



14 December 2021

Peer Reviewer Shortlist Consultation for the US Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery

The MSC's Peer Review College has compiled a shortlist of potential peer reviewers to undertake the peer review for the [US Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog](#) fishery which is in its initial assessment process with the Conformity Assessment Body, SCS Global Services. Two peer reviewers will be selected from the following list:

- Isobel Bloor
- Jo Akroyd
- Nick Caputi
- Steve Nelson

A summary of their experience and qualifications is included on the following pages. Further details of their experience are available on request by email to the [Peer Review College](#).

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on potential conflicts of interest of the shortlisted reviewers with the fishery to the Peer Review College by email, telephone or post at the number and address below.

For further details and background to the Peer Review College, please visit [this page of the MSC's website](#).

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The deadline for responses to the consultation is **17:00 UTC, 10 days from the publication date of this announcement on the MSC's website.**

Isobel Bloor

Dr Isobel Bloor has an educational background in marine ecology, environmental management and fisheries with an MSc in Marine Ecology and Environmental Management and a PhD in cuttlefish fisheries and ecology. Dr Bloor has spent the last seven years working for Bangor University, where she is based full-time in the Isle of Man leading a contract providing independent scientific and advice to the Isle of Man Government on all their commercial fisheries. During this period Dr Bloor has been an active member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment and continues to represent the Isle of Man on the ICES Working Group for Cephalopods. Dr Bloor has been actively involved in the MSC process, providing all the scientific research and advice for the Isle of Man queen scallop trawl fishery, including writing reports for annual reviews and participating in audits. Since 2013 Dr Bloor has been working on developing stock assessment methods and undertaking stock assessments for both king and queen scallop fisheries for the Isle of Man and for the wider Irish Sea (in collaboration with colleagues from other institutes). Dr Bloor is actively involved in several industry groups and provides regular scientific advice to support these groups, in particular the Scallop Management Board. Dr Bloor has led and coordinated the research and scientific advice for all commercially fished species in the Isle of Man (king scallop, queen scallop, whelk, crab, lobster, squid etc) and undertakes the annual scallop stock assessment surveys."

Jo Akroyd

Jo Akroyd is a fisheries management and marine ecosystem consultant with extensive international and Pacific experience. She has worked at senior levels in both the public and private sector as a fisheries manager and marine policy expert. Jo was with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in New Zealand for 20 years. Starting as a fisheries scientist, she was promoted to senior chief fisheries scientist, then Fisheries Management Officer, and the Assistant Director, Marine Research. She was awarded a Commemoration Medal in 1990 in recognition of her pioneering work in establishing New Zealand's fisheries quota management system. Among her current contracted activities, she is involved internationally in fishery certification of offshore, inshore and shellfish fisheries as Fisheries Management Specialist and Lead Assessor for the Intertek Fisheries Certification audit team. She has carried out the Marine Stewardship Councils' (MSC) certification assessment for sustainable fisheries. Examples include NZ (hoki, southern blue whiting, albacore, hake, scallops), Fiji (longline albacore) Japan (pole and line tuna, flatfish, snowcrab, scallops), China (scallops), Antarctica (Ross Sea toothfish fishery).

Nick Caputi

Dr Nick Caputi obtained his PhD from Murdoch University in 1989 with a thesis based on stock-recruitment relationships for crustacean fisheries in Western Australia. From 1974 to 1998 he worked as a statistician for the Department of Fisheries (Western Australia) working on fisheries projects from all major commercial and recreational fisheries. Since 1998 he has been the Supervising Scientist of the Invertebrate Branch of the Department, which is responsible for research on rock lobster, pearl oyster, prawns, scallop, blue swimmer crab, deep sea crab and abalone. Seven of these fisheries have achieved the Marine Stewardship Council certification with the western rock lobster fishery being the first. Dr Caputi's research focus is stock assessment but he has also been involved with MSC P2 and P3 issues with over 40-years' experience and publication of over 60 peer-reviewed papers (18 as lead author), 25 reports and 18 book chapters. His research includes catch predictions based on pre-recruit abundance, environmental effects on recruitment, spawning stock-recruitment relationships, climate change effects on fisheries, harvest strategies and maximum economic yield. The management of the western rock lobster fishery is based on a bio-economic model and a length-structured stock assessment model. He has participated in 6 Center of Independent Experts' reviews of fisheries in the USA, on invertebrate fisheries and climate change. He has also participated in stock assessments in Mozambique on the shrimp fishery (1998-2004), rock lobster (2007) and artisanal shrimp (2003).

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson has over 25 years of experience in coastal and fishery management. During this time, he worked in management, scientific, and communication roles for US and international programs sponsored by federal, state, and local governments, academic institutions, NGOs, and private companies. He has technical expertise in fishery management, stock assessment, coastal and river ecology, biodiversity conservation, GIS and spatial analysis, and resource economics. His experience includes projects for salmon, pollock, striped bass, red snapper, groundfish, perch, oysters, and crabs among others. He worked the seafood industry with expertise in sustainability certification and product traceability. He served as fishery team leader for the MSC full assessment of the Bratsk Reservoir perch fishery and peer reviewed fisheries in Estonia, Kamchatka, the Barents Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. He also served as client advisor for MSC certifications of the Russian Alaska pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and Sea of Okhotsk. In other certification work, he evaluated and peer reviewed numerous fisheries certified under the FAO Responsible Fishing Management label for stocks in Alaska, Iceland, and Gulf of Mexico. In related fishery consultations, he provided technical expertise to the Netherlands Development Bank for coastal investments in Latin American and Asia and to USAID-funded lake fisheries in Malawi. He earned a BA in economics from the University of Virginia and an MS in environmental biology (estuarine ecology) from George Mason University and received additional training in stock assessment.