

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification****Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Gulf of Mexico menhaden purse  
seine fishery****Client:****Omega Proteins Corporation****Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement**

<b>Name of Fishery</b>	Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Gulf of Mexico menhaden purse seine fishery
<b>Assessment number</b>	Initial assessment
<b>Reduced re-assessment</b>	No
<b>Statement that the fishery is within scope</b>	<p>The fishery is eligible for certification and able to be assessed within the scope of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing (MSC FCR v2.0 7.4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The target species is not an amphibian, a reptile, a bird, or a marine mammal;</li><li>▪ Fishing operations are not conducted using destructive fishing practices such as poisons or explosives;</li><li>▪ The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement;</li><li>▪ There is a mechanism to resolve possible disputes</li><li>▪ The fishery does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for violations against forced labour laws.</li></ul>
<b>Certificate sharing statement</b>	<p>There are other eligible fishers who are not members of the client group and who fish for the target species using the same fishing gear under the same management system. These other eligible fishers include all professional fishermen in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico entitled to fish Gulf menhaden with purse seines who are not part of the client group.</p> <p>In accordance with FCR 7.8.3.3 and FCR 7.4.12.2 the client has prepared and published a statement of their understanding and willingness for reasonable certificate sharing arrangements (see Appendix 1) and has informed other eligible fishers of the above to the extent practicable.</p>

<b>Estimated Length of Full Assessment &amp; Timeline</b>	Barring any unforeseen delays, the full assessment is expected to take 6 – 7 months. The PCDR should be published in October 2017. The expected date of publication of the Public Certification Report is January 2018. The eligibility date will be the date of the publication of the PCDR. Following FCR 7.8.3.2 an indicative assessment timeline has been uploaded to the MSC website.
<b>Name of proposed Team Leader</b>	<p><b>Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor) – Responsibility for Principle 1</b></p> <p>It is proposed Dr. Ivan Mateo, a member of SAI Global’s internal will lead the Assessment Team. Ivan meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ Well in excess of 5 years’ fisheries experience</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team leader training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ Extensive experience leading MSC assessments</li> <li>▪ Has undertaken well in excess of MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years</li> <li>▪ Experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques.</li> <li>▪ Is an ISO approved lead auditor.</li> </ul> <p>Ivan will be in charge of coordinating the other Assessment Team members, participating in the assessment and be responsible for the completion of the assessment in accordance with Certification procedures.</p> <p>In addition to leading the Assessment Team Ivan will be the team’s expert on Principle 1. He meets the Principle 1 components of the Fishery Team Qualification and Competency Criteria in FCR Annex PC; he has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 years or more experience applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment;</li> </ul> <p>Ivan does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; his CV is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
<b>Name(s) of proposed assessors</b>	<p><b>Sam Dignan (Assessor) – Responsibility for Principle 2</b></p> <p>Sam meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years’ fisheries experience</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team leader training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ Is an ISO approved lead auditor.</li> <li>▪ 5 years or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems.</li> <li>▪ Knowledge of a common language spoken by clients and stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC’s Traceability training module in the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ Pass MSC’s RBF training course in the last three years</li> </ul> <p>Sam does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; his CV is provided in Appendix 2.</p>

	<p><b>R.J. (Bob) Allain (Assessor) – Responsibility for Principle 3</b></p> <p>Bob meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in FCR Annex PC; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years' fisheries experience</li> <li>▪ Passed MSC's fishery team member training within the last 3 years</li> <li>▪ 5 years or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/ policy analyst.</li> <li>▪ Two assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years</li> </ul> <p>Bob does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; his CV is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
<b>Assessment tree to be used</b>	The Assessment will use the default tree; modifications to the default will not be required.
<b>Site visit</b>	<p>It is planned that the site visit take place from <b>July 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 to July 14<sup>th</sup> 2017</b> at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ocean Springs (Mississippi)</li> <li>▪ Moss Point (Mississippi)</li> <li>▪ NMFS Beaufort (North Carolina)</li> <li>▪ Various conference calls (if stakeholders cannot come on-site)</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders with an interest in this fishery are invited to make written comment or provide information relevant to the assessment process. Stakeholders are also invited to meet with the Assessment Team in person and/or remotely. For further details on Stakeholder input into the MSC Assessment Process see <a href="#">Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessment Statement</a> below.</p>

## Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessment

The above fishery will now enter an information gathering phase prior to assessment site visits. A key purpose of this stage is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies.

SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery to make written comment or provide information relevant to the assessment process. To assist in contributing relevant information and to ensure that any contributions have maximum impact stakeholders should use the [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments](#) template alongside the [Stakeholder's Guide to the Marine Stewardship Council](#) when providing input.

We expect to carry out most meetings over the period specified in the Site Visit Section of the above Table during which the Assessment Team will be available for direct stakeholder meetings.

**If you would like to talk to the assessors, please advise us of your interest by July 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 giving the following details:**

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)

If you not wish to be interviewed you may still submit written information to the Assessment Team by completing the aforementioned [Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments template](#).

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>.

Stakeholders should be aware that any information that they submit will be made public through the reporting process as required by the MSC FCR v2.0. Any information that is not made available to all stakeholders may not be used in determining the assessment outcome or as the basis for an objection to a certification.

**Comments/responses should be sent to:**

**Jean Ragg**  
Programme Administrator  
Email: [jean.ragg@saiglobal.com](mailto:jean.ragg@saiglobal.com)  
Tel: +353(0)42 9320912  
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**Submitted by:** Jean Ragg  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement**

May 11, 2017

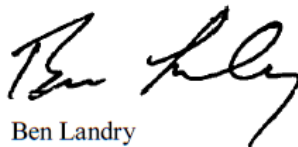
Jean Ragg,  
Programme Administrator  
SAI Global / Global Trust Certification  
Quayside Business Park, Mill Street  
Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland  
[Jean.ragg@saiglobal.com](mailto:Jean.ragg@saiglobal.com)

RE: MSC Fisheries Assessment – Requirement for publication of Certificate Sharing Mechanism for Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery.

Dear Jean Ragg,

Omega Protein Corporation confirms that we are willing to explore the possibility of selectively partnering with other industry participants to share the MSC certification. These participants must commit to using the same gear and following all reporting requirements. Terms of sharing the financial contribution of securing the MSC certification will be considered with the final decision.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Landry  
Public Affairs Director  
Omega Protein Corporation

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## **Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team**

### **Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor)**

Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 20 years' experience working with natural resources population dynamic modelling. His specialization is in fish and crustacean population dynamics, stock assessment, evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, bioenergetics, ecosystem-based assessment, and ecological statistical analysis. Ivan received a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with Fisheries specialization from the University of Rhode Island. He has studied population dynamics of economically important species as well as candidate species for endangered species listing from many different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, the Northeast US Coast, Gulf of California and Alaska. He has done research with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center' Ecosystem Based Fishery Management on bio-energetic modelling for Atlantic cod. He also has been working as environmental consultant in the Caribbean doing fieldwork and looking at the effects of industrialization on essential fish habitats and for the Environmental Defense Fund developing population dynamics models for data poor stocks in the Gulf of California. Recently Ivan worked as National Research Council postdoc research associate at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on population dynamic modelling of Alaska sablefish.

### **Sam Dignan (Assessor)**

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a BSc in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions. Sam is an ISO approved lead auditor.

### **R. J. (Bob) Allain (Assessor)**

R. J. (Bob) Allain is the president and principal consultant of OceanIQ Management Services Inc. He is a former senior executive with over 30 years' experience with Canada's Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in fisheries management, strategic policy development and analysis, program design and delivery, human and financial resources management, media and inter-governmental relations, facilitation and conflict resolution, and mentoring. He has consulted internationally for the Canadian International Development Agency, the (former) International Centre for Ocean Development, the World Bank, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Bob has participated in several Atlantic Canadian pelagic, demersal, and crustacean fishery assessments under the MSC Standard since 2010 as a P3 expert, auditor, client representative, and, most recently, as a peer reviewer.

The Assessment Team's full CVs are available on the MSC website.