/06

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