

Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program

Announcement of the 3rd Surveillance Assessment

of:

U.S. Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King, Tanner and Snow Crab Commercial Fisheries

Client:

Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC

Facilitated By

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)

This announcement substantiates the commencement of the 3rd Surveillance of the U.S. Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King, Tanner and Snow Crab Commercial Fisheries to the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program on behalf of Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC

The fishery was re-certified on 7th December 2017 against the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Standard v1.3 / which is available at:

<http://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/fisheries-standard/>

This surveillance will be done as a desktop review.

As part of these assessment activities there will be an opportunity for stakeholders (i.e. organizations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery) to provide input including comments or information relevant to the assessment process. Anyone wishing to register as a stakeholder for this fishery is invited to do so by contacting SAI Global through the email below. Registered stakeholders will be consulted during this assessment process and will be sent the draft report when the defined 30-day period in which stakeholders may submit comment is reached.

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:

SAI Global Client Services

E: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com

Submitted: 27th November 2019

Submitted by: Elaine O'Donoghue

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		
Geographical Area(s):	All	U.S. Federal and State waters off the U.S. State of Alaska.	
Management System:	All	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"> ▪ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ▪ North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) ▪ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) ▪ Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) 	
Fishing gear(s)/method(s):	All	Baited pot/trap gears	
Client group:	All	Members of the Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC	
Unique to each UoA	UoA		
Species	Common name:	1	Red King crab
	Latin name:		<i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i>
	Common name:	2	Snow crab
	Latin name:		<i>Chionoectes opilio</i>
	Common name:	3	Blue King crab
	Latin name:		<i>Paralithodes platypus</i>
	Common name:	4	Tanner Crab
	Latin name:		<i>Chionoectes bairdi</i>
	Common name:	5	Golden King Crab
	Latin name:		<i>Lithodes aequispinus</i>
Stock(s):	1	Bristol Bay Red King crab	
	2	Eastern Bering Sea Snow crab	
	3	St. Matthew Island Blue King crab	
	4	Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab	
	5	Aleutian Islands Golden King crab	

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:

U.S. Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King, Tanner, and Snow crab commercial fisheries [Bristol Bay Red King crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*), St. Matthew Island Blue King crab (*Paralithodes platypus*), Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab (*Chionoectes bairdi*), Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (*Lithodes aequispinus*), and Eastern Bering Sea Snow crab (*Chionoectes opilio*)] legally employing pot gear within Alaska jurisdiction (200 nautical miles EEZ) and subject to a federal [National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)/North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)] and state [Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) & Board of Fisheries (BOF)] joint management regime.

Note. 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 membership of the Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC; interested parties should contact the Client Group for their most up-to-date membership list

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 20 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 B: Science and Stock Assessment Activities and Section C: The Precautionary Approach of the relevant Standard, Section D: Management Measures, Section E: Implementation, Monitoring and Control. Ivan does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Surveillance.</p>
Assessor(s)	<p>Dr. Wes Toller, Assessor</p> <p>Wes has an extensive background in fisheries management and habitat conservation. As owner and operator of his own consulting business since 2010, Wes has worked closely with a number of leading certification schemes including the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) to develop and improve processes for auditing and accreditation of sustainability standards. He previously worked as a program manager with Accreditation Services International (ASI) where he helped establish the company's nascent MSC Program. Wes has an in-depth knowledge of ISO requirements and international best practices that pertain to eco-labelling. He has a detail-oriented work style and wide ranging interests. Wes has experience in many subject areas within the field of sustainability, and a specialist in sustainable use of fishery resources in the field of fisheries management and marine science.</p> <p>Wes will be the team's expert on Section A: The Fisheries Management System, and Section F: Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem of the relevant Standard. Wes does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this Surveillance.</p>