

MSC Fishery Announcement

*U.S. Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery
August 13, 2021*

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name
	U.S. Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery
2	Assessment number
	First reassessment
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)
	No
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope
	<p>The fishery under assessment has been found to meet scope requirements (FCP v2.2 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments as it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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; (FCP v2.2 7.4.2.1, 7.4.2.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.5) ✓ The fishery does not engage in shark finning, has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.2 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn. ✓ Is not an enhanced or IPI fishery, is not based on an introduced species (FCP v2.2 7.4.6, 7.4.7, 7.5.8-13) ✓ The fishery does overlap with other MSC certified or applicant fisheries. Overlap with another MSC certified or applicant fishery has been considered and scores will be harmonized for the relevant principles. Overlapping fisheries including: U.S. Northeastern Coast Longfin Inshore Squid and Northern Shortfin Squid Bottom Trawl Fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ US Northeast Squid Bottom Trawl Fishery ■ US Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank haddock, pollock and redfish trawl ■ US Atlantic spiny dogfish, winter skate and little skate ■ US Atlantic Scup Assessment

- ✓ And does not include an entity successfully prosecuted for violating forced labor laws (FCP v2.2 7.4.4)
- ✓ The units of assessment, certification, and eligible fishers have been defined, traceability risks characterized, and certificate sharing mechanisms decided (FCP v2.2 7.5.1-7.5.7)

5 Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)

UoA 1	Description
Species	Surfclams (<i>Spisula solidissima</i>)
Stock	U.S. Atlantic Surfclam
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Hydraulic clam dredge
Client group	<p><u>Bumble Bee Foods</u> 280 10th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101 Leslie Hushka, Senior Vice President, Global Corporate Responsibility, leslie.hushka@bumblebee.com, 619-851-4938</p> <p><u>Sea Watch International, Ltd.</u> 8978 Glebe Park Drive Easton, MD 21601 Thomas T. Alspach, General Counsel, talspach@goeaston.net, 410-822-9100</p> <p><u>Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc.</u> 985 Ocean Drive, NJ 08204 Barry Cohen, President, BCohen@atlanticcapes.com</p> <p><u>Surfside Foods, LLC</u> 2838 High Street Port Norris, NJ 08349 Victor Broyan, CFO Peter LaMonica, plamonica@surfsidefoods.com</p> <p><u>LaMonica Fine Foods</u> P.O. Box 309 Millville, NJ 08332 Michael A. Lavecchia, Vice President mlavecchia@lamonicafinefoods.com</p>
Fishers in the UoC for the chosen stock	Vessels with U.S. federal surfclam permits fishing in U.S. federal waters and landing surfclams under an ITQ allocation to processors not defined as part of the fishery client group.
Other eligible fishers	All holders of U.S. Atlantic Surfclam ITQ landed at processors that are not specified as part of the fishery client group
Geographical area	Federal waters (3 nm –200 nm) off the U.S. Atlantic off the U.S. Northeast
UoA 2	Description

Species	Ocean quahogs (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)
Stock	U.S. Atlantic Ocean Quahog
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Hydraulic clam dredge
Client group	<p><u>Bumble Bee Foods</u> 280 10th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101 Leslie Hushka, Senior Vice President, Global Corporate Responsibility, leslie.hushka@bumblebee.com, 619-851-4938</p> <p><u>Sea Watch International, Ltd.</u> 8978 Glebe Park Drive Easton, MD 21601 Thomas T. Alspach, General Counsel, talspach@goeaston.net, 410-822-9100</p> <p><u>Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc.</u> 985 Ocean Drive, NJ 08204 Barry Cohen, President, BCohen@atlanticcapess.com</p> <p><u>Surfside Foods, LLC</u> 2838 High Street Port Norris, NJ 08349 Victor Broyan, CFO Peter LaMonica, plamonica@surfsidefoods.com</p> <p><u>LaMonica Fine Foods</u> P.O. Box 309 Millville, NJ 08332 Michael A. Lavecchia, Vice President mlavecchia@lamonicafinefoods.com</p>
Fishers in the UoC for the chosen stock	Vessels with U.S. federal surfclam permits fishing in U.S. federal waters and landing surfclams under an ITQ allocation to processors defined as part of the client group.
Other eligible fishers	Vessels with U.S. federal surfclam permits fishing in U.S. federal waters and landing surfclams under an ITQ allocation to processors not defined as part of the fishery client group.
Geographical area	Federal waters (3m – 200nm) off the U.S. Atlantic off the U.S. Northeast

