

# Global Trust Certification

## U.S. Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King, Tanner and Snow Crab Commercial Fisheries

### RFM Fishery Announcement

# 01 September 2023

#### 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
	Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Fisheries 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 Sablefish Commercial Fishery (200nm EEZ)	
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number	
	Certification cycle	third (5-year) certification cycle
	Assessment type and number	First 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)	
	<b>Units of Assessment (UoAs)</b>	
	<b>Common across all UoAs</b>	<b>UoA</b>
	<b>Geographical Area(s):</b>	<b>All</b> U.S. Federal and State waters off the U.S. State of Alaska.
	<b>Management System:</b>	<b>All</b> U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands managed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)</li> <li>■ North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)</li> <li>■ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)</li> <li>■ Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)</li> </ul>
	<b>Fishing gear(s)/method(s):</b>	<b>All</b> Baited pot/trap gears
	<b>Client group:</b>	<b>All</b> Members of the Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC
	<b>Unique to each UoA</b>	<b>UoA</b>
	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common name:</b> 1 Red King crab
		<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i>
		<b>Common name:</b> 2 Snow crab
		<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Chionoecetes opilio</i>
		<b>Common name:</b> 3 Blue King crab
		<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Paralithodes platypus</i>
		<b>Common name:</b> 4 Tanner Crab
		<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Chionoecetes bairdi</i>
		<b>Common name:</b> 5 Golden King Crab
		<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Lithodes aequispinus</i>
	<b>Stock(s):</b>	<b>1</b> Bristol Bay Red King crab
		<b>2</b> Eastern Bering Sea Snow crab
		<b>3</b> St. Matthew Island Blue King crab
		<b>4</b> Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab
		<b>5</b> Aleutian Islands Golden King crab
5	Name of proposed team leader	
	<p><b>Dr. Ivan Mateo.</b> Primarily responsible for stock assessment and fisheries management. Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Leader. He has extensive experience working with wide variety of invertebrates including spiny lobster Asian shore crab red swamp crawfish and razor clam (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</p> <p>Dr. Mateo does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p>	
6	Name(s) of proposed team members	
	<p><b>Dr. Wes Toller</b> , primarily responsible for fisheries impacts on the ecosystem . Dr. Toller meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Member. Dr.Wes Toller has extensive experience in Monitoring and</p>	

**Table 2.** Fishery announcement.

	<p>Assessment of Impacts of Anthropogenic Disturbances in Marine Tropical Ecosystems (10 Years), extensive experience on delineation of essential fish habitat for economically important species in USVI and Dutch Caribbean Islands (10 years) and extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation of Endangered Species in the Caribbean (10 years). Dr. Wes Toller has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p>
7	<p>Site visit</p>
	<p>The site visit (which may take place remotely) will take on the proposed date(s) and at the following location(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <u>Site visit dates</u>: October 2 to October 13 2023.</li> <li>– <u>Site visit location(s)</u>: the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders wishing to consult directly with the assessment team during this period may contact Global Trust as outlined below requesting to do so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact Global Trust Client Services: <a href="mailto:ClientServicesie@nsf.org">ClientServicesie@nsf.org</a>.</li> <li>2. The deadline for doing so is <b>17:00 UTC on Saturday 30 September 2023</b>.</li> <li>3. Provide at least the following details when doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Your name and contact details.</li> <li>– Your association with the fishery.</li> <li>– Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

## 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 stock assessment fish stock biology and fisheries management and Data Deficient Audit Tool (DDAT)/Data Deficient Framework (DDF))
- Dr. Wes Toller (Assessor and primary responsibility for fisheries impacts to the ecosystem)

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

#### **Team Leader: Ivan Mateo Primary Responsibility for Stock Assessment and Fisheries Management Data Deficient Audit Tool (DDAT)/Data Deficient Framework (DDF)**

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 Defense 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.

Ivan will oversee coordinating the other Assessment Team members, participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures. Ivan will also be the team's expert on Section B: Science and Stock Assessment Activities and Section C: The Precautionary Approach of the relevant Standard, Section D: Management Measures, Section E: Implementation, Monitoring and Control. Ivan does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Surveillance

#### **Team Member: Mr. Wes Toller, Primary Responsibility for fisheries impacts to the ecosystem and Fishery Management**

Wes has an extensive background in fisheries management and habitat conservation. As owner and operator of his own consulting business since 2010, Wes has worked closely with a number of leading certification schemes including the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) to develop and improve processes for auditing and accreditation of sustainability standards. He previously worked as a program manager with Accreditation Services International (ASI) where he helped establish the company's nascent MSC Program. Wes has an in-depth knowledge of ISO requirements and international best practices that pertain to eco-labelling. He has a detail-oriented work style and wide ranging interests. Wes has experience in many subject areas within the field of sustainability, and a specialist in sustainable use of fishery resources in the field of fisheries management and marine science.

Wes will be the team's expert on Section A: The Fisheries Management System, and Section F: Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem of the relevant Standard. Wes does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Surveillance