

Global Trust Certification

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

RFM Fishery Announcement

25 October 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 (delete rows as appropriate)	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
	U.S. Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King, Tanner and Snow Crab Commercial Fisheries
2	Certification cycle, assessment type and number

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

	Certification cycle	third (5-year) certification cycle	
	Assessment type and number	second surveillance assessment	
3	Statement that the fishery is within scope		
	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)		
	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:	1 <i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i>
		Common name:	2 Snow crab
		Latin name:	2 <i>Chionoecetes opilio</i>
		Common name:	3 Blue King crab
		Latin name:	3 <i>Paralithodes platypus</i>
		Common name:	4 Tanner Crab
		Latin name:	4 <i>Chionoecetes bairdi</i>
	Stock(s):	Common name:	5 Golden King Crab
		Latin name:	5 <i>Lithodes aequispinus</i>
		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	
5	Name of proposed team leader		
	<p>Dr. Ivan Mateo. Primarily responsible for fisheries management. Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Leader. He has extensive experience working with wide variety of invertebrates including spiny lobster Asian shore crab red swamp crawfish and razor clam (10 years). He has Extensive experience in marine conservation advice as well as fisheries management advice (15 Years). He has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). CV on file</p> <p>Dr. Mateo does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p>		
6	Name(s) of proposed team members		
	<p>Dr. Wes Toller. Primarily responsible for fisheries impacts on the ecosystem . Dr. Toller meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Member. Dr. Wes Toller has extensive experience in Monitoring and</p>		

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

	<p>Assessment of Impacts of Anthropogenic Disturbances in Marine Tropical Ecosystems (10 Years), extensive experience on delineation of essential fish habitat for economically important species in USVI and Dutch Caribbean Islands (10 years) and extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation of Endangered Species in the Caribbean (10 years). Dr. Wes Toller has Extensive experience in Marine Ecology, Conservation Legislation Fisheries Management, Strategic Planning/Risk Management (10 years). Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Dr. Jerry Ennis, Primarily responsible for stock assessment. Dr. Ennis meets all general requirements for an RFM Team Member. He has extensive experience working with invertebrate species including other crustaceans (i.e., Lobster) and mollusks. Extensive experience on a range of functions and responsibilities such as scientific research and biological assessment of all species groups; habitat, ecosystem and by-catch assessment, management and control; overall fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance operations and implementation of Canada’s Oceans Policy with particular emphasis on ecosystem and precautionary management. Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p>
7	<p>Site visit</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"> – <u>Site visit dates</u>: 25 November 2024 to 19 December 2024. – <u>Site visit location(s)</u>: the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely. <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"> 1. Contact Global Trust Client Services: ClientServicesie@nsf.org. 2. The deadline for doing so is 17:00 UTC on Friday 22 November 2024. 3. Provide at least the following details when doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Your name and contact details. – Your association with the fishery. – Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.

3. Appendices

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

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

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- Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor and primary responsibility for fisheries management and Data Deficient Audit Tool (DDAT)/Data Deficient Framework (DDF))
- Dr. Wes Toller (Assessor and primary responsibility for fisheries impacts to the ecosystem)
- Dr. Jerry Ennis (Assessor and primary responsibility for stock assessment, precautionary approach and fish biology)

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

Team Leader: Ivan Mateo Primary Responsibility for Fisheries Management and Data Deficient Audit Tool (DDAT)/Data Deficient Framework (DDF)

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 Defense 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.

Ivan will oversee 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 C: Management Measures, 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.

Team Member: Dr. Wes Toller, Primary responsibility for fisheries impacts to the ecosystem

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.

Wes will be the team's expert on Section D: 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

Team Member: Dr. Jerry Ennis, Primary responsibility for stock assessment and precautionary approach

Following undergraduate and graduate degrees at Memorial University of Newfoundland in the 1960s, Dr. Ennis completed a Ph.D. in marine biology at University of Liverpool in the early 1970s. He retired in 2005 following a 37-year research career with the Science Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. His extensively published work has focused primarily on lobster fishery and population biology and on various aspects of larval, juvenile and adult lobster behaviour and ecology in Newfoundland waters. Throughout his career, Dr. Ennis was heavily involved in the review and formulation of scientific advice for management of shellfish in Atlantic Canada as well as the advisory/consultative part of managing the Newfoundland lobster fishery.

Jerry Ennis will be the team's expert on Section B: Stock assessment and precautionary approach. Jerry does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment and will be on-site during this surveillance.