Global Trust Certification

Alaska Pacific halibut and sablefish (black cod) commercial fishery

RFM Fishery Announcement

09 November 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: Application to Certification Procedures for the RFM Fishery Standard	Version 6	Process
	Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Standard	Version 2.1	Standard
	Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries in North America	Version 2.1.	Guidance to Standard

2 Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) fishery announcement

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	Alaska Pacific halibut and sablefish (black cod) commercial fishery	
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number	
	Certification cycle	third (5-year) certification cycle
	Assessment type and number	Reassessment
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)	

Pacific halibut Units of Assessment (UoAs)

Common across all UoAs		**UoA**	
Species:	**Common name:**	**All**	Pacific halibut
	Latin name:	**All**	*Hippoglossus stenolepis*
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**	International, Federal and State management by: ▪ International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) ▪ 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**	The entities that are entitled to use this fishery's certificate to enter fish from the certified fishery into certified chains of custody is defined by the most up- to-date client group list for this fishery which may be accessed via the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF).
Unique to each UoA		**UoA**	
Fishing gears/methods:		**1**	Benthic longline
		2	Pots
		3	Troll

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

Sablefish 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**	The entities that are entitled to use this fishery's certificate to enter fish from the certified fishery into certified chains of custody is defined by the most up- to-date client group list for this fishery which may be accessed via the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF).
Unique to each		**UoA**	
Fishing gears/methods:		**1**	Benthic longline
		2	Pots
		3	Troll

5	Name of proposed team leader
	Dr. Ivan Mateo. Primarily responsible for ecosystems and fisheries management. 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). CV on file 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	Names of proposed team members
	Mr. Robert Allain, primarily responsible for fisheries management. 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. CV on file. 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 stock assessment and fish biology/ecology of target species. Dr.Leaf meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Member. He has extensive experience working on stock assessments with wide variety of fish species including Gadoids, Sciaenids,Clupeids (ie Atlantic Haddock, Southern Kingfish, Gulf Menhaden) (10 years). He has Extensive experience in marine conservation advice as

Table 2. Fishery announcement.	
	well as fisheries management advice (10 Years). He has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). CV on file 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 has already taken place during the 5th surveillance audit in (which took take place remotely) on the following date(s) and at the following location(s): – Site visit dates: 13 June 2022 to 30 June 2022 – Site visit location(s): the site visit portion of this assessment took place remotely.
8	Stakeholder comment opportunities
	As part of this assessment, previously registered stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to provide input on a public draft of the assessment report which will be provided for comment when the defined 30-day period in which registered stakeholders may comment is reached. As this stakeholder input opportunity is limited to previously registered stakeholders, interested stakeholders should ensure they register as outlined below. Contact Global Trust Client Services (ClientServicesie@nsf.org) requesting to be registered as a stakeholder for this fishery providing the following details: - Your name and contact details. - Your association with the fishery. The deadline for requesting to be registered as a stakeholder is **9th December 2022.**

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 fish stock biology/ecology).

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

Team Leader: Ivan Mateo Primary Responsibility for ecosystem impacts

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.