



**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:	24-25 July 2007			
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

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 the Condition of Certification is judged to be insufficient. To ensure that conditions are met, an expedited audit shall take place June 2007. 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.”*

This present report therefore contains the findings of the expedited audit (the timing of which was delayed slightly) in relation to the two Conditions raised.

The HFMG response to Conditions of Certification is set out in the client 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. This evaluation 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.

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> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2</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>The first surveillance audit reported that “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.” and that “Compliance with this condition is behind target.”</p> <p>However, on identification of this issue during the surveillance audit, contact with the relevant body, CEFAS, was immediately initiated. A response from CEFAS has been received which indicates that they are content with current recording of by-catch and discards. Some data requests have been made by CEFAS, however and these requests have now been met by HFMG and appropriate data recording is ongoing.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The requirements of this Condition have now been met.</p> <p>Two Performance Indicators (PI) related to this Condition. These, and related 80 and 100 Scoring Guideposts (SG) are presented below.</p> <p>PI 2.1.2.1. Is information available on the nature and extent of the by-catch (capture of non-target species)? SG 80: Quantitative information is available on significant by-catch. If obtained by sampling, this is considered sufficient to provide adequate information SG 100: Accurate records are kept on the nature and extent of all by-catch species including species, size and sex composition.</p> <p>PI 2.1.2.2. Is information available on the extent of discard (the proportion of the catch not landed)? SG 80: Information is available to allow estimates of discard to be calculated and interpreted. SG 100: Accurate and verifiable information is available on the extent of all discards, and the consequences of these. Or the entire catch is landed.</p> <p>Landing and discard data are now available on significant by-catches and discards through a representative sampling regime. Mortalities can now be voluntarily reported. The scores for both PI's are now revised to 80.</p>

Item	Comments
2	Status of stock - Herring
Observations	<p>The most recent assessment of the North Sea autumn spawning herring stock (the stock prosecuted by the [Hastings fleet) in March 2007 indicated an SSB at spawning time in 2006 of 1.2 million tonnes which is a reduction 400,000t compared with the previous year. The stock is at risk of having reduced reproductive capacity and of being harvested unsustainably. The perception of SSB in 2005 was reduced from 1.69 to 1.6 million tonnes. There has now been a succession of five below average year classes following a big year class in 2000. The 2005 year class was the lowest since 1979. Early indications are that the 2006 year class is also below average at 28% of the geometric mean since 1981. Such a sequence of poor recruitment has never been observed before for this stock. As a consequence the stock is expected to remain below the biomass precautionary level of 1.3 million tonnes during 2007 and 2008. Poor recruitment has reduced the catch potential to 40% of the average and will continue to reduce it even further.</p> <p>As noted in 2006 the reasons for the succession of poor recruitment cannot be explained. 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. 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.</p> <p>As noted in 2006 the possible causes of poor recruitment are numerous and likely to 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. 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 herring have produced big year classes at high SSB 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</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>An ICES Study Group in 2007 commented that recent trends in herring recruitment are similar to the warming of the water on the spawning grounds and changes in hydrography. A recent ICES Herring Assessment Working Group report also noted that temperatures in the eastern and northern part of the North Sea were much warmer (1-3°C) than the average of the last 50 years. These changes are also associated with observed changes in the zooplankton community.</p> <p><u>The assessment in 2007</u></p> <p>The TAC of 455,000t for 2006 included a sub-TAC of 50,000t for Divisions IVc/VIIId. For 2007 paragraph 6 of the EU / Norway agreement was invoked. As a result the TAC was, after discussions with the Pelagic RAC, reduced by 25% to 341,000t, including a sub-TAC of 42,500t for IVc/VIIId plus a by-catch ceiling of 32,000t.</p> <p>Catches in the North Sea human consumption fishery (fleet A) in 2006 were 498,000t which was 119,000t less than in 2005. It was an overshoot of the TAC by 43,000t (+9%). In 2005 the TAC overshoot was 83,000t (+16%). Most of this excess is now taken in Divisions IVa and</p>

IVb. In the past much of the excess catch was taken from Divisions IVc/VIIId (Downs stock) but after the introduction of a sub-TAC for this area the situation did improve. However in 2006 there was an overshoot of 6,600t (+13%), of the sub-TAC in this area, which is a worrying new trend. The Downs stock has now returned to its pre-collapsed state but is dominated by one year class therefore there is a need for extra caution.

