



8950 Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. #202  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2211  
Tel: (727) 563-9070  
Fax: (727) 563-0207  
Email: [MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com](mailto:MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com)

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

# MRAG Americas, Inc.

## BSAI and GOA Flatfish Fisheries

## MSC Surveillance Announcement

## December 17, 2021

**Table 1 – Surveillance announcement**

|   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1 | Fishery name  |                  |
|   | BSAI and GOA flatfish   |                  |
| 2 | Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)   |                  |
|   | Kamchatka flounder ( <i>Atheresthes evermanni</i> ) – BSAI<br>Arrowtooth flounder ( <i>Atheresthes stomias</i> ) – BSAI and GOA<br>Flathead sole ( <i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i> ) – BSAI and GOA<br>Northern rock sole ( <i>Lepidopsetta polyxystra</i> ) – BSAI and GOA<br>Yellowfin sole ( <i>Pleuronectes asper</i> , <i>Limanda aspera</i> ) – BSAI<br>Alaska plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus</i> ) – BSAI<br>Rex sole ( <i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i> ) – GOA<br>Southern rock sole ( <i>Lepidopsetta bilineata</i> ) – GOA<br>Demersal trawl<br>Northeast Pacific, FAO 67 and FAO 61 |                  |
| 3 | Date certified  | Date of expiry   |
|   | 17 December 2020  | 16 December 2025 |
| 4 | Surveillance level and type   |                  |
|   | Level 1 – on-site   |                  |
| 5 | Surveillance number   |                  |
|   | 1st Surveillance  | XX               |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | 2nd Surveillance   |  |
|   | 3rd Surveillance   |  |
|   | 4th Surveillance   |  |
|   | Other (Expedited, etc.)  |  |
| 6 | Proposed team leader   |  |
|   | <p><b>Ms. Erin Wilson</b> joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently works as a Senior Fisheries Consultant and Program Manager. She has collaborated as a team member on several MSC assessments and is team leader for all the Alaska Groundfish fisheries and the West Coast Groundfish limited entry trawl fishery. She provides routine audit services for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and is the MRAG Project Manager for the ISSF ProActive Vessel Registry (PVR). Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Wilson meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team leader as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;</li> <li>• She has passed the MSC team leader training;</li> <li>• She has the required competencies described in Table PC1, section 2;</li> <li>• She has passed the MSC Traceability training module;</li> <li>• She meets ISO 19011 training requirements;</li> <li>• She has undertaken two fishery assessments as a team member in the last five years, and</li> <li>• She has experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques and is able to effectively communicate with clients and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>In additions, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as Principle 3 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> |  |
| 7 | Proposed team members  |  |
|   | <p><b>Ms. Amanda Stern-Pirlot</b> is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Pirlot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of</p>   |  |

the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.

MRAG Americas confirms that Ms. Stern-Pirlot meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:

- She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;
- She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years;
- She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored;
- She has passed the MSC Traceability training module.

In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as Principle 2 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

**Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella** is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otolith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF).

He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Furthermore, Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM).

MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Scarcella meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:

- He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries;
- He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years;
- He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored.

In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.

The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCP Annex PC table PC3.

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | A discussion between team members regarding conflict of interest and biases was held and none were identified.   |
| 8  | Audit/review time and location   |
|    | A surveillance audit has been scheduled for the week of January 17, 2022 in Seattle, WA.   |
| 9  | Assessment and review activities   |
|    | The surveillance will review any changes in science and management.  |
| 10 | Stakeholder opportunities  |
|    | Participate in the site visit: all team members are available to meet in person or remotely (FCP v2.2 7.28.15.b).<br><br>Provide input or comments to the team regarding the Surveillance Audit. Stakeholders must use the <a href="#">MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Surveillance Audits v1.0</a> (Ctrl+click to follow link). |

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery, to the surveillance and expedited assessments of the fisheries. Unless covered by FCP 4.3.3 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the surveillance audit, used to determine the surveillance audit outcome or used as the basis for an objection to certification. The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template ([MSC template for stakeholder input into a surveillance audit](#)) for stakeholder response available at [MSC program supporting documents](#). Stakeholders are encouraged not to withhold information, including concerns and knowledge about the fishery.

