

Alaska Flatfish Complex Fishery
Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Certification
Certification Body: DNV GL - Business Assurance
Announcement of annual surveillance

DNV GL - Business Assurance (DNV GL) is pleased to announce the 1st annual surveillance for the Alaska flatfish complex fishery client group against Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Standard. The objective of the surveillance audit is to confirm the conformance of the fishery with the RFM standard by collecting and reviewing up-dates and changes from the previous year. The surveillance would be conducted off-site.

The unit of certification is defined as:

Applicant Group:	Alaska Seafood Cooperative
Certificate No:	10000365-855-MSC-ANSI-NOR
Product Common Name (<i>Species</i>):	Alaska plaice (<i>Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus</i>) BSAI Arrowtooth flounder (<i>Atheresthes stomias</i>) BSAI & GOA Flathead sole (<i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i>) BSAI & GOA Greenland turbot (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>) BSAI Kamchatka flounder (<i>Atheresthes evermanni</i>) BSAI Northern rock sole (<i>Lepidopsetta polyxstra</i>) BSAI & GOA Yellowfin sole (<i>Limanda aspera</i>) BSAI Southern rock sole (<i>Lepidopsetta bilineatus</i>) GOA Rex sole (<i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i>) GOA
Geographic Location	Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering sea & Aleutian Islands (BSAI) within Alaska jurisdiction (200 nautical miles EEZ).
Gear Types:	Bottom trawl, Longline, Pot and Jig gear
Principal Management Authority:	National Marine Fisheries Service; North Pacific Fishery Management Council; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The client responsible for coordination of surveillance activities for this fishery is the Alaska Seafood Cooperative. The annual surveillance will be conducted in accordance with Alaska RFM Standard version 1.3 available at: http://www.alaskaseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/RFM-Standard-V1.3_MAY2016.pdf.

Projected timeline:

Surveillance is estimated to take approximately 1.5 months. Further information regarding this fishery is available at <https://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/>.

1/11/2021: Surveillance announced

2/15/2021: Off-site audit/desktop document review commences

Assessment/review activities will include (but not limited to) following:

- review of changes to the stock status;
- review of changes in the management systems;
- review of changes or additions / deletions to regulations;
- review of any personnel changes in scientific staff, key management or industry to evaluate impact on the management of the fishery;
- review of any potential changes to the scientific basis of information;
- review of changes regarding impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem

3/31/2021: Surveillance report submitted

Nominated assessment team:

Jodi Bostrom Jodi Bostrom is a senior assessor and team leader for MSC Fisheries at DNV GL Business Assurance. She earned an M.Sc. in Environmental Science from American University and a B.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin. She has over four years of experience in MSC fisheries assessment services. Prior to that, she worked for five years at the MSC as a Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager. Among other things, she developed the MSC's benthic habitats policy and the Consequence Spatial Analysis (a risk-based framework for assessing habitat impacts in data-deficient situations) as part of the MSC Standard revision. Prior to the MSC, Jodi spent 11 years with the US National Academy of Sciences' Ocean Studies Board where she worked on various projects from fisheries management and policy to bycatch and dredging impacts to eutrophication and sea level rise.

Giuseppe Scarcella Giuseppe Scarcella is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council - Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblages evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otholith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni-multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF). He is author and co-author of more than 30 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species.

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