Global Trust Certification Ltd

U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut & U.S. Alaska sablefish

CSI Fishery Announcement

15 June 2026

Introduction

This Announcement marks the beginning of a Certified Seafood International (CSI) Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) assessment of this fishery. Global Trust Certification Ltd, an NSF company (hereafter GTC-NSF) is required to submit this announcement for posting on the CSI website.

This fishery will be assessed for conformity to the requirements of the CSI program and documents outlined in Table 1. The information GTC-NSF is required to provide when formally announcing assessment activities, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

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

Scheme	Certified Seafood International (CSI) Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Fisheries Certification Program	
Document title	**Version**	**Usage**
CSI RFM Management Fisheries Standard	Version 2.2	Standard
CSI Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries	Version 2.2	Guidance
CSI RFM Data Deficient Fisheries Framework		Guidance

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	Surveillance Audit No.3
3	**Statement that the fishery is within scope**
GTC-NSF 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)**
Species:	Pacific Halibut – *Hippoglossus stenolepis*
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:	▪ 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: ▪ 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)
Species:	Sablefish (black cod) – *Anoplopoma fimbria*
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:	▪ Benthic longline ▪ Pots ▪ Troll ▪ Trawl
Management system:	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Berin 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 (BOF)

5	Name of proposed team leader

Deirdre Hoare. Primary Responsibility for fisheries management and ecosystem impacts.

- Deirdre Hoare meets all general requirements for a CSI Team Leader. She is a fisheries scientist with over 15 years of experience in a wide range of projects associated with fisheries stock assessment and ecosystem impacts of fisheries. She has extensive experience in marine conservation advice as well as fisheries management advice (15 Years). She has extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). CV on file.
- Deirdre Hoare does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
- A short summary is provided in Appendix 1: Assessment Team – Summaries of CVs

6	Name(s) of proposed team members

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).
- Dr. Leaf does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
- A short summary is provided in Appendix 1: Assessment Team – Summaries of CVs

7	Site visit

The site visit will take place as follows:

- **Site visit dates: 13 July 2026 to 17 June 2026**
- **Site visit location(s): Virtual**

Stakeholders wishing to consult directly with the assessment team during this period may contact GTC-NSF as outlined below requesting to do so:

1. Contact GTC-NSF Fisheries Team: **Fisheries@nsf.org**
2. The deadline for doing so is **17:00 UTC** on **10 July 2026**
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.

Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.

Appendix 1: Assessment Team – Summaries of CVs

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

- Deirdre Hoare (Lead Assessor with primary responsibility for fisheries management and ecosystem impacts).
- Dr Robert Leaf (Assessor with primary responsibility for stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology).

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

Team Leader:

Deirdre Hoare, Primary Responsibility for fisheries management and ecosystem impacts

Deirdre Hoare is a fisheries scientist with over 15 years of experience in a wide range of projects associated with fisheries stock assessment and ecosystem impacts of fisheries. She is an ISO19011 Certified Lead Auditor and a Certified Seafood International's RFM Fisheries Standard Version 2.2 approved Fisheries Team Leader for NSF. Deirdre has a BSc and MSc in Marine Zoology from University College Galway. Until recently Deirdre worked as an independent CSI and MSC Principle 2 expert on many different fisheries in Europe, Greenland, North America and Asia. Principle 2 focuses on the effects of the fishery on associated species of fish and interactions with seabirds, marine mammals, and the benthic ecology. Prior to this, she held the position of Fishery Science Manager at MarinTrust, working on reduction fishery sustainability. Before this, she worked North-western Waters Advisory Council as an Executive Assistant. This involved working on multidisciplinary and multilingual teams to consult with stakeholders, gather evidence, and produce substantial reports and proposals for the European Commission. As a Fisheries Assessment Analyst and a Scientific and Technical Officer for the Marine Institute in Ireland, she was involved in fisheries research and stock assessment for ICES working groups. As well as having worked as a researcher, she completed many trips on commercial fishing vessels as a scientific observer in the NAFO area, Northwest Atlantic, and Irish Coast.

Deirdre does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fisheries under assessment and will take part in the site visit.

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.