COMMUNITY CATCH

Guidance for Self-Assessment

Environmental Risk Assessment

Section 4: Recognised Species

If required, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment is available HERE

Recognised species should be evaluated on the basis of the effects of the Fisher Group AND all other fisheries which target the same managed stock. This is the only situation in which other fisheries and fishers outside of the Fisher Group need to be taken into account.

A template for calculating the risk to recognised species can be found HERE. LOW risk is evidence that the stock is not being depleted below its Point of Recruitment Impairment (PRI).

Note that a separate function is available for Key Prey Species (section 4.5). This section should only be used if the managed stock is identified as a Key Prey Species. LOW risk is equivalent to the key prey species being above a level equivalent to MSY.

Section 5: Biodiversity

Threatened Species

1. For any Threatened species of sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds and sharks vulnerable to capture or injury from fishing gear used by the Fisher Group in the current evaluation:
   Does a generic risk assessment https://www.seafoodwatch.org/globalassets/sfw/pdf/standards/fisheries/seafood-watch-fisheries-standard-version-f4.pdf
   Indicate LOW risk (score 3.5 or more)?
   If so, fishery is automatically LOW risk.

2. If not, a Fisher Group specific risk assessment should be conducted.
   If required, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment is available HERE (adapted from MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1).

   Birds

   Toothed Whales – including dolphins, and porpoises, sperm whales, killer whales, pilot whales, beaked whales, narwhals

   Other (Baleen) Whales and Manatees – including minke, right, humpback, sei, fin, bowhead, Gray and blue whales and also manatees and dugongs (sea cows)

   Pinnipeds – including seals, sea lions and walrus and also sea otters

   Sea turtles – including green, hawksbill, leatherback, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and olive ridley turtles

   Fish (including elasmobranchs – sharks, skates and rays) – use the Bycatch risk assessment HERE

   Sea snakes

Bycatches

If required, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment is available. A template for calculating the risk to recognised species can be found HERE. LOW risk provides evidence that the Fisher Group is not causing overfishing.

Habitats

1. Does the fishing gear normally (except in case of gear loss or other unusual occurrence) not make contact with the sea/lake bottom?
   If so, fishery is automatically LOW risk.

2. Is the fishing gear a vertical line which does make contact with the bottom?
   If so, fishery is automatically LOW risk.

3. Does the Fisher Group operate entirely on gravels, sands and/or muds (sedimentary habitats). These habitats would normally be expected to recover their ecosystem function within 20 years of cessation of fishing by the Fisher Group.
   If gear used is Labour Intensive or Passive, Fisher Group is automatically LOW risk.

4. If the Fisher Group operate entirely on gravels, sands and/or muds (sedimentary habitats) and the gear used is Active, Fisher Group is LOW risk unless there is a potential that the continued operation of the Fisher Group only could fundamentally damage the nature and role of the habitat such that recovery of a substantial part (expected to be around 80%) of the habitat function would not be expected within 20 years of all fishing on the habitat. Evidence of potential risk to habitats includes:
   - If the fishery has been operating on the same habitat, with a similar level of activity to that of the Fisher Group, for 15-20 years with no evidence of fundamental damage to the habitat(s) function (such as through continued catches of target species), then the Fisher Group is LOW risk
   - If there is evidence from other fisheries using the same gear type, in similar habitats and at similar levels of activity to that of the Fisher Group, for 15-20 years with no evidence of fundamental damage to the habitat(s) function, then the Fisher Group can be considered LOW risk if other fisheries are suitably comparable.
   - Ecosystem modelling can be used to demonstrate the level of risk.

5. For each vulnerable habitat affected, is the operation of the Fisher Group (excluding activities of fishers outside of the Fisher Group and any other human activities) affecting more than 20% of the full range of the habitat?
   If no, the Fisher Group is automatically LOW risk

6. If none of the above apply, and no other risk assessment has been conducted, then proceed to section 5.9 Habitats Management.