6 Certificate sharing statement

Certificate Sharing Mechanism in place

Fishers that are part of the UoA are considered as 'other eligible fishers', which may be able to access the certificate at the discretion of the Client Group.

Client Certificate Sharing Statement:

	<p>The Client Group for the Atlantic Surfclam/Ocean Quohog Fishery Assessment confirms that they are willing to evaluate on a case-by-case basis the possibility to share the certificate with other eligible fishers as identified in the Unit of Assessment. These other eligible fishers must share the same characteristics (fishing gear, fishing operations general area of operation, management system) as the currently certified fishes. In order for other eligible fishers to join the certified, they need to agree to sell all product to the client group (certificate holder), agree to equitable sharing of costs of certification and maintenance of the certificate as applicable, compliance with policies and conditions of the Client group, and the client group must agree to include them in the certificate.</p> <p>See section 12.4 in report for letter describing the certificate sharing mechanism.</p>
7	<p>Name of proposed team leader</p> <p>Dr. Joseph DeAlteris, Professor Emeritus of Fisheries Science at the University of Rhode Island, Team Lead</p> <p>Dr. DeAlteris has an international reputation as an expert in the field of stock assessment and ecosystem impacts of fishing. He brings intimate knowledge of vertebrate and invertebrate fisheries and has considerable experience in MSC fishery evaluations. Dr. DeAlteris has worked with SCS on the full assessment of the Atlantic deep-sea red crab, the Louisiana blue crab, and the US Pacific halibut. He also has conducted an MSC assessment of Indian Ocean tuna fisheries. He has conducted numerous MSC annual audits and peer reviews of assessment reports for finfish and shellfish and crustacean fisheries in the US and elsewhere. Dr. DeAlteris' knowledge of the management of US fisheries across several jurisdictions and his extensive population modeling and ecosystem knowledge make him an excellent addition to an MSC assessment team.</p> <p>The proposed team leader meets the MSC Team leader qualifications in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.4, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011 (2019). ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Ph.D. in Marine Sciences). ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.1 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (2019) ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years, including: (Surveillance Year 1 for US Atlantic scallops, Surveillance Year 1 U.S. Northeastern Longfin Inshore Squid Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Fishery and Surveillance Year 2 for US Atlantic surfclam and Ocean quahog) ✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by the auditor witness checklist created by an SCS staff member. ✓ Is competent in the MSC Standard and current Certification Requirements, auditing techniques, and communication and stakeholder facilitation techniques, as verified by his completion of ISO 19011 auditor training (2019). ✓ Has affirmed he holds no conflict of interest
8	<p>Name(s) of proposed team members</p>

All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:

Dr. Joseph DeAlteris, Responsible for Principles 1 & 3

Dr. Joseph DeAlteris experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Ph.D. in Marine Sciences).
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

Dr. Holly J. Rolls, Technical Specialist, Responsible for Principle 2

Dr. Holly Rolls has over 15 years of experience in fisheries research and sustainability, with a background focused on the prioritization and effective management of marine habitats. Dr. Rolls earned her Ph.D. in Marine Resource Assessment from the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science (2014). Her doctoral work focused on quantifying the suitability of coastal fish habitats as nursery grounds for ecologically and economically important species. Dr. Rolls has worked extensively across private and public sectors and has led numerous coastal sustainability initiatives with diverse stakeholders, including fishers, government, private industry, and NGOs. She has substantial field experience and has conducted fisheries monitoring (dependent and independent) of coastal and offshore environments.

