Global Trust Certification

Alaska Sablefish Commercial Fishery (200nm EEZ)

RFM Fishery Announcement

02 June 2022

1 Introduction

This Announcement marks the beginning of an RFM assessment during which the above fishery will be assessed for conformity to the requirements of the applicable Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program(me)/scheme and documents outlined in Table 1 and details the information Global Trust Certification must provide when formally announcing this assessment.

Table 1. Relevant RFM program(me)/scheme and documents, including applicable versions and their usage.

Relevant RFM program(me)/ scheme	Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC) Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program		
Relevant RFM program(me)/ scheme documents	Document title	Version/Issue/ Revision	Usage
	RFM Procedure 2.1: Application to Certification Procedures for the RFM Fishery Standard	Version 6	Process
	Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Standard	Version 1.3	Standard
	Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries in North America	Version 1.3	Guidance to Standard

Explanatory note:

The fishery was withdrawn from the RFM Certification Program on April 10th, 2022.

Following the confirmation that Deckhand Seafoods takes temporarily the responsibility of the fishery, a certificate reinstatement process was triggered in accordance with RFM Procedures 4.6 and 4.0.

Procedure 4.6 "*If, at any time, the Certification Body determines that the fishery meets the requirements for certification under the RFM Fishery Standard (including through the use of corrective action plans as permitted), the suspension or withdrawal shall be terminated and the certificate reinstated.*"

Procedure 4.0 "*To ensure that a fishery remains in compliance with the requirements of certification, surveillance audits will take place at least annually and more frequently, if deemed necessary by the Certification Body. Audits may be undertaken on short notice (i.e. unscheduled audits), if deemed necessary by the Certification Body.*"

The objective of this 5th surveillance audit is to verify that the fishery is in compliance with the requirements of the RFM Fisheries Standard. The reinstatement of a valid certificate will depend on the outcome of this surveillance audit.

2 Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) fishery announcement

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	Alaska Sablefish Commercial Fishery (200nm EEZ)	
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number	
	Certification cycle	Second (5-year) certification cycle
	Assessment type and number	Fifth surveillance assessment
3	Statement that the fishery is within scope	
	Global Trust confirms that the fishery under assessment (as defined by the Units of Assessment (UoAs) described below) is within scope of the relevant RFM Fisheries Standard.	
4	Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)	

Units of Assessment (UoAs)

Common across all UoAs		**UoA**	
Species:	**Common**	**All**	Sablefish (black cod)
	Latin name:	**All**	*Anoplopoma fimbria*
Geographical Area(s):		**All**	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within: 1. The Gulf of Alaska. 2. The Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands.
Stock(s):		**All**	Eastern Pacific
Management System:		**All**	Federal and State management by: ▪ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ▪ North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) ▪ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and Board of Fisheries (BOF)
Client Group		**All**	Deckhand Seafoods
Unique to each UoA		**UoA**	
Fishing gears/methods:		**1**	Benthic longline
		2	Pots
		3	Trawl

5	Name of proposed team leader
	Dr. Ivan Mateo. Primarily responsible for the Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem. Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Leader. He has extensive experience working with wide variety of fish species including other gadoids, Rockfish, and flatfish (i.e. Atlantic Cod, Pacific Ocean Perch, Senegal Tonguefish, Tropical flatfish (10 years). He has Extensive experience in marine conservation advice as well as fisheries management advice (15 Years). He has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). Dr. Mateo does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.
6	Name(s) of proposed team members
	Mr. Robert Allain, primarily responsible for the Fishery Management System. Mr. Allain meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Member. He is a Technical member of AKRFM Standard Committee. He has over 30 years Fisheries Management experience with DFO in policy, planning and operations at area, regional and national levels (17 years at Executive level). He has International MCS experience on behalf of UN FAO and World Bank> He has working knowledge of US federal and state management processes and systems.

