



## Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fishery Certification Assessment

### AAFA and WFOA North Pacific albacore tuna pole & line and troll/jig fishery

### AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna troll/jig fishery

## Certification Body: Intertek Fisheries Certification

### Surveillance Audit

Following certification of these fisheries, we are now continuing the process of normal annual surveillance audits. Surveillance audits have two principal functions:

1. To review any changes in the management of these fisheries, including regulations, key management or scientific staff, or stock evaluation,
2. To evaluate the progress of these fisheries against any Conditions of Certification raised during the Full Assessment.

During the audit we shall be speaking with representatives of these fisheries and science and management organisations. We will also make ourselves available to meet with stakeholders. We will carry out meetings in **San Diego on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.**

Meetings will be held at **the Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego**, and will be attended by the following Audit Team Members:

<b>Name 1: Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme</b>	<b>Coordinator / Lead Assessor</b>	<b>On site</b>
<b>Name 2: Dr. Mike Laurs</b>	<b>Team Member</b>	<b>On site</b>

Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme was the lead assessor and P2 team member for the reassessment of the AAFA fisheries. Dr. Mike Laurs was the P3 team member for the reassessment of the AAFA fisheries. Both Rob and Mike also worked on the surveillance audits of the AAFA fisheries in previous years (please see details of the team membership below).

If you have any information on these fisheries that you feel should be considered during the audit, then please get in touch with Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme at the e-mail address below; If you would like to arrange a meeting, then please advise us of:

- a) your name and contact details
- b) your association with the fishery
- c) the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation)
- d) your availability for meeting the Audit Team

Lead Assessor : Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2014



Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme

Rob has worked in aquaculture and then in marine fisheries science, management and policy since 1996. Rob started his career in finfish mariculture, before switching to a focus on wild fisheries. Following his PhD which focussed on fisheries management and the environmental effects of fishing, he moved to Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the largest inshore fisheries management organization in England, where he became the Deputy Chief Fishery Officer. He then became a senior advisor to the UK Government on marine fisheries and environmental issues, leading a team dealing with fisheries policy, science and nationally significant fisheries and environmental casework. He has extensive experience of running and providing lead input to workshops and management fora at a national level, and has published a number of papers in peer-reviewed international journals. Rob now runs Ichthys Marine Ecological Consulting Ltd., a marine fisheries and environmental consultancy. From late 2008, he based the company in Hawaii, but he returned to the UK in summer 2013 to continue the business. In addition to other fisheries and environmental consultancy work, Rob has undertaken all facets of MSC work as a Lead Assessor and expert team member, across varied fisheries including those for Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, Alaska salmon, North Pacific albacore, Grand Bank yellowtail flounder, Arctic surfclams and European mussels.

Dr. Mike Laurs

Dr. Michael Laurs is currently a part time marine fisheries consultant. Previously, he led a Federal fisheries research laboratory multi-disciplinary research program, as well as an operational fishery forecasting program, for albacore tuna for a little over 20 years. The research included a broad range of topics and much of it was closely coordinated with the US albacore fishing industry. Dr. Laurs conducted fishery development research that resulted in the US surface albacore fishery expansion to the central and western North Pacific and the South Pacific. He also worked closely with the west coast states and Canada to develop a uniform albacore fishery logbook system and a coordinated market sampling system to obtain length frequency and related fishery data in ports where albacore were landed. Much of the biological research, including albacore genetics, physiology, and general biology was conducted with academic partners that he recruited. He established a notably successful albacore tagging program that resulted in a unique, valuable database of 30,000 albacore used in age and growth, stock structure, migration, and ecological research on the species. The albacore oceanography research, which was a notably strong part of the program, resulted in greatly improved understanding of albacore habitat and the roles that environmental variability plays in causing variations in where, when, and how many albacore may be available and vulnerable to the surface fishery. He also pioneered the application of satellite remote sensing technology in albacore ecological research.

Full CVs of the team members are available on request from IFC