

Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program

Announcement of the 3rd Surveillance Assessment

Of the:

Alaska Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishery

Client:

'Eat on the Wild Side' (FVOA)

Facilitated By

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)

This announcement substantiates the commencement of the 3rd Surveillance Assessment of the Alaska Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishery to the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program on behalf of 'Eat on the Wild Side' (FVOA).

The fishery was re-certified on 26 January 2017 against the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Fisheries Standard v1.3 which is available at:
<http://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/fisheries-standard/>

This will be a desktop review audit.

This announcement also includes, on the following pages, details of the Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA(s)) and the Unit of Certification (UoC) under consideration and the Assessment Team that will be conducting the audit.

Enquiries may be submitted to:

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Units of Assessment and Certification under consideration

The applicant Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) (i.e., what is to be assessed) during this assessment are described by the following:

Units of Assessment (UoAs)			
Common across all UoAs		UoA	
Species:	Common name:	All	Pacific halibut
	Latin name:	All	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
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: <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)
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 Fishing Vessel Owners' Association (FVOA).
Unique to each UoA		UoA	
Fishing gears/methods:		1	Benthic longline
		2	Pots
		3	Troll

The applicant Unit of Certification (UoC) (i.e., what will continue to be covered by the certificate if all Units of Assessment listed above continue to meet the required standard) is described by the following:

Units of Certification (UoCs)			
Common across all UoCs		UoC	
Species:	Common name:	All	Pacific halibut
	Latin name:	All	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
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: <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)
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 Fishing Vessel Owners' Association (FVOA).
Unique to each UoC		UoC	
Fishing gears/methods:		1	Benthic longline
		2	Pots
		3	Troll

Notice of Assessment Team

Based on the technical expertise required to carry out the above fishery assessment, SAI Global is pleased to confirm the assessment team members for this assessment as follows:

Lead Assessor	<p>Dr. Ivan Mateo, Lead Assessor</p> <p>Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 15 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.</p> <p>Ivan will be in charge of 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 A: The Fisheries Management System, Section B: Science and Stock Assessment Activities and Section C: The Precautionary Approach of the relevant Standard. Ivan does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Assessment.</p>
Assessor(s)	<p>Vito Romito, Assessor</p> <p>Vito Ciccia Romito is Italian and holds a BSc in Ecology and a MSc in Tropical Coastal Management from Newcastle University in the U.K. After his BSc, he worked in Tanzania as a Marine Research officer at the Mafia Island Marine Park carrying out biodiversity assessments and monitoring studies of coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems. Subsequently, for his MSc, he worked on fisheries assessment techniques, ecological dynamics of overexploited tropical marine ecosystems, and evaluation of low trophic aquaculture as a support to artisanal reef fisheries. Over the last 5 years he has been fully involved through Global Trust with the FAO-based RFM Assessment and Certification program covering the Alaska commercial salmon, halibut, sablefish, pollock, crab, Pacific cod and flatfish fisheries as well as the Icelandic cod, saithe, haddock and redfish fisheries. Vito has also participated in IFFO fisheries assessments for anchovy and sardine stocks in both Chile and Peru, and other pre-assessment work in Canada and the Gulf of Mexico. Vito is also lead, third party IRCA approved auditor.</p> <p>Vito will be the team's expert on Section D: Management Measures, Section E: Implementation, Monitoring and Control and Section F: Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem of the relevant Standard. Bill does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Assessment.</p>