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President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Marine Stewardship Council Surveillance Announcement

Name of Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish fisheries: Sole (Flathead, Northern Rock, Rex, and Southern Rock); Arrowtooth Flounder, Cod (including gear types of demersal trawl, jig, longline and pot) and Pollock (trawl)	
Surveillance level and type	Level 1 – Review of Information	
Surveillance number (tick one)	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	
	3rd Surveillance	X
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (expedited etc.)	
Proposed Team Leader	<p>Jodi Bostrom, team leader, joined MRAG Americas as a Senior Fisheries Consultant and MSC Fisheries Program Manager in mid-2015. Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent five years working at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London as a Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager. Among many other things, she developed the MSC's benthic habitats policy and the Consequence Spatial Analysis (a risk-based framework for assessing habitat impacts in data-deficient situations) as part of the MSC Standard revision. Prior to the MSC, Jodi spent 11 years with the National Academy of Sciences' Ocean Studies Board in Washington, DC. She received an M.Sc. in Environmental Science at American University in 2006 and a B.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin in 1999. Jodi's main areas of work at MRAG Americas are serving on MRAG Americas' MSC fisheries assessment teams and reviewing MSC assessment reports for technical quality and compliance.</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 has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2; • She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and • She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients 	

	<p>and other stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition, She has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Bostrom has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.
Proposed team members [remove if not applicable]	<p>Dr. Jake Rice is Chief Scientist for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. He previously served as Director of Peer Review and Science Advice and held senior DFO Science positions in Pacific and Newfoundland Regions. He received BSc. from Cornell (1970 Conservation) and Ph. D. from University of Toronto (1974 - Ornithology). He has more than 270 publications in the scientific and technical literature, primarily on the ecosystem approach to integrated management. He is a member of the Group of Experts for the UN Regular Process for Global Marine Assessments, and a Lead Authors for the chapter on Drivers, Trends and Mitigation, for the next IPCC Assessment Report. He has been active as an expert or delegate to many UN meetings and agencies (FAO, CBD, GEF, UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, ICP, BBNJ etc.).</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Rice meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In addition, He has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p> <p>Dr. Don Bowen. William Don Bowen is a Ph.D. graduate of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. He has been a research scientist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth and an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia for more than 25 years. He is best known for his research on the ecology, energetics and population dynamics of North Atlantic phocid seals, based largely on his collaborative studies at Sable Island. His interests also include mammalian life histories, population assessment, ecological interactions with fisheries, conservation and ecosystem change. Has published over 200 scientific papers, including 155 journal articles and book chapters and two books. He has served on the USA recovery team of the Hawaiian monk seal, and as chair of the UK Special Committee on Seals. He has broad national (Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, DFO) and international (National Academy, NSF, NRC, NMFS, NERC, NRPB) experience as a science advisor and served as member of the Board and Editor of Marine Mammal Science for five years. He has</p>

	<p>considerable experience as an MSC assessor having been involved with a number of groundfish fisheries certifications (e.g., pollock, Pacific cod) in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Bowen meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>In addition, He has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 2 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p>
Audit/review time and location	The surveillance will take place in November 9, 2018. This will be a remote surveillance audit.
Assessment/review activities	The surveillance will review any changes in science and management, and will monitor progress in closing out conditions.

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery, to the surveillance and expedited assessments of the fisheries. Unless covered by FCR 4.4.1 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the surveillance audit, used to determine the surveillance audit outcome or used as the basis for an objection to certification. The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template for stakeholder response available at https://20.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/stakeholders/msc-template-for-stakeholder-input-v2-0.doc?sfvrsn=b6409075_4.

You may use the template or provide your response in any other format. All comments and inquiries should be directed to MRAG Americas. 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

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm GMT on November 2, 2018.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/alaska-flatfish-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands/@@view>; <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/alaska-pacific-cod-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands/@@view>; and <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/alaska-pollock-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

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