By-catches in the North Sea small meshed fishery (fleet B) were 11,900t in 2006 which was well below the by-catch ceiling of 42,500t.

Misreporting of landings in the stock assessment (i.e. taken in the North Sea, but reported from other areas such as IIa, IIIa and VIaN) decreased to 19,000t in 2006 compared with 58,000t in 2005, although both estimates were based on limited information. The reduction in 2006 was the result of tougher enforcement measures and possibly a greater willingness on the part of industry to comply.

Only a very small fraction of the fleet was sampled for discards, therefore the resultant estimates are poor. In 2006 raised estimates from just two fleets indicated a reduction in discarding to 2,000t compared with 17,000t and 13,000t in 2004 and 2005 respectively. The fishing mortality on adults (2-6wr) for 2005 was revised upwards from F0.35 to F0.37. In 2006 it reduced slightly to F0.35. Fishing mortality on the juveniles (0-1wr) remained low at F0.08 compared with the target Fmax of 0.12.

ICES Advice for 2008

The ICES advice for 2007 was based on the requirement to achieve a spawning stock biomass at or above the Bpa level of 1.3million tonnes by 2008. Given the current sustained low level of recruitment, ICES considers that using the current Bpa as Btrig (action point) may be unrealistic. For 2008 it is considered preferable to look at the management plan as a whole rather than using a Bpa reference point which may not be achievable under the current environmental conditions. With the current low recruitment the medium term predictions are for SSB to fluctuate around 1.1million tonnes but only provided that F is kept at the present recommended harvest control levels. Under these circumstances it should be possible to maintain annual catches, of North Sea autumn spawners, at around 200,000 to 240,000t. This prediction is conditional upon there being no overshoot of the TAC either through misreporting, discarding or other means.

Because of enforcement and management issues, exploitation has been well above the recommended harvest rate for the last three years. If this continues then the stock is likely to fall below B_{lim} of 800,000t in 2009.

The revised management plan, for 2008 is aimed at bringing the target F_{2.6} in line with the harvest control rule and implies an F_{2.6} 0.17. If the 15% rule were applied (paragraph 5 EU/Norway agreement) then the SSB in 2008 would remain well below Bpa and would further decline in 2009 close to B_{lim}. As a consequence ICES recommends invoking paragraph 6 of the agreement, allowing a greater than 15% reduction in the TAC for 2008. This implies a TAC for the human consumption fishery (fleet A) of around 175,000t in 2008.

Investigation of the spawning biomass limit reference point for North Sea autumn spawning herring, by an ICES Workshop in 2007, concluded that the current level (800,000t) should be maintained.

The advice for 2008 is based on a series of six options including a complete ban on all directed fishing for herring which is the only option which would return SSB to above Bpa of 1.3mt by 2009. The options are based on the TAC constraint in 2007 plus an overshoot of 10% resulting in an F adult of 0.34. It is also assumed that, as in recent years, not all the by-catch of herring (fleet B), will be taken.

The different predicted catches result from different options for fleets C and D in Division IIIa (not shown)

Options 3, 4 and 5 are not considered to be consistent with the management plan. The plan implies a 50% reduction in the TAC relative to 2007 corresponding to a total catch of North Sea autumn spawners of 200,000t (fleets A-D) and a fleet A catch of ca.175,000t.

