



## **Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program**

### **Announcement of Site Visit Activities**

*For the*

### **Certificate Scope Extension**

*Of the*

### **Alaska Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishery**

This announcement substantiates the commencement of activities to extend the scope of the current Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certificate for the Alaska Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishery, held by 'Eat on the Wild Side' (FVOA).

The fishery was re-certified 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 against the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Standard v1.3 which is available at <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/fisheries-standard/>.

The proposed site visit will take place between Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 with exact details of meetings still to be determined.

As part of these scope extension 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 scope extension process. Anyone wishing to register as a stakeholder for this fishery is invited to do so by contacting Global Trust Certification Ltd through the email below. Registered stakeholders will be consulted during this scope extension process and will be sent the draft report when the defined 30-day comment period begins.

If you would like to be registered as a stakeholder, please advise us of your interest by contacting us and providing the following details:

1. Name and company (if applicable)
2. Contact information
3. Your association with the fishery
4. The issues you would like to discuss.



This announcement also includes, on the following pages, the process for extending the scope of an existing Alaska RFM Certificate that will be followed, details of the additional Units of Certification under consideration and the Assessment Team that will be conducting the scope extension activities.

**Enquiries may be submitted to:**

**Niamh Connor**

Client Services Administrator

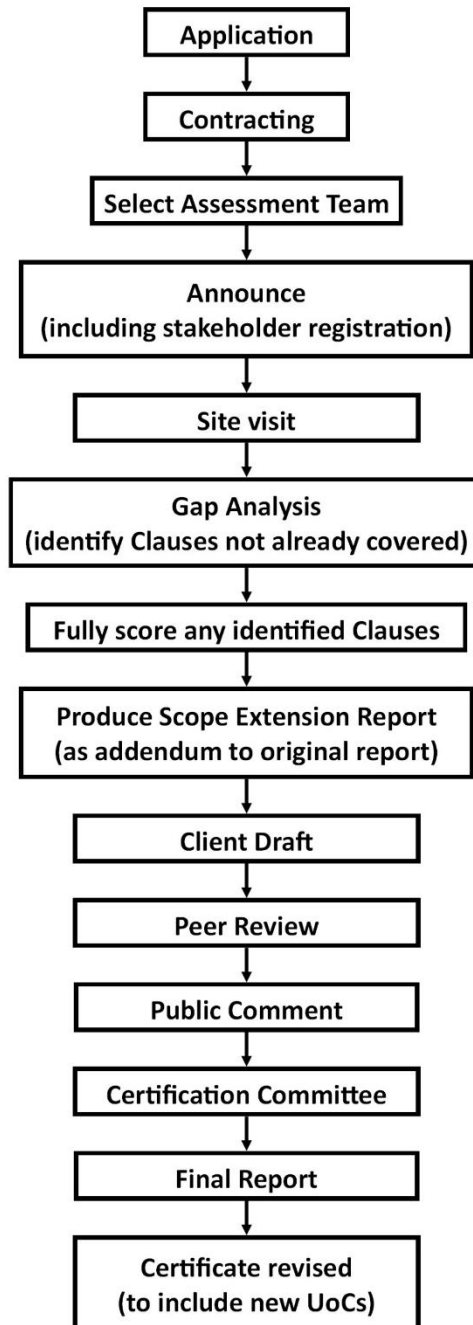
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**Submitted by:** Niamh Connor

## Process for extending the scope of an existing Alaska RFM Certificate





## Current Unit of Certification

The current Unit of Certification is the U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut commercial fishery, under international, federal and state management, fished with benthic longline, within Alaska’s 200 nm EEZ as presented below:

### Current Unit of Certification for the U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut commercial fishery:

#	Fish Species (Common & Scientific Name)	Gear Type	Location of Fishery	Principal Management Authority
1	Pacific halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i> )	Benthic longline	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands.	<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>

## Proposed Additional Units of Certification

The two additional Units of Certification that will be considered during these Scope Extension activities will be the U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut commercial fishery, under international, federal and state management, fished with pot and troll gears, within Alaska’s 200 nm EEZ as presented below:

### Additional Unit(s) of Certification for the U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut commercial fishery:

#	Fish Species (Common & Scientific Name)	Gear Type	Location of Fishery	Principal Management Authority
2	Pacific halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i> )	Pots	U.S. Federal and State fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands.	<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>
3	Pacific halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i> )	Troll		

If the proposed extension of scope is successful the revised Unit of Certification will be the U.S. Alaska Pacific halibut commercial fishery, under international, federal and state management, fished with benthic longline, pot and troll gears, within Alaska’s 200 nm EEZ.



## Notice of Assessment Team

Based on the technical expertise required to carry out the above fishery assessment, Global Trust Certification Ltd., is pleased to confirm the assessment team members for these scope extension activities 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 twelve years 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 led 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 Pacific cod.