

# FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

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



<b>FISHERY By-Product:</b>	<b>Pelagic Shelf Rockfish (Dusky Rockfish - <i>Sebastes variabilis</i>)</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Alaska EEZ</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>05/12/13</b>
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	<b>Sam Peacock</b>

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, 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:		
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	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish ( <i>Sebastes variabilis</i> )	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Alaska EEZ	
4. Fishery Method	Benthic and demersal trawls.	
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 and research are conducted on both Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GoA) dusky rockfish, 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.

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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.

**Determination: A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery remains established and works efficiently. There have been no substantial changes 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); however, the pelagic shelf rockfish complex exists only in the GOA (although there are many of the same rockfish species in the BSAI groundfish fishery, they are managed as different assemblages).

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 Pelagic Shelf Rockfish**

In the GoA, until 2012 the category “Pelagic Shelf Rockfish” referred to an assemblage of rockfish species caught almost exclusively with bottom trawls. Dusky Rockfish (*Sebastes variabilis*) accounted for about 98% of the commercial catch. From 2012 onwards, the other, minor species previously assessed and managed as part of the pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage were assessed under the ‘other rockfish’ category, meaning that dusky rockfish is now assessed and managed individually in the GoA (R6). Dusky rockfish remains a component of the ‘other rockfish’ assemblage in the BSAI (R7).

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B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
<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.	
<p><b>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 significant changes in fishery science since the previous assessment.</b></p> <p>Management policy is based on scientific analysis of survey and fishery data. Gulf of Alaska rockfish are assessed on a biennial stock assessment schedule designed to coincide with new data from the Gulf of Alaska bottom trawl survey. Dusky rockfish is assessed using an age-structured model which uses all available data from 1977-2011, utilizing catch, fishery age and size compositions, survey age and size compositions, and survey biomass estimates (R6, R7).</p>		H
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>		
<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.	
<p><b>Determination: The fish used to produce the By-Product has not been classified by the IUCN; however, NOAA, AFSC and the Alaska Board of Fisheries do not consider dusky rockfish to be overfished.</b></p> <p>The Dusky Rockfish has not been evaluated by the IUCN.</p>		M

## 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 – GOA dusky rockfish SAFE report 2012

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

R7 – BSAI ‘other rockfish’ SAFE report 2012

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