

# Global Trust Certification

**Alaska Pacific halibut and sablefish (black Cod) commercial fishery**

## RFM Fishery Announcement

**21 May 2024**

### 1. Introduction

This Announcement marks the beginning of an RFM assessment during which the above fishery will be assessed for conformity to the requirements of the applicable Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program(me)/scheme and documents outlined in Table 1 and details the information Global Trust Certification must provide when formally announcing this assessment.

**Table 1.** Relevant RFM program(me)/scheme and documents, including applicable versions and their usage.

Relevant RFM program(me)/scheme	Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC) Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program		
Relevant RFM program(me)/scheme documents	Document title <a href="#">(delete rows as appropriate)</a>	Version/Issue/Revision	Usage
RFM Procedure 2: Application to Certification Procedures for the RFM Fishery Standard		Version 6.1	Process
CSC Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Fisheries Standard		Version 2.1	Standard
Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries in North America		Version 2.1	Guidance to standard

### 2. Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) fishery announcement

**Table 2.** Fishery announcement.

1	Fishery name	
	Alaska Pacific halibut and sablefish (black cod) commercial fishery	
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number	
	Certification cycle	<a href="#">third</a> (5-year) certification cycle
	Assessment type and number	<a href="#">first surveillance assessment</a>
3	Statement that the fishery is within scope	

**Table 2.** Fishery announcement.

	Global Trust confirms that the fishery under assessment (as defined by the Units of Assessment (UoAs) described below) is within scope of the relevant RFM Fisheries Standard.					
4	Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)					
	Pacific halibut Unit(s) of Assessment.					
	Species:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Latin name:</td> <td><i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Common name(s):</td> <td>Pacific halibut</td> </tr> </table>	Latin name:	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>	Common name(s):	Pacific halibut
Latin name:	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>					
Common name(s):	Pacific halibut					
	Stock(s):	Eastern Pacific				
	Geographical area(s):	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gulf of Alaska.</li> <li>The Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</li> </ol>				
	Fishing gear(s)/methods:	Benthic longline				
		Pots				
		Troll				
	Management system:	<p>U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)</li> <li>National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)</li> <li>North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)</li> <li>Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and Board of Fisheries (BOF)</li> </ul>				
	Sablefish Unit(s) of Assessment.					
	Latin name:	<i>Anoplopoma fimbria</i>				
	Common name(s):	Sablefish (black cod)				
	Stock(s):	Eastern Pacific				
	Geographical area(s):	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gulf of Alaska.</li> <li>The Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</li> </ol>				
	Fishing gear(s)/methods:	Benthic longline				
		Pots				
		Troll				
	Management system:	<p>Federal and State management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)</li> <li>North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)</li> <li>Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and Board of Fisheries (BOF)</li> </ul>				
5	Name of proposed team leader					
	<p><b>Dr. Ivan Mateo.</b> Primarily responsible for ecosystems and fisheries management. Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Leader. He has extensive experience working with wide variety of fish species including other gadoids, Rockfish, and flatfish (i.e. Atlantic Cod, Pacific Ocean Perch, Senegal Tonguefish, Tropical flatfish (10 years). He has extensive experience in marine conservation advice as well as fisheries management</p>					

**Table 2.** Fishery announcement.

	<p>advice (15 Years). He has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). CV on file Dr. Mateo does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p>
6	<p><b>Name(s) of proposed team members</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Robert Leaf.</b> Primarily responsible for stock assessment and fish biology/ecology of target species. Dr. Leaf meets all general requirements for an RFM 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). CV on file Dr. Leaf does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix</p>
7	<p><b>Site visit</b></p> <p>The site visit (which may take place remotely) will take on the proposed date(s) and at the following location(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <u>Site visit dates:</u> 24 June 2024 to July 26 2024.</li> <li>– <u>Site visit location(s):</u> the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders wishing to consult directly with the assessment team during this period may contact Global Trust as outlined below requesting to do so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact Global Trust Client Services: <a href="mailto:ClientServicesie@nsf.org">ClientServicesie@nsf.org</a>.</li> <li>2. The deadline for doing so is <b>17:00 UTC on Friday 21 June 2024</b>.</li> <li>3. Provide at least the following details when doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Your name and contact details.</li> <li>– Your association with the fishery.</li> <li>– Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

### 3. Appendices

#### 3.1 Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

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

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

**Team Leader: Ivan Mateo Primary Responsibility for fisheries management and ecosystem impacts**

Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 25 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.

**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.