

## MSC-certificates in good condition

The MSC-certificates on shrimp, Greenland halibut, lumpfish and the fishery in the Barents Sea are all in good condition. G. halibut and lumpfish have recently been re-certified and shrimp re-certification started in 2022.

There are, however, still conditions on the certificates, especially concerning bycatch reporting, but in collaboration with the industry and managers we have developed strategies to meet these conditions.

In relation to shrimps our only remaining condition is the continued lack of an agreement on collaboration with Canada. Despite an improved dialogue and progress, we do not expect that an agreement will be reached in the near future. We are in dialogue with the MSC and have their support in finding a solution that will not affect our certificate short term, despite the lack of an agreement.

Concerning G. halibut, the challenge is the risk of Greenland shark bycatch. We are waiting for the 2022 bycatch numbers and if it continues to be significant, we will design a strategy to address the problem. This could include documenting that the sharks can survive capture or specific measures to minimize the bycatch.

From 2019 to 2022 SFG has together with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources studied the bycatch in the lumpfish fishery and the possibility to minimize bycatch of especially common eider and long-tailed duck. This has alleviated some of the MSC-certificate conditions, but the relatively large bycatch eider (10-20,000 annually) remains a challenge. The bycatch of long-tailed duck is limited but problematic since MSC considers it particularly vulnerable. Finally, the discrepancy between reported and actual bycatch remains an issue that requires continued attention.



## Management plans

In 2022, SFG have contributed to the management plans for G. halibut fisheries in East Greenland and inshore in West Greenland.

The G. halibut offshore fishery in West Greenland is restricted to certain geographical areas, because of the lack of an active management of the seabed. The same is partly true for the shrimp fishery in the most northern areas. The biodiversity and ecosystem integrity must be protected, but this can easily be combined with an efficient fishery. We must strike this balance and describe it in a management plan and SFG will continue to contribute to this work in 2023.

The East Greenland fisheries are in several areas sustainable and in compliance with the MSC-standard. When there is an implemented management plan for the seabed, it will most likely be possible to MSC-certify several fisheries in the area.

In West Greenland SFG has contributed substantially to the management plan for inshore G. halibut fishery. The work is constructive and moving forward and we look forward to continuing this in 2023 have a finalized management plan for the fishery

## New MSC standard

During last four years MSC have worked on a new version of their standard. SFG have contributed with several individual contributions and via our international collaboration and have opposed particularly strongly against the increased documentation demands.

The standard has just been published and all new fisheries seeking certification from May 1st, 2023, must be evaluated against the new standard. Fisheries that are already certified must by November 2028 have transitioned to the new standard. Since all our MSC-certificates have just, or soon will, be re-certified it will be several years before we make this transition.

All possible new certificates will be by the new standard.

The new standard will in several areas raise the bar for fisheries to remain, or be, MSC-certified. This is particularly the case concerning fishery effects on the ecosystem (bycatch and seabed), and not least the amount of required documentation.

The large number of fishers and the fisheries effect on the seabed can cause challenges, especially when it comes to acquiring new MSC-certificates. SFG will follow the implementation of the new standard closely and moving forward, assess how we best prepare for the new standard implications.

