

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish / Dusky Rockfish (<i>Sebastes variabilis</i>)
LOCATION:	Alaska EEZ
DATE OF REPORT:	December 2014
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, 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 (Alaska)	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	Global Trust	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Deirdre Hoare	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment	IFFO RS By-Product re-certification	
2. Fishery By-Product	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish / Dusky Rockfish (<i>Sebastes variabilis</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Alaska EEZ	
4. Fishery Method	Demersal trawls, seines, beam and otter trawls, longlines	
5. Outcome of Assessment	Re-approve byproduct	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Alaska fisheries management has a robust legal and administrative framework which is applied specifically to pelagic shelf rockfish in the GOA but at the assemblage level in the BSAI. Similarly, management in the GOA is supported by species-specific stock assessment and data collection, whereas in the BSAI such activities occur at the assemblage level. The assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct.

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4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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.

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 is a robust fishery management framework in place at the state and federal levels. In the GOA these are applied specifically to dusky rockfish, but in the BSAI the species is managed as a component of an ‘other rockfish’ assemblage.

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Fishery management 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. 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). 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. 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.

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. Federal regulations are enforced by the Alaska Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement.

Species-specific management:

Dusky rockfish are managed as a component of the two groundfish complexes according to frequently updated Fishery Management Plans (FMP). In the GOA, dusky rockfish is managed within the ‘pelagic shelf rockfish’ assemblage, but is subject to a species-specific Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), which was set at 5,486t in 2014. In the BSAI dusky rockfish is managed as a component of the ‘other rockfish’ stock complex and is subject to no species-specific management measures. The assemblage as a whole was subject to an ABC of 1,163t in 2014.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
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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: Species-specific data collection and stock assessment activities are carried out in support of the management dusky rockfish in the GOA; however in the BSAI scientific activities are conducted at the assemblage level.</p> <p>Fisheries management in Alaska waters is supported by the Alaska Fisheries Science Centre (AFSC), a research branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The AFSC plans, develops and manages scientific research programs, and conducts stock assessments, in support of fishery management throughout the state and federal waters off Alaska.</p> <p>Management policy is based on scientific analysis of survey and fishery data. Dusky rockfish in the GOA is subject to a biennial analytical assessment using a statistical age-structured model, and is categorised as a Tier 3 stock. The Alaska fishery tier system ensures that the precautionary approach is applied to the management of all fisheries. The 2014 spawning biomass was estimated to be 29,256t, and the stock was neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. In the BSAI dusky rockfish is assessed as a component of the ‘other rockfish’ assemblage only. The assemblage was estimated to have a total biomass of 47,705t in 2014, but determination of overfishing/overfished status is not possible in such an assemblage.</p> <p>R8, R9</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>Determination: Dusky rockfish has not been categorised by the IUCN; however there is no additional evidence to lead the assessment team to believe the species is at serious risk and so a medium compliance rating is appropriate.</p> <p>The IUCN has not categorised <i>Sebastes variabilis</i>, and it is not listed in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R10, R11</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/>

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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 – BSAI groundfish FMP: <http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/BSAI/BSAIfmp.pdf>

R7 – GOA groundfish FMP: <http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/GOA/GOAfm.pdf>

R8 – Bering sea/Aleutian Island 2014 other rockfish SAFE report:

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Docs/2014/BSAlorock.pdf>

R9 – Gulf of Alaska 2014 dusky rockfish SAFE report: <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Docs/2014/GOAdusky.pdf>

R10 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R11 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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