Dr. Rolls is an ISO 9001 lead auditor and MSC Team Leader (V2.2). In her role at SCS, she is currently leading, coordinating and/or participating as a team member on MSC pre-assessments, surveillance audits, and full assessments of fisheries worldwide, including multiple U.S. fisheries.

Dr. Holly Roll's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D., Marine Science, University of South Florida) and over 15 years of research experience in fisheries.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2021).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

The team collectively meets the MSC Table PC3 team qualification and competency criteria:

- ✓ Dr. Joe DeAlteris meets the qualifications for fish stock assessment with 3 years' or more experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. He taught graduate level classes in fish population dynamics and stock assessment at the University of Rhode island. He conducted stock assessments using methodologies similar to those used in this fishery on species in the east coast of the US, Cape Verde Islands and the Gambia in West Africa. His experience is evidenced by several publications and research on stock assessment methodologies.
- ✓ Dr. Joe DeAlteris meets the qualifications for 'fish stock biology/ecology' as he taught graduate level courses in quantitative ecology and population dynamics at the University of Rhode island. His experience is also evidenced by several publications and research projects focused on biology and ecology of multiple stocks off the east coast of US.
- ✓ Dr. Holly Rolls meets the qualifications for 'Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems' with 3 years' or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on

	<p>aquatic ecosystems including at least two of the following topics: i. Bycatch. ii. Endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species. iii. Habitats. iv. Ecosystem interactions. As evidenced by multiple publications and abstracts on the role of fish habitats and ecosystem services in sustaining fish populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dr. Joseph DeAlteris meets the qualifications for 'fishery management and operations ' with 3 years' or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant, as evidenced by his experience over a 30 year period as a Professor of Fisheries at the University of Rhode island consulting with state, federal and international fisheries management organizations on improving fisheries management practices in the capture fisheries. As an example in the last decade he consulted on a five year project sponsored by the World Bank on improving the management of the Cape Verde fisheries. ✓ Dr. Joseph DeAlteris has current knowledge of United States, the English language, and local fishery context, as evidenced by his knowledge of the management of US fisheries across several jurisdictions. ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member, Dr. Joseph DeAlteris, completing the MSC's Traceability training module (2019). ✓ Use of the RBF as evidenced by Team Member, Dr. Joseph DeAlteris, completing the MSC's RBF training course (2019).
9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The following are the the opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Announcement Comment Draft Report</i> – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The consultation period ends September 13, 2021 at 17:00 UTC. 2. <i>Site Visit</i> – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement)- Inform stakeholders that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. 3. <i>Peer Review College</i> – registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed. 4. <i>Public Comment Draft Report</i> – 30 days for stakeholder submissions of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery, from stakeholders who provided written input on the Announcement Comment Draft report or attended the site visit (in person or remotely) 5. <i>Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination</i>– 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities. <p>The following are the input methods for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SCS will only accept stakeholder input as public record if submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments', or if raised at the site visit in person or remotely (FCP v2.2, 7.15.3) ■ Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.2, 7.15.4) ■ SCS encourages stakeholders not to withhold information, and SCS will not permit use of confidential information for reference within an assessment, as basis for determination of an assessment outcome, or as basis for an objection to certification. Confidential information is restricted to defined exceptions listed in FCP v2.2 (4.3.3). <p>Click here for the hyperlink to the: MSC Template for Stakeholder Input Fishery Assessment</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used

	The default V2.0 assessment tree is to be used without modification.
11	Estimated timeline
	The assessment is planned for completion within 10 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of June 2022, if the assessment result is positive.
12	Site visit
	<p>SCS invites participants to attend the site visit is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 24, 2021, which will be conducted remotely. All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. If the site visit date changes, registered stakeholders will be informed.</p> <p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input at the on-site meetings or via email, and/or in being directly informed of future stakeholder announcements, please contact SCS at MSCstakeholders@scsglobalservices.com with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ your name and contact details; ■ your association with the fishery; and ■ the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).
13	Assessment tree modifications
	NA

Submitted by: Brian Ahlers

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](https://www.msc.org) (msc.org)

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