

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Pacific Ocean Perch (<i>Sebastes alutus</i>)
LOCATION:	Alaska EEZ
DATE OF REPORT:	05/12/13
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 1 of 5	CCM Code:
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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Name:		
Address:		
Country: USA	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact:	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
By-Product surveillance		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Pacific Ocean Perch (<i>Sebastes alutus</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Alaska EEZ		
4. Fishery Method		
Trawls, seines and longlines		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Maintain approval		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

The robust legal and administrative framework in Alaska, identified in the previous and initial assessments, remains in place. Management measures are in place and research conducted on both Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GoA) pacific ocean perch (POP), although the details vary between the two. As there have been no substantial changes since the previous assessment, the assessment team recommends the byproduct remain approved.

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: There have been no substantial changes to the Alaska fishery management framework, nor its application to the POP stocks, since the previous assessment.

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. The federal groundfish fisheries are managed as two stock complexes; the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI).

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 Pacific Ocean Perch

Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) fisheries are managed under regional Groundfish Fishery Management plans which set out specific quotas, seasons, gear restrictions, permits and other management tools (R6). POP is managed as a Tier 3 (of 5) stock in both the GOA and BSAI fisheries (R7 & R8), and annual management recommendations are provided by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC).

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE			
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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 3 of 5	CCM Code:

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B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.		
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>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate. There have been no major changes since the previous assessment.</p> <p>Biomass and landings data for Alaska Pacific Ocean Perch fisheries has been collected since the 1970s, and is used to inform management policy. In 2005, both the GOA and BSAI fisheries were moved to a biennial assessment regime, to coincide with the frequency of trawl surveys. The 2012 adult biomass was estimated at 593,624t in the BSAI and 348,168t in the GOA.</p> <p>(R7 & R8)</p>		H
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.		
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>Determination: The fish used to produce the By-Product has still not been classified by the IUCN; however, neither NOAA nor the Alaska Board of Fisheries considers this species to be overfished.</p> <p>The Pacific Island Perch has not been evaluated by the IUCN.</p>		M

5. REFERENCES

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Form No: 9	Report Ref:	Page 4 of 5	CCM Code:

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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 – Pacific Ocean Perch management plan details

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/pop.htm>

R7 – POP 2012 SAFE report, BSAI

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Docs/2012/BSAipop.pdf>

R8 – POP 2012 SAFE report, GOA

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Docs/2012/GOApop.pdf>