You must use the template to provide your response. All comments and inquiries should be directed to MRAG Americas. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss
- where and when you would like to meet

We request that stakeholders provide written information or request a meeting by 5pm UTC on January 10, 2022.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/bsai-and-go-flatfish/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:

Amanda Stern-Pirlot  
MRAG Americas, Inc.  
8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., Suite 202  
St. Petersburg FL 33702

Ph: 1-206-669-0439  
Fax: 1-727-563-0207  
[certification@mragamericas.com](mailto:certification@mragamericas.com)

Submitted by: Michealene Corlett

Date: December 15, 2021

## Appendix 1: Summary of CVs of team leader and team member(s) - optional

**Ms. Erin Wilson** joined MRAG Americas, Inc. in February 2015, where she currently works as a Senior Fisheries Consultant and Program Manager. She has collaborated as a team member on several MSC assessments and is team leader for all the Alaska Groundfish fisheries and the West Coast Groundfish limited entry trawl fishery. She provides routine audit services for the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and is the MRAG Project Manager for the ISSF ProActive Vessel Registry (PVR). Prior to joining MRAG Americas, she spent 2 years working at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Natural Resource Specialist and Biological Technician for the Oregon Marine Reserves. She has collaborated on a multitude of projects that focus on marine science and conservation in both a biological and social science aspect. She received a M.Sc. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, along with a Spanish minor.

**Ms. Amanda Stern-Piriot** will serve as team leader for the assessment. Amanda is an M.Sc graduate of the University of Bremen, Center for Marine Tropical Ecology (ZMT) in marine ecology and fisheries biology. Ms. Stern-Piriot joined MRAG Americas in mid-June 2014 as MSC Certification Manager (now Director of the Fishery Certification Division) and is currently serving on several different assessment teams as team leader and team member. She has worked together with other scientists, conservationists, fisheries managers and producer groups on international fisheries sustainability issues for over 15 years. With the Institute for Marine Research (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, Germany, she led a work package on simple indicators for sustainable within the EU-funded international cooperation project INCOFISH, followed by five years within the Standards Department at the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in London, developing standards, policies and assessment methods informed by best practices in fisheries management around the globe. Most recently she has worked with the Alaska pollock industry as a resources analyst, within the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process, focusing on bycatch and ecosystem-based management issues, and managing the day-to-day operations of the offshore pollock cooperative. She has co-authored a dozen publications on fisheries sustainability in the developing world and the functioning of the MSC as an instrument for transforming fisheries to a sustainable basis.

**Dr. Giuseppe Scarcella** is an experienced fishery scientist and population analyst and modeller, with wide knowledge and experience in the assessment of demersal stocks. He holds a first degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography (110/110) from the Università Politecnica delle Marche, and a Ph.D. in marine Ecology and Biology from the same university, based on a thesis "Age and growth of two rockfish in the Adriatic Sea". After his degree he was offered a job as project scientist in several research programs about the structure and composition of fish assemblage in artificial reefs, off-shore platform and other artificial habitats in the Italian Research Council – Institute of Marine Science of Ancona (CNR-ISMAR, now CNR-IRBIM). During the years of employment at CNR-ISMAR he has gained experience in benthic ecology, statistical analyses of fish assemblage evolution in artificial habitats, fisheries ecology and impacts of fishing activities, stock assessment, otolith analysis, population dynamic and fisheries management. During the same years he attended courses of uni- multivariate statistics and stock assessment. He is also actively participating in the scientific advice process of FAO GFCM in the Mediterranean Sea. At the moment he is member of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries for the European Commission (STECF).

He is author and co-author of more than 50 scientific paper peer reviewed journals and more than 150 national and international technical reports, most of them focused on the evolution of fish assemblages in artificial habitats and stock assessment of demersal species. For some years now, Dr Scarcella has been working in fisheries certification applying the Marine Stewardship Council standard for sustainable fisheries, currently concentrating on Principle 1 of the Standard. Furthermore, Dr Scarcella holds the credential as Fishery team leader (MSC v2.0) and he completed the MSC procedure training 2.1. He also holds the credential as certifier of Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM).

## Appendix 2: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

**Table 2 – Surveillance level justification**

| Year | Surveillance activity      | Number of auditors | Rationale  |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1    | On-site surveillance audit | 3 auditors on-site | The site visit is being held in conjunction with the fishery's RFM assessment allowing the assessment teams to coordinate and streamline meetings. |

**Table 3– Timing of surveillance audit**

| Year | Anniversary date of certificate | Proposed date of surveillance audit | Rationale   |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1    | December 2021                   | January 2022                        | As this fishery is being assessed in conjunction with 3 other Alaskan fisheries, January was the month that best accommodated everyone's schedules. |

**Table 4 – Fishery surveillance program**

| Surveillance level | Year 1  | Year 2                         | Year 3                         | Year 4   |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Level 1            | Review of information<br>audit<br>On-site surveillance<br>audit | Off-site surveillance<br>audit | Review of information<br>audit | On-site surveillance<br>audit & re-certification<br>site visit |