Option	F adult	F juv	Catch fleet A '000t	Catch fleet B '000t	SSB 2008 '000t	SSB 2009 '000t	fleet A TAC reduction
1	0.168	0.076	171.9	8.7	1025.3	995.5	50
2	0.167	0.076	174.1	15.5	1028.0	999.8	49
3	0.292	0.078	289.9	8.7	944.2	821.9	15
4	0.289	0.077	289.9	15.4	946.3	829.0	15
5	0.172	0.075	175.7	8.7	1022.9	990.4	49
6	0	0	0	0	1147.4	1309.9	100

The current management plan has been evaluated and is considered 'precautionary' because the risk of SSB falling below Blim (800,000t) in the medium term is less than 5% when:

- There are no year to year restrictions on changes in the TAC
- Current low levels of recruitment continue
- Implementation is constrained to give less than a 10% TAC overshoot.

EU/Norway agreement

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. The text of the agreement is as follows:

- 1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than the 800,000 tonnes (Blim).*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 9. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2007.*

	<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>
Conclusion	<p>The conclusion of the previous surveillance report was: <i>“Quite clearly a precautionary approach needs to be followed. This needs to be backed by rigorous enforcement measures to address misreporting and under-reporting.</i></p> <p><i>There is 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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that the industry, through the PRAC have accepted a conservative approach to future assumptions about stock status and accept, that for the time being, predictions must be based on the likelihood of continuing poor recruitment.</i></p> <p><i>See item 3 below”</i></p> <p>These conclusions remain valid. Management and HFMG actions are considered below.</p>

Item	Comments
3	Management responses to changes in stock status - Herring
Observations	<p>The previous audit report concluded that <i>“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> Bpa 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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the latest assessment results (including 2006 recruitment indices)</i> • <i>ACFM advice</i> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.”</i></p> <p><i>Continuing poor recruitment has now resulted in the stock falling below Bpa. Therefore, as indicated in the previous report, there is now a need to implement 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.</i></p>
Conclusion	<p>The stock is now predicted to have fallen below Bpa, but to be above Blim. Performance Indicator 1.1.6.1. now needs to be re-scored. The text of the PI and SG’s is as follows:</p> <p>PI 1.1.6.1: Is the stock(s) at or above reference levels for SSB and F? [YES - Criteria 1 is complete. NO - Answer Criteria 2]</p> <p>SG 60: The stock is close to the limit reference levels. SG 80: The stock is above the precautionary reference levels</p> <p>The score for this PI is therefore re-scored to 75. As the stock is no longer above Bpa, MSC Criterion 1.2 must be invoked. The text of the PI and SG’s is as follows:</p>

PI 1.2.1: If the stock is below the precautionary reference point, are measures to rebuild the stock specified?

SG60: Appropriate rebuilding measures through reduction in exploitation exist and are being implemented. Rebuilding measures other than reduction in exploitation are being considered. Measures have not been tested.

SG80: Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery within reasonable time frames. Measures have been tested and can be shown to be rebuilding the stock.

SG 100: Appropriate rebuilding measures are being implemented to promote recovery as quickly as is possible. Additional measures are being implemented to prevent problems in the future.

Measures to rebuild the stock, through reductions in TAC in excess of the HCR (i.e. over 15%) exist and have been implemented in 2006 and recommended again in 2007. The success of such rebuilding measures has been demonstrated during previous stock recovery episodes in the 1970's and late 1990's, although in the current situation, the poor stock status is due to environmental rather than fishing pressures. The current situation with recruitment is not due to fishing mortality, but environmental factors, and these are under investigation.

However, there is currently no projection or plan of the level of fishing mortality required to attain Bpa within an appropriate timeframe under average recent levels of recruitment.

The score for this PI is therefore 75.

According to MSC requirements, we are also required to re-score Performance Indicator 3A.3.4. The requirements of this indicator are:

3A.3.4. Do objectives and operational procedures follow the precautionary approach?

SG 60: Some objectives and procedures implement a precautionary approach.

SG 80: Key objectives and procedures explicitly implement a precautionary approach.

Inconsistent application of the precautionary approach has led to re-scoring of this PI to 70.

As the score for PI 1.1.6.1, 1.2.1 and 3A.3.4 are below 80, we are required to raise a new condition of certification (Condition 8). This Condition, which addresses all three PI's, is as follows:

Condition 2. Rebuilding Measures

Action required:

Other MSC fisheries also target North Sea Herring and are seeking, through appropriate scientific sources, development of a recovery plan/scenario which would return the stock to Bpa over a reasonable time frame.