Table 2. Fishery announcement.	
	Mr. Allain does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1. **Dr. Robert Leaf.** Primarily responsible for the Science & Stock Assessment Activities, and Precautionary Approach. Dr. Robert Leaf has 20 years of experience working in the field of natural resource management of fin and shellfish. He specializes in the evaluation of management strategies of harvested species and the identification of environmental drivers that impact their population dynamics. He has worked in the Gulf of Mexico for the last three years working on fish stock assessment of commercially and recreationally important species in that area. Dr. Leaf does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1
7	Site visit
	The site visit (which may take place remotely) will take on the proposed date(s) and at the following location(s): – Site visit dates: 13 June 2021 to 30 June 2021. – Site visit location(s): the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely. Stakeholders wishing to consult directly with the assessment team during this period may contact Global Trust as outlined below requesting to do so: 1. Contact Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org. 2. The deadline for doing so is **17:00 UTC** on **Friday 10 June 2022**. 3. Provide at least the following details when doing so: – Your name and contact details. – Your association with the fishery. – Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.

3 Appendices

3.1 Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

- Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor and primary responsibility for ecosystem impacts
- Mr. Robert J Allain (Assessor and primary responsibility for fisheries management
- Dr. Robert Leaf (Assessor and primary responsibility for stock assessment and the precautionary approach).

A brief bio for each assessment team member is presented below.

Team Leader: Ivan Mateo Primary Responsibility for ecosystem impacts

Insert Summary of CV (i.e. Short Profile from Auditor File).

Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 25 years' experience working with natural resources population dynamic modeling. His specialization is in fish and crustacean population dynamics, stock assessment, evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, bioenergetics, ecosystem-based assessment, and ecological statistical analysis. Dr. Mateo received a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with Fisheries specialization from the University of Rhode Island. He has studied population dynamics of economically important species as well as candidate species for endangered species listing from many different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, the Northeast US Coast, Gulf of California and Alaska. He has done research with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Based Fishery Management on bio-energetic modeling for Atlantic cod He also has been working as environmental consultant in the Caribbean doing field work and looking at the effects of industrialization on essential fish habitats and for the Environmental Defence Fund developing population dynamics models for data poor stocks in the Gulf of California. Recently Dr. Mateo worked as National Research Council postdoc research associate at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on population dynamic modeling of Alaska sablefish.

Team Member: Mr. Robert J Allain, Primary Responsibility for fisheries management

Mr. Allain is a graduate of Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia with undergraduate degrees in Commerce (Business Administration) and Science (Chemistry). In 1977, he joined the then Federal Department of Fisheries and Environment as a Fishery Officer (International Surveillance) and carried out inspections of foreign and domestic fishing vessels within and beyond Canada's EEZ. During his 32-year career with the now Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Mr. Allain served in a variety of fisheries management, strategic planning and policy positions in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and at Departmental Headquarters in Ottawa. He served as a senior executive from 1991 to 2008.

Currently, he is the president of the consulting firm OceanIQ Management Services in Dieppe, New Brunswick. He is a Marine Stewardship Council-certified P3 assessor who has participated in approximately 25 assessments and surveillance audits in Canada and the U.S. in respect of demersal, pelagic, invertebrate and crustacean fisheries. He is also fully conversant with the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (AK RFM) model through his participation as a technical expert to the Fisheries Standard Committee that developed the certification scheme.

Team Member: Dr. Robert Leaf Primary responsibility for stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology

Dr. Robert Leaf has 20 years of experience working in the field of natural resource management of fin and shellfish. He specializes in the evaluation of management strategies of harvested species and the identification of environmental drivers that impact their population dynamics. Dr. Leaf received his Master's Degree in Marine Science at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and his PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Virginia Polytechnic and State Institute. His last professional post was as a post-doc under Dr. Kevin Friedland at the Northeast Fishery Science Center's Narragansett Laboratory. There, he worked on understanding the impact of environmental conditions on fish stock productivity and recruitment. He has worked in the Gulf of Mexico for the last three years working on fish stock assessment of commercially and recreationally important species in that area. Dr. Leaf is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum working group and NOAA's Marine Fisheries and Climate Taskforce. He currently supervises four masters level students working on various state and federally managed fish stocks.