



8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St., #202
 St. Petersburg, Florida
 33702-2211
 Tel: (727) 563-9070
 Fax: (727) 563-0207
 Email: MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	AAFA and WFOA North and South Pacific albacore tuna													
Assessment number	2 nd Re-assessment													
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	No													
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MRAG Americas confirms that this fishery is within scope for MSC assessment.													
Certificate sharing statement	N/A													
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline		2017 – 2018												
	Activity	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J
	MSC Announcement including assessment team and use of default assessment tree and notification of site visit													
	Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)													
	Assessment visit, stakeholder meetings													
	Examination of evidence, scoring, report preparation													
	Report review and finalization													
	Consultation and confirmation of Peer Reviewers													
	Client review of draft report													

he has worked as a team member for both principles 1 and 3 on a number of tuna and groundfish MSC assessments in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Dr. Stocker has conducted many surveillance audits, several MSC peer reviews, and has also been involved in the development and evaluation of new MSC P1 assessment methodology. He is an MSC certified Fishery Team Member. Dr. Stocker acted as marine fisheries consultant under contract with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to provide scientific advice on highly migratory species in the Pacific Ocean. He was the lead Canadian scientist for highly migratory species for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). He served as co-chair of the Stock Assessment Working Group of the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC and chaired the ISC Albacore Working Group. From 1978-2006 Dr. Stocker held the position of research scientist with DFO at the Pacific biological Station conducting population dynamic studies, conducting peer reviewed stock assessments of many marine species, and communicating results to fisheries managers and stakeholders. He authored and co-authored over 90 scientific papers and reports, and made over 50 presentations in national and international scientific meetings. Dr. Stocker chaired the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) for many years and edited and published over 30 advisory documents on the stock status of marine species and the implications of harvest management on these stocks. Additionally, Dr. Stocker served as in-house stock assessment consultant to the New Zealand Fishing Industry Board in the early 1990s conducting peer reviewed stock assessments, participating in the peer review process, and advising the Board on inshore and Deepwater fisheries.

- He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries,
- He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years
- He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored.

MRAG Americas confirms Dr. Stocker has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

Ms. Erin Wilson. Erin Wilson joined MRAG Americas, Inc. as a Fisheries Consultant in February 2015. Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. Relevant skills and experience include research with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at Oregon State University, Dive Operations at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota Florida, aquarist/biologist at the Texas State Aquarium, and conducting socioeconomic profiles on coastal communities. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor. Her primary research areas involve sustainability for coastal communities and the

	<p>commercial fishing industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has passed the MSC team leader training; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>MRAG Americas confirms Ms. Wilson has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	<i>The default assessment tree contained within MSC Certification Requirements version 2.0 will be used for this assessment.</i>
Site visit	The site visit will take place August 9 – 12, 2017 in La Jolla, CA. This will be in conjunction with the 4 th surveillance audit for the AAFA and WFOA North and South Pacific albacore pole & line and troll/jig fisheries.

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of AAFA and WFOA North and South Pacific albacore has begun. The assessment will evaluate the fishery for compliance with the MSC's Standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. MRAG Americas has determined that the fishery is in scope.

As part of the assessment, MRAG Americas announces that stakeholder meetings and assessment of relevant documentation will be undertaken with a visit to the fishery in August 2017. **The assessment team will meet in La Jolla, CA, August 9th – 12th.** The purpose of these meetings is for a fishery assessment and stakeholder consultation to receive information from fishery representatives, government management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

MRAG invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant to the expedited assessments of the fishery. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

Stakeholders may provide input at any time. We ask stakeholders who wish to meet with the team to make the request for a meeting by 5pm PST on July 31st, 2017

The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders> and a template for stakeholder response available at <https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/forms-and-templates/template-for-stakeholder-input-into-fishery-assessments-v2.0/view>. You may use the template or provide your response in any other format.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/aafa-and-wfoa-north-pacific-albacore-tuna/@@view> and [https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/aafa and wfoa-south-pacific-albacore-tuna/@@view](https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/aafa-and-wfoa-south-pacific-albacore-tuna/@@view). Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

Amanda Stern-Pirlot
MRAG Americas, Inc.
8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St, Suite 202
St. Petersburg FL 33702

Ph: 1-206-669-0439
Fax: 1-727-563-0207
certification@mragamericas.com

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Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement

N/A-please see certificate sharing arrangements already in place for this fishery

Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team

CVs provided as separate PDF documents downloadable from the MSC website here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/aafa-and-wfoa-north-pacific-albacore-tuna/@@view> and
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/aafa-and-wfoa-south-pacific-albacore-tuna/@@view>.