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# FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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## IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL

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<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Big Skate (<i>Raja binoculata</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Alaska EEZ</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>15/12/2012</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Quayside Business Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name: Kodiak Fishmeal Company		
Address:		
Country:	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	IFFO 131
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Mike Platt	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Big Skate ( <i>Raja binoculata</i> )
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Alaska EEZ
4. Fishery Method		
		Demersal trawls, beam and otter trawls
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain approval

## 2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

## 3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

At present, in the BSAI big skate is caught only as by-catch and is not specifically targeted, although there has been a directed fishery in the GOA since 2003. It is managed at state and federal levels as a component of the broader skate complex (in the BSAI) and as a separate species (in the GOA), and is not considered to be at risk from overfishing.

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4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME	
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>	
<b>LOW</b>	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
<b>HIGH</b>	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.
<p><b><i>Determination: A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently; however, management decisions are taken for skates as a group rather than individual species. There have been no significant changes since the time of the initial assessment.</i></b></p> <p><b>Administrative and legal framework</b></p> <p>The State of Alaska manages groundfish fishery resources within state territorial waters (i.e. 0-3 nm from shore). The Alaska Board of Fisheries was established under Alaska Statute 16.05 and has control over the setting of fishing seasons, quotas, harvest levels, fishing methods and other aspects of Alaska fishery management (R1). Chapter 28 of the Alaska Commercial Fisheries regulations describes a detailed framework for the regulation of Alaska groundfish fisheries (including pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, Atka mackerel, lingcod and numerous rockfish and flatfish species) (R2). These regulations define permitted gear types, fishing regions, seasons, permit requirements, TACs and distribution of TACs between commercial and other fisheries, and landing requirements. The federal groundfish fisheries are managed as two stock complexes; the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI).</p> <p>Fisheries 3-200 nm from the Alaska coastline are managed by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under federal Fishery Management Plans (R3). The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF), which is part of the NMFS, implements the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 by mandating annual catch limits and accountability measures.</p> <p><b>Compliance</b></p> <p>State regulations (i.e. fisheries 0-3 nm from the Alaska coast) are enforced by the Marine Enforcement Section of the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (R4). Federal regulations are enforced by the Alaska Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement (R5).</p> <p><b>Management plans for Big Skate</b></p> <p>Skate are managed as a component of the groundfish fisheries in the GOA and Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands BSAI. In the GOA fishery, big skate is subject to regional harvest specifications, whereas in the BSAI fishery big skate is managed in aggregate with other skate species. In both fisheries big skate is considered a Tier 5 species, meaning that the level of information available for stock assessments is very limited. However, the tier system implemented by Alaska fishery managers is highly precautionary, and the low level of information is reflected in</p>	

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the management measures applied to Tier 5 stocks (R6 & R7).

**B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

**LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE**

*B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.*

<b>LOW</b>	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
<b>HIGH</b>	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

***Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, however a lack of data for this species means that research programs could be significantly improved. There has been no significant change in the level of research since the initial assessment.***

M

The Alaska Fisheries Science Centre analyses skate population data for Alaska Skate and ‘Other Skate’, and combines the two analyses to produce management recommendations. Most skate species are not managed individually due to a lack of data, primarily due to the difficulty of identifying species in the field. There is a recognised lack of data for all skate species except the Alaska Skate; however available data are combined to produce a scientific basis for generalised skate management. The tier system implemented by Alaska fishery managers is highly precautionary, and the low level of information is reflected in the management measures applied to Tier 5 stocks (R6 & R7).

**C. STOCK STATUS**

**LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE**

*C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.*

<b>LOW</b>	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
<b>HIGH</b>	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

***Determination: The fish By-Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.***

H

The IUCN places the Big Skate in the ‘Near Threatened’ category.

## 5. REFERENCES

R1 – Alaska Department of Fish and Game

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>

R2 – Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Commercial Fisheries Legislation

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>

R3 – National Marine Fisheries Service

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

R4 – Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Marine Enforcement Section

<http://www.dps.alaska.gov/AWT/Marine.aspx>

R5 – Office of Law Enforcement – Alaska Division

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak\\_alaska.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_alaska.html)

R6 – Bering sea/Aleutian Island 2011 skate SAFE report

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/docs/2011/BSAIskate.pdf>

R7 – Gulf of Alaska 2011 skate SAFE report

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/docs/2011/GOAskate.pdf>

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