



Fisheries Verification Report

MSCV25

Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in FAO 27, ICES 30,
31

Issued May 2026 – Effective June 2026

Report code	MSCV25	Date of issue	July 2026
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1. Application details		
Applicant name(s)	Eesti Kalatootjate Keskühistu - Paldiski Fishmeal Plant	
Applicant country	Estonia	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	fisheries-ca@lrqa.com	
Assessor name	Sam Peacock	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Ayana Sabu	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.25	
Comments on the assessment	The species, geographic area, stock definition and fishing gear provided by the applicant match those on a valid MSC certificate. The most recent PCR indicates that there were no major traceability concerns. Catches of MSC-certified herring from this fishery may be up to 4% sprat, which is recognised by the certificate as an IPI species.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 07/2026	Valid until 06/2029
4. Assessment cycle	Initial	

5. Fishery for verification	
Recognised Fishery Standard for verification	MSC

Recognised fishery certificate details:	FFA Finland and SPFPO Sweden Gulf of Bothnia herring fishery
Fishery name, certificate code and website reference	MSC-F-31377 https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ffa-finland-and-spfpo-sweden-gulf-of-bothnia-herring-fishery/
Validity date(s) of the fishery certification	Issued 14 Feb 2025
(certificate date of issue - certificate expiry date)	Expires 30 Jun 2029

Verification scope

6. Verification scope comparison		
Fishery details	MarinTrust unit of approval <i>Received from applicant/certificate holder</i>	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) unit of certification <i>Listed on the certificate/ additional information from Fishery Assessor</i>
Species	<i>Clupea harengus</i> , herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i> (L., 1758) (syn. <i>Clupea harengus membras</i> (Wulf, 1765)
Geographic area	FAO 27, ICES 30, 31 (Gulf of Bothnia)	ICES Subdivisions 30-31
Stock definition	Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in subdivisions 30 and 31 (Gulf of Bothnia)	Gulf of Bothnia (ICES subdivisions 30 and 31)
Gear type / Harvest method	Trawling	Pelagic trawl (UoC 1&3), purse seine (UoC 3) and fish trap (UoC 2)

Parties currently eligible to access this certificate Fleets, individual vessels	n/a	Finland Fishermen's Association / Suomen Ammattikalastajaliitto R.Y. (pelagic trawl and fish trap) Swedish Pelagic Federation PO (pelagic trawl and purse seine) Full vessel lists available here: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ffa-finland-and-spfpo-sweden-gulf-of-bothnia-herring-fishery/@vessel-documentsets
Traceability factors	n/a	Up to 4% of landings may be sprat, which has been accepted via a variation request as an Inseparable or Practically Inseparable species. The IPI announcement can be found here: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ffa-finland-and-spfpo-sweden-gulf-of-bothnia-herring-fishery/@other-documentsets?file_type=Other+document%3A+IPI+Announcement The 2024 PCR includes the following notes about traceability: • There is no at-sea processing, transshipment or translocation. Fish are caught and landed to a nearby port. • There is no processing prior to change of ownership. • Vessels are only allowed to fish from one herring stock per trip, so cannot land herring from outside the UoA along with herring from the UoA. • There are control measures in place which mitigate the risks of mixing certified and non-certified products The most recent surveillance report (published November 2025) states that "There have been no changes to traceability systems since the fishery was certified"¹.

¹ https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ffa-finland-and-spfpo-sweden-gulf-of-bothnia-herring-fishery/@assessment-documentsets?assessment_step=Surveillance+Audit&documentset_name=Surveillance+report&assessment_id=FA-04193&phase_name=Ongoing+surveillance&start_date=2025-08-22