HFMG should write to appropriate UK and/or European management agencies expressing the requirement for, and support for, any such rebuilding plan/scenario and should support the implementation of this plan at any appropriate fora

It is recognised that Bpa may be subject to review by ICES and that this may alter the basis for the rebuilding plan.

As required by the MSC standard, any TAC's adopted prior to identification of the requirements of a recovery plan/scenario shall use best available information and a precautionary approach.

A plan must be implemented and have recovered, or be shown to be on schedule to recover the stock, in line with the recovery plan/scenario, by the fourth annual audit.

Should such an effective plan/scenario not be in place by this time, and/or TAC's not adopted

	<p>as outlined above, this condition would be deemed not to have been met.</p> <p>Timescale: Actions to be completed before the next annual surveillance audit, scheduled for late 2007/early 2008.</p> <p>Relevant Scoring Indicators: 1.1.6.1, 1.2.1, 3A.3.4</p>
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8	<p>Overall Conclusions</p> <p>HFMG have taken appropriate measures to address the conditions of certification raised during the MSC certification assessment. This can be summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conditions where requirements are deemed to have been fully met and the condition closed: Condition 1 <p>As a result of actions taken by HFMG to address these conditions, the two relevant Performance Indicators have been reviewed and scores raised as follows:</p> <p>PI 2.1.2.1 – 80 PI 2.1.2.2 – 80</p> <p>However, the continuing poor recruitment to the North Sea herring stock, and the current absence of a recovery plan/scenario means that a number of other Performance Indicators must be re-scored. Relevant PI's and adjusted scores are as follows:</p> <p>PI 1.1.6.1 – 75 PI 1.2.1 – 75 PI 3A.3.4 – 70</p> <p>As these three scores now fall below 80, a new condition has been raised, as detailed in Section 3 above.</p> <p>The client action plan is appended to this document.</p> <p>The overall scores for the MSC Principles have been re-calculated taking into account all of the above amendments. Scores for each Principle remain above 80.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue for both species. For herring, continuing certification will depend upon satisfactory compliance with outstanding conditions and enactment of a rebuilding plan/scenario for the North Sea stock. Surveillance audits shall continue to the same schedule.</p>
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Information Sources:

Meetings

1. 24/7/07. Hastings Fishery Management Group, Hastings.

Reports etc

1. ICES (2007) Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management ICES ACFM.
2. ICES (2007). Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N. ICES C.M.
3. Pelagic RAC letter to ICES with Request for reassessment North Sea herring reference points. 5 June 2007 and ICES response of 6 July 2007.
4. PRAC presentation on North Sea herring.

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

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Addendum to Action Plan, Hastings Pelagic Fishery

Action required:

Other MSC fisheries also target North Sea Herring and are seeking, through appropriate scientific sources, development of a recovery plan/scenario which would return the stock to Bpa over a reasonable time frame.

HFMG should write to appropriate UK and/or European management agencies expressing support for a rebuilding plan/scenario and should support the implementation of this plan at any appropriate fora

It is recognised that Bpa may be subject to review by ICES and that this may alter the basis for the rebuilding plan.

As required by the MSC standard, any TAC's adopted prior to identification of the requirements of a recovery plan/scenario shall use best available information and a precautionary approach.

Timescale: Actions to be completed before the next annual surveillance audit, scheduled for late 2007/early 2008.

Action to be taken by Hastings Fishery Management Group (HFMG)

HFMG want to be supportive of any measures taken in developing a recovery plan for the herring fishery.

HFMG will therefore write to management agencies both in the UK and abroad (including the Marine Fisheries Agency, the relevant Sea Fisheries Committee[s] and Fishermen' organisations) supporting a rebuilding plan for this fishery and its implementation.

Copies of these letters and responses will be made available to the MSC auditing body on request.

These letters will be sent before the next annual audit at the end of 2007/beginning 2008.