



15th April 2016

**Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program
Announcement of Re-Assessment of US Alaska Sablefish (Black cod)
Commercial Fisheries (2016)**

This notice is to announce the commencement of the 1st re-assessment of the US *Alaska Sablefish (Black cod) Commercial Fisheries to the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program on behalf of The Fishing Vessel Owners Association (FVOA) -Eat on the Wild Side.*

This announcement also includes details about the Re-assessment team and dates for the site visit.

The fishery was certified October 2011 against the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Program. As per Program procedures, the fishery will now undergo a complete re-assessment to coincide the 5th year of certification.

The Standard is available at; <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/version13>.

Enquiries to:

Jean Ragg
Alaska RFM Program Administrator
Email: jean.ragg@saiglobal.com



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Units of Assessment within the Unit of Certification:

<i>U.S. ALASKA SABLEFISH (Black Cod) COMMERCIAL FISHERIES</i>			
<i>Fish Species (Common & Scientific Name)</i>	<i>Geographic Regions (s)</i>	<i>Gear Type</i>	<i>Principal Management Authority</i>
<i>Sablefish (black-cod) (Anoplopoma fimbria)</i>	<i>Federal and state fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands.</i>	<i>Benthic longline, Pot, Bottom Trawl.</i>	<i>National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC); Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) & Board of Fisheries (BOF).</i>

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Notice of Re-assessment Team

Based on the technical expertise required to carry out the above fishery assessment, Global Trust Certification Ltd., is pleased to confirm the re- assessment team members for the fishery as follows.

Dr. Ivan Mateo, Lead Assessor

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.



William (Bill) Brodie (Assessor)

Bill Brodie is an independent fisheries consultant with previously, a 36-year career with Science Branch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO, Newfoundland and Labrador Region). For the last Form 9 Issue 2 Jan 2012 twelve years of service he worked as Senior Science Coordinator/Advisor on Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) issues, serving as chair of the Scientific Council of NAFO and chairing 3 standing committees. As a senior stock assessment biologist, he lead assessments and surveys for several flatfish species and stocks, including American plaice, Greenland halibut, yellowtail and witch flounders. These include the largest stocks of flatfish in the NW Atlantic. He also participated in assessment of flatfish, cod, and shrimp stocks in the NE Atlantic and North Sea. Bill has participated in over 30 scientific research vessel surveys on a variety of Canadian and international ships. Bill has previously served as an assessor on Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management certification surveillance audit for P. cod.

Sam Dignan, (Assessor)

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist, working as a full time assessor with Global Trust. He has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a BSc in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with certification frameworks and has participated in surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organization as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions.



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Announcement of Site Visit

This notice is to announce the dates of the site visit for the re-assessment of **US Alaska Sablefish (Black cod) Commercial Fisheries to the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program on behalf of Fishing Vessel Owners Association (FVOA) Eat on the Wild Side.**

The re-assessment will be in accordance with Alaska RFM Standard version 1.3 available at:

The Standard is available at; <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/version13>.

The site visit by the assessment team will take place at various locations in Alaska commencing on the **16th May 2016.**

Enquiries to:

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