

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Big Skate (Raja binoculata)
LOCATION:	Alaska EEZ
DATE OF REPORT:	14/06/2011
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, Rivercourt Business Centre, Riverlane, 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: USA	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	Initial

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	Approve

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

Auditor to ensure that fish used by the factory is obtained from Alaska or federally-managed fisheries (i.e. within 200nm of US coastline).

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

At present, Big Skate is caught only as by-catch and is not specifically targeted. However, it is managed at state and federal levels (grouped together with several other skate species), and is not considered to be at risk from overfishing.

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>	
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	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.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

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.

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Administrative and legal framework

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.

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.

Compliance

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).

Management plans for Big Skate

Under the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Regulations, skates and rays require a permit for fishing. Until 2009, skates were categorised as non-target species under the Fisheries Management Plans, and as such there were no specific management plans for skates. An amendment in October 2009 made ‘skates’ a target species group; TACs and other management actions are now defined for skates as a group, although there is limited management at a species level. However, skates are currently only caught as by-catch and are not specifically targeted by fishermen (R6).

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist	
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.	
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.	
<p><i>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, however a lack of data for this species specifically is of some concern.</i></p> <p>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.</p>		M
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>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.</i>		
LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.	
MEDIUM	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.	
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.	
<p><i>Determination: The fish By-Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.</i></p> <p>The IUCN places the Big Skate in the ‘Near Threatened’ category.</p>		H

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

R6 – Alaska Fisheries Science Centre

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/docs/2010/BSAIskate.pdf>

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