



8950 Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. #202  
 St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2211  
 Tel: (727) 563-9070  
 Fax: (727) 563-0207  
 Email: [certification@mragamericas.com](mailto:certification@mragamericas.com)

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

# MRAG Americas, Inc.

## Alaska Flatfish

### CSI Surveillance Announcement

#### 04 March 2026

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce the 1<sup>st</sup> annual surveillance audit of the **Alaska Flatfish fishery**. The assessment will evaluate whether the fishery continues to comply with the Certified Seafood International Fishery Standard.

Table 1.	Relevant CSI Program and scheme documents, including applicable versions and their usage		
Relevant CSI Program	Certified Seafood International (CSI) RFM Certification Program		
Relevant CSI Program Documents	Document Title	Version	Usage
	CSI Procedure 2: Application to Certification Procedures for the Fishery Standard Version 2.2	V6.3	Process requirements
	Certified Seafood International Certification Program Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Fisheries Standard	2.2	Standard
	Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries	V2.2	Guidance to Standard

Table 2 – Fishery Announcement		
1	<b>Fishery name</b>	
	Alaska flatfish complex	
2	<b>Certificate number</b>	
	CSI-FISH-0001	
3	<b>Certification cycle, assessment type and number</b>	
	1st surveillance audit after reassessment	
4	<b>Statement that the fishery is within scope</b>	
	MRAG Americas confirms that the fishery under assessment (as defined by the Units of Assessment described below) is within scope of the relevant CSI Fisheries Standard.	
5	<b>Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)</b>	
	Geographical Area(s)	Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands (BSAI) within Alaska jurisdiction (200 nautical miles EEZ)
	Management System	National Marine Fisheries Service North Pacific Fishery Management Council National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
	Fishing gear(s)/method(s)	Bottom trawl, longline, pot and jig gear
	Client Group	Alaska Seafood Cooperative
	Species (common name/scientific name)	Alaska plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus</i> ) Arrowtooth flounder ( <i>Atheresthes stomias</i> ) Flathead sole ( <i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i> ) Greenland turbot ( <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> ) Kamchatka flounder ( <i>Atheresthes evermanni</i> ) Northern rock sole ( <i>Lepidopsetta polyxstra</i> ) Yellowfin sole ( <i>Limanda aspera</i> ) Southern rock sole ( <i>Lepidopsetta bilineatus</i> ) Rex sole ( <i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i> )
	Stock(s)	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
6	<b>Proposed team leader</b>	
	<b>Ms. Erin Wilson</b> will serve as lead assessor and will be primarily responsible for ecosystem impacts. Erin joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently serves as Director for the Fisheries Certification Division. She serves as the team leader, and/or team member, on several fishery assessments for both the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Standards for Certification. She also works on the implementation and analysis of fishery	

	<p>improvement projects (FIPs) and provides oversight on social compliance audits and risk assessments. She has over 15 years of experience in marine science and has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on conservation in both biological and social science aspects. Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she worked at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has conducted qualitative interviews with commercial fishermen and fishing communities along the west coast regarding catch share programs, limited entry, and proposed designations of marine reserves. She has completed ISO 19011 Lead Auditor for Management Systems, SA8000, the SRA training for Fishery Progress, FISH Standard for Crew and all the MSC and RFM required trainings for team leader and assessment team member. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University, a B.S. in Zoology and a Spanish minor from Colorado State University and attended Auburn University for Marine Science.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Proposed team members</b>
	<p><b>Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella</b> will serve as an assessor and will be primarily responsible for stock assessment and fish stock biology. Dr. 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, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage 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).</p> <p>He is author and co-author of more than 50 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. Dr. Scarcella also holds the credential as a certifier of Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM).</p> <p><b>Antonio Gomez, Ph.D.</b>, will serve as assessor and will be primarily responsible for fisheries management. Antonio joined MRAG Americas in November 2025 as a Fisheries Certification Specialist and supports assessments evaluating fishery performance against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Certified Seafood International (CSI) sustainability standards. He has over ten years of experience in sustainable fisheries and marine conservation across Latin America and the Caribbean. His background includes ecological and fisheries monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and resilience and governance assessments. Prior to joining MRAG Americas, he worked as an independent consultant conducting MSC pre-assessments, external evaluations of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), governance assessments, as well as supporting the Latin America and Caribbean Fishery Improvement Project Community of Practice. In addition, he worked at Comunidad y Biodiversidad, where he supported and coordinated several FIPs in Mexico. He has completed MSC-approved training for assessment team members, CSI training, and has experience working with interdisciplinary teams on socioenvironmental analyses, monitoring programs, and fisheries management strategies. He holds a Ph.D. in Environment and Development from the Autonomous University of Baja California (Mexico), an M.Sc. in Marine Ecology from the Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education of Ensenada (Mexico), an M.Sc. in Oceanography and Marine Environment Management from the University of Barcelona (Spain), and a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain).</p> <p>A discussion between team members regarding conflicts of interest and biases was held, and none were identified.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Site Visit</b>
	<p>A site visit for the fishery will occur remotely the week of <b>13 April 2026</b>. The site visit will be held in conjunction with the Alaska Atka mackerel and rockfish fishery.</p>

**Please note the timing of the surveillance schedule has changed to accommodate multiple fishery site visits in the region. Coordinating site visits in this manner is done to avoid stakeholder fatigue and overburdening management agencies.**

Stakeholders who would like to submit information or request a meeting with the assessment team are asked to do so by 17:00 UTC on **12 April 2026**.

To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

Information on the CSI stakeholder process and how to become a registered stakeholder can be found here: <https://csicertified.org/about/stakeholder-involvement/>

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

MRAG Americas, Inc.  
[certification@mragamericas.com](mailto:certification@mragamericas.com)  
Erin Wilson  
MRAG Americas, Inc.  
8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., Suite 202  
St. Petersburg FL 33702  
Ph: 1-727-563-9070  
Fax: 1-727-563-0207

Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: 04 March 2026