

**\*\*\*\*\*ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\***

**Baja California, Red Rock Lobster Fishery  
Clarification of Unit of Certification**

In April 2004, the Federación Regional de Sociedades Cooperativas de la Industria Pesquera Baja California F.C.L (Baja California Regional Federation of the Fishing Cooperative Societies) in Baja California achieved MSC Certification and is currently undergoing a Recertification Assessment. The lobster species fished is *Panulirus interruptus*, also known as red rock lobster or California lobster.

The original Unit of Certification included an area of approximately 2,400 km<sup>2</sup> along the coast of Mexico from Cedros Island in Baja California (28.6°N 115.5° W) through Punta Abreojos in Baja California Sur (26.6°N 113.2°W). This Unit of Certification covered the area of concessions for nine cooperative group members represented by the client.

During assessment meetings held in Ensenada, Mexico on 28 and 29 January 2010 with the client, stakeholders and management it was communicated that a tenth cooperative member has joined the group. It is the intent of the client to include the artisanal red rock lobster fishery of Isla Guadalupe to the Unit of Certification. Isla Guadalupe sits approximately 250 km off the coast of Baja California, Mexico (29.03°N 118.27°W).

The SCS team has determined the proposed expansion of the Unit of Certification can be adequately covered under the Default Assessment Tree currently being used to assess this fishery.

The SCS assessment team will be holding a second set of meetings in La Paz, Mexico on 16 and 17 March, 2010 with scientists, managers, fishers and stakeholders that have expressed interest in participating in the evaluation process.

For interested stakeholders that are unable to attend these second meetings, SCS and its team members will take comments through 19 March, 2010. Comments should be directed to the contact details below.

Contact details for Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. are:

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