

Global Trust Certification

U.S. Alaska Pacific Halibut & Sablefish (black cod) commercial fisheries

CSI Fishery Announcement

19 August 2025

1. Introduction

This Announcement marks the beginning of an CSI assessment during which the above fishery will be assessed for conformity to the requirements of the Certified Seafood International program and documents outlined in Table 1 and details the information Global Trust Certification must provide when formally announcing this assessment.

Table 1. Relevant CSI program documents, including applicable versions and their usage.

Document title	Version	Usage
Procedure 2: Application to Certification Procedures for the Fisheries Standard for Version 2.2	Version 6.3	Process
CSI Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Fisheries Standard	Version 2.2	Standard
CSI Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries	Version 2.2	Guidance to standard

2. Certification Seafood International (CSI) fishery announcement

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

1	Fishery name
	U.S. Alaska Pacific Halibut & Sablefish (black cod) commercial fisheries
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number
	Certification cycle
	Third (5-year) certification cycle
	Assessment type and number
	Second 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 CSI RFM Fisheries Standard.
4	Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)

Table 3. Unit(s) of Assessment.

Species:	Latin name:	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
	Common name(s):	Pacific Halibut
Stock(s):		Eastern Pacific
Geographical area(s):		U.S. Federal and State fisheries within: 1. The Gulf of Alaska. 2. The Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands
Fishing gear(s)/methods:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benthic longline ▪ Pots ▪ Troll ▪ Trawl
Management system:		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"> ▪ 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)

Table 4. Unit(s) of Assessment.

Species:	Latin name:	<i>Anoplopoma fimbria</i>
	Common name(s):	Sablefish (black cod)
Stock(s):		Eastern Pacific
Geographical area(s):		U.S. Federal and State fisheries within: 1. The Gulf of Alaska. 2. The Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands
Fishing gear(s)/methods:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benthic longline ▪ Pots ▪ Troll ▪ Trawl

Management system:

U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands managed by:

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and Board of Fisheries (BO

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

5	Name of proposed team leader
	<p>Dr. Ivan Mateo. Primarily responsible for Fisheries impacts on ecosystems and fisheries management. Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an CSI Team Leader. He has extensive experience working with wide variety of fish species including other gadoids, Rockfish, and flatfish (i.e. Atlantic Cod, Sablefish 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</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>Dr. Robert Leaf. Primarily responsible for stock assessment and fish biology/ecology of target species. Dr. Leaf meets all general requirements for an CSI 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 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</p> <p>Dr. Leaf does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix</p>
7	Site visit
	<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"> – Site visit dates: 2 September 2025 to 12 September 2025. – Site visit location(s): the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely. <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"> 1. Contact Global Trust Fisheries Team: Fisheries@nsf.org 2. The deadline for doing so is 17:00 UTC on Friday 29 August 2025. 3. Provide at least the following details when doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Your name and contact details. – Your association with the fishery. – Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.
8	Stakeholder comment opportunities
	<p>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.</p> <p>As this stakeholder input opportunity is limited to previously registered stakeholders, interested stakeholders should ensure they register as outlined below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Global Trust Fisheries Team as outlined above requesting to be registered as a stakeholder for this fishery.

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

- The above deadline for requesting to consult with the assessment team and the details stakeholder shall apply when requesting to be registered as a stakeholder shall additionally apply here.

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 fisheries management and ecosystem impacts)
- 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 fisheries management and 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 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 and as a fisheries research associate studying early life history/recruitment of Pacific Ocean Perch.

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.

3.2 Appendix 2: Timelines

Year	2025					2026										
Calendar Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr							
Assessment Month	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	
Assessment Planning																
Assessment announcement																
Site visit																
Drafting report and scoring																
30 day comment period																
Publication of Final Report																