

## Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery
Assessment number	Initial Assessment
Reduced re-assessment	No
Statement that the fishery is within scope	<p>The CAB confirms that the fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements (FCR 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments [FCR 7.8.3.1]. The CAB further confirms the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fishery is within scope of the MSC standard, i.e. it does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute;</li> <li>• The certificate is not open to certificate sharing;</li> <li>• IPI stocks are not caught;</li> <li>• The fishery is not enhanced;</li> <li>• This fishery will overlap with the following MSC fisheries: AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna, Fiji albacore tuna longline, New Zealand albacore tuna troll, PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna, Talley's New Zealand skipjack tuna purse seine, Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish, Japanese pole and line skipjack and albacore tuna, Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole &amp; line, Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna, Cook Islands albacore and yellowfin;</li> <li>• The fishery is not based on an introduced species;</li> <li>• The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.</li> </ul>
Certificate sharing statement	The fishery is open to certificate sharing.

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Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline	<p>Predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification of the fishery awarded is 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017.</p> <p>An indicative timetable for the assessment is provided below along with an indication as to the key stakeholder engagement periods during the assessment.</p> <table><tr><th>Assessment stage</th><th>Date</th><th>Stakeholder Consultation Period</th></tr><tr><td>Fishery announcement</td><td>8<sup>th</sup> December 2016</td><td>All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process</td></tr><tr><td>Site visit</td><td>10<sup>th</sup> January 2017</td><td>All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit.</td></tr><tr><td>Peer Reviewer Announcement</td><td>1<sup>st</sup> April 2017</td><td>Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment</td></tr><tr><td>Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published</td><td>1<sup>st</sup> June 2017</td><td>Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment</td></tr><tr><td>Final Report (FR) &amp; Draft Determination Published</td><td>15<sup>th</sup> July 2017</td><td>Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination</td></tr><tr><td>Public Certification Report (PCR) published</td><td>15<sup>th</sup> August 2017</td><td></td></tr></table>	Assessment stage	Date	Stakeholder Consultation Period	Fishery announcement	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	All stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the fishery throughout the assessment process	Site visit	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	All stakeholders are invited to the teams site visit.	Peer Reviewer Announcement	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	Stakeholders will have a ten (10) day period to comment	Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) published	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	Stakeholder will have a thirty (30) day period to comment	Final Report (FR) & Draft Determination Published	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Stakeholders will have a fifteen (15) working day period to lodge an objection to Final Report and Draft Determination	Public Certification Report (PCR) published	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	
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Name of proposed Team Leader	<p><b>Kat Collinson</b> will act as team leader with overall responsibility for this assessment. Kat will also have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 2.</p> <p>Kat Collinson has a Master's degree from King's College University in Aquatic Resource Management. She has worked on a number of MSC pre- and full assessments including North Menai Strait mussel fishery, Vietnam Ben Tre clam hand gathered fishery and Walkers Seafood Pty Ltd Australian albacore and yellowfin tuna and swordfish longline fishery. Kat also been involved fishery improvements projects (FIPs) and has recently been involved in a project studying the habitat use and niche partitioning in two species of juvenile shark using active and passive tracking and diet stable isotope analysis.</p> <p>Kat has also been the Manager of MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) projects at MEC and has undertaken over 150 assessments and therefore will also act as the team's expert on the traceability for the fishery.</p>																					

<p>Name of proposed assessors</p>	<p><b>Dr. Joanna Gascoigne</b></p> <p>Dr. Gascoigne is a former research lecturer in marine biology at Bangor University, Wales. She is an expert on fisheries science and management, with over 15 years' experience as a consultant, working mainly on MSC pre-assessments and full assessments, as well as FIP scoping, planning and implementation. Jo has been involved as expert and lead auditor in the majority of MEP's and MEC's full MSC assessments and numerous pre-assessments. She regularly participates in the MSC training sessions and workshops, the most recent of which was the MSC scoring calibration workshop for the new fisheries standard.</p> <p>In addition to numerous pre-assessments, Jo's experience with tuna fisheries includes the SZLC, HNSFC &amp; CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery and the Walker Seafood's Australian Eastern tuna and billfish tuna fishery. She was also invited to participate in the recent Hong Kong Harmonisation meeting. Dr Gascoigne is a very experienced and respected MSC assessor.</p> <p>Dr Gascoigne will have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 1.</p> <p><b>Peter Watt</b></p> <p>Educated in Canada and living in the Philippines, Peter has over 20 years' fisheries management and development work experience with national governments, regional organizations and private consultancy companies in Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Tokelau, Tonga, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Canada, and United States.</p> <p>Peter has authored or co-authored over 30 publications in his field and worked on more than 50 projects and assignments in technical research, marine management and development, technical training and project administration. He developed and established community-based fisheries management arrangements for the Coastal Fisheries Development and Management Project in Papua New Guinea, establishing over twenty fisheries management plans and developing legislation to empower communities to manage their fisheries resources. Prior to this he was the Commercial Fisheries Advisor in Samoa for four years, providing management advice and expertise for the development and management of the tuna longline and other fisheries. This included working with the government and stakeholders to develop and implement a tuna management plan, with related legislation and policies.</p> <p>Other experience also includes rapid resource assessments in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, and conducting stock assessments for the tuna longline fishery and outer reef slope assessments for the deep water snapper fishery.</p> <p>Peter will have primary responsibility for the assessment of Principle 3.</p>
<p>Assessment tree to be used</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Default Assessment Tree will be used for the evaluation of this fishery.</p>

Site visit	The site visit is scheduled to take place on the 10-14th January 2017. The exact time and location will be announced shortly. MEC welcomes anyone who would like to participate. It is proposed that Kat Collinson, Peter Watt and Jo Gascoigne attend the site visit.
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ME-Certification Ltd. (MEC) hereby announces the commencement of the assessment for the above fishery.

The site visit is scheduled to take place on the 10-14th January 2017, the exact time and location will be announced shortly.

All interested stakeholders should contact Gavin Fitzgerald ([gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com](mailto:gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com)) or Kat Collinson ([kat.collinson@me-cert.com](mailto:kat.collinson@me-cert.com)) at MEC by email, telephone or post at the below number and address:

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Should any stakeholder wish to meet the team in person, this can be arranged. Remote meetings can also be arranged via telephone conferencing or Skype, or written submissions made to the above-mentioned email addresses.

Please note that comments should be factual and should be supported by data or other evidence. Comments may remain unattributed. Furthermore, information that cannot be shared with any other stakeholder will not be referenced in the assessment and cannot be used in determining the outcome of the fishery's assessment nor used as a basis for an objection. Information can be kept confidential if it is restricted to financial transactions about certification, the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being known, or information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the assessed fishery's country.

Submitted by: Kat Collinson, Fisheries Assessment Manager

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016