CLARIFICATION ON MSC PA UPDATED SCORES FOR THE PERUVIAN ANCHOVY IHC FISHERY (Northern Central stock, PERU)

An MSC Pre-Assessment (MSC PA) of the Peruvian anchovy industrial purse-seine fishery for Indirect Human Consumption (IHC) that takes place in the Peruvian Sea was hired by the National Fisheries Society (Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería, SNP) in 2009. The certification body SGS conducted the MSC PA using the first version of the MSC Certification Requirements (MSC CR) in force at the time. The MSC PA final report was received in March 2010. The MSC CR version 2.0 were released to the public on 1st October 2014 and became effective on 1st April 2015 (see MSC CR v.2.0, page 3).

The MSC CR v2.0 brings the change of assessing non-target species depending on whether they are under management (primary) or not (secondary), instead of on whether they are retained or discarded. Therefore, old Performance Indicators related to components 2.1 (retained non-target species) and 2.2 (bycatch species) must be re-assessed in order to have scores that reflect the situation of the fishery against the current requirements.

The Peruvian anchovy industrial purse-seine fishery in Peru is considered a mono-specific fishery, given the fact that Peruvian anchovy forms tight mono-specific fish schools (see SGS MSC PA, page 33). However, other species are caught during fishing operations. Fisheries management in Peru is considered strong, and many fish stocks are formally managed and subjected to research. Therefore, it is likely that several species (retained or discarded) are primary.

It should be noted that the MSC PA did not offer a list of these species (retained and/or discarded) and, in addition, with the information available at present, it is not possible to assess whether any of the non-target primary and secondary species would be considered "main" as defined by the MSC (species representing 5% or more of the total catch of the fishery, or vulnerable species representing 2% or more of the total catch), or "minor" (less than the aforementioned thresholds).

Given all of the above, the decision was made to use a precautionary approach when transitioning scores to v2.0: The scores of similar PIs in the Retained and Bycatch components in the original MSC PA were compared, and the most precautionary score was taken as valid for both the Primary and Secondary PIs. In this way, this minimizes the probability that scores are over-estimated.
Applying the criterion described above, this gives as a result the scores provided in the Indicators Section of the Peruvian anchovy IHC FIP profile available online at FisheryProgress.com. The PI that changes is:

- **PI 2.2.3 RED** instead of yellow

In regards to Principles 1 and 3, many changes have occurred in research and management since the MSC PA was conducted by SGS in 2010. Considering that the Northern-Central fish stock is exploited both by the industrial IHC fishery and the small-scale Direct Human Consumption (DHC) fishery, PI scores related to Principle 1 and Principle 3 are valid in both fisheries, with the exception of the PI **3.2.3. (Compliance and Enforcement)**, given that the fishery have different sets of control tools for each fleet.

Considering all of the above, PIs related to Principle 1 and Principle 3 retain the scoring provided by the update of the MSC PA performed by CeDePesca for the small-scale DHC fishery (see CeDePesca’s Gap Analysis for the Peruvian anchovy for DHC), except PI **3.2.3**, that receives a score of 80 or above, using the same rationale provided by SGS in 2010 pre-assessment (see SGS MSC PA page 41).

The fact that these scores are preliminary, given that certain information is lacking (Principle 2), was fully taken into account by CeDePesca when setting the 2017 FIP Action Plan. The MSC PA will once again be updated in late March 2017.

**References:**


SGS. 2010. Informe de Pre-Evaluación para la pesquería de la anchoveta (Engraulis ringens) de la zona norte/centro del Perú. 49 pp.