

Control Union (UK) Limited

Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters

MSC Notice of Suspension

Control Union (UK) Limited

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1 Marine Stewardship Council Notice of suspension

Table 1 – Notice of suspension

1	Fishery name
	Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters
2	CAB
	Control Union (UK) Limited
3	Date of the Notice of Suspension
	30/11/2022
4	Effective date of the fishery suspension
	30/12/2022
5	The reason for the fishery suspension
	Following the Year 2 surveillance audit and rescoring of the Principle 1 performance indicators a number of the UoAs related to Ling (in subareas 3, 4, 6–9, 12, and 14) were found to no longer meet FCP 2.2 ~ 7.17.12. <i>The CAB shall not certify the UoA if the weighted average score for all PIs under each Principle is less than 80 for any of the 3 Principles.</i>
6	If the fishery is suspended for no longer conforming to the MSC Fisheries Standard (GCR Section 7.4), which Performance Indicators are affected (please include summary explanation)?
	<p>For Principle 1 – PI 1.1.1 stock status (80) has been reduced (70) as the stock continues to be above PRI but without a high degree of certainty and Sla SG100 is still not met, but due to the uncertainty regarding stock identity, the assessment, and the contradicting trends in the biomass indexes in subareas 7 and 8. There are indications that the stock may be overexploited, therefore the stock is no longer considered at MSY levels and Slb SG80 is no longer met.</p> <p>PI1.1.2 is now scored (90) as stock biomass continues to be high increasing over the last 20 years, except for 2018. Considering ling generation time of 12-14 years (1/0.15 + 5-7 years) and that stock biomass is high and has been increasing for 20 years, while there is no increase in catches, rebuilding is likely to occur in a timeframe shorter of 20 years or 2 times its generation time and SG60 is met. However, as it is not in 1 generation time, SG100 is not met. In addition, as there is monitoring in place and the stock is high this has been increasing for the last 20 years, Slb SG60 and SG80 are both met, but considering the uncertainties in the stock assessment, there is no strong evidence nor is it highly likely that rebuilding strategy will be able to rebuild the stock within the specified timeframe and therefore SG100 is not met.</p> <p>PI1.2.4 assessment of stock status (80) has been reduced (75) because FMSY is no longer considered appropriate to be the basis for advice, there are only generic reference points available and Slb SG80 is no longer met.</p> <p>There are no changes to PI 1.2.1 harvest strategy scoring (85) as the existence of the TAC and the UK being part of NEAFC ensures Sla SG80 continues to be reached, but the harvest strategy continues to not being</p>

	<p>designed to achieve stock management objectives. There are also annual TAC negotiations and therefore SG100 is not reached; uncertainty and the strategy has not been fully tested and SIb continues to not meet SG100, and finally there is no biannual review of alternative measures and therefore Sif SG100 is still not met.</p> <p>There are no changes also to PI 1.2.2 HCRs (75) as the TACs for 2022 has been set above scientific advice, thus a well-defined HCR is not in place and SIa continues to only reach SG60.</p> <p>Having said that the overall outcome for ling is not reaching 80 and the stock is failing at this Year 2 surveillance audit. The overall outcome for P1 is now 79.2 and it does not comply with the MSC requirements on clause 7.17.12.</p>
7	<p>If the fishery is suspended for not making adequate progress towards addressing conditions (GCR Section 7.4), which condition(s) and Performance Indicators are affected?</p>
	<p>n/a</p>
8	<p>Statement on implications for selling fish caught as MSC certified/making claims after suspension date</p>
	<p>The suspension requires that the certificate holder not sell any fish caught as MSC-certified after the effective date of suspension (30/12/2022) until such time that the suspension is lifted. To comply with this requirement, the fishery is not eligible to use the MSC ecolabel (GCR 2.4.1 - 7.4.3) beyond this date.</p> <p>The CAB hereby instruct the client:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Not to sell any fish caught on or after the date of suspension as MSC certified. ii. Fish caught prior to the date of suspension may continue to be sold after the date of suspension as MSC certified if the CAB is able to confirm the client’s ability to segregate fish based on date of capture in conformance with GCR 2.4.1 - 7.4.3.c. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advise client group members of the suspension. • To advise existing customers in writing of the suspension within 4 days of this Notice of Suspension. • To keep records of advice to customers. • Not to make any claims of MSC certification on or after the date of suspension. <p>This notice hereby instructs the client to provide a documented corrective action plan for addressing the cause of suspension, which is acceptable to the CAB as being able to address the cause(s) for suspension, within 90 days from the date this Notice of Suspension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corrective action plan shall include a binding timeframe. • If the client submits an acceptable corrective action plan within 90 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The CAB will instruct the client to implement the corrective action plan. ○ The CAB will upload to the scheme database to be published on the MSC website: ○ The CAB will release a statement confirming their acceptance of the corrective action plan and publish the client’s corrective action plan. ○ If the client does not submit an acceptable corrective action plan within 90 days, the CAB shall withdraw the certificate.