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Contact: Jim Gilmore

(202) 661-3975

(206) 669-6396 (mobile)

## ***Alaska Pollock Fishery Earns Sustainability Label***

Seattle, WA—A panel of internationally renowned marine scientists and fishery management experts has determined that the Alaska Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) pollock fishery—the largest U.S. fishery—is responsibly and sustainably managed in accordance with strict conservation standards established by the non-profit, U.K.-based Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The determination of sustainability was presented in a 278-page report submitted to the MSC by Scientific Certification Systems, Inc., an MSC-accredited certification body. The report's conclusions were supported in comments submitted by two highly regarded fishery management authorities, who served as peer reviewers. All of the members of the Alaska pollock assessment team as well as the peer reviewers were selected from a list of candidates acceptable to environmental stakeholders.

Among its principal findings, the independent assessment team observed that Alaska pollock stocks are “at near record high levels” and that the science conducted by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in support of this fishery is “world class.” The evaluation team and peer reviewers further noted that the BS/AI pollock fishery is among the best managed in the world and is at the forefront of applying progressive, ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches.

The final report is the culmination of 3 ½ years of work. The rigorous evaluation process included extensive consultations with fishery managers and scientists, the environmental community, fishing communities and other stakeholders. A companion report is expected next week determining that the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery also meets the MSC's standard of sustainability.

Jim Gilmore, spokesman for the At-Sea Processors Association (APA), which applied to have the Alaska pollock fisheries assessed against the MSC standard, said, “This determination that the Bering Sea pollock fishery is sustainable reaffirms that U.S. fisheries management off Alaska is working well. Consumers can be assured that when they eat Alaska pollock, they are selecting a healthy and nutritious product that is also the right environmental choice.”

*The Final Report on Alaska's BS/AI pollock fishery has been submitted to the MSC for posting on its website at [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org). For additional information, contact Jim Gilmore at ph. (202) 661-3975 or by e-mail at [jgilmore@atsea.org](mailto:jgilmore@atsea.org).*



### **ANCHORAGE**

431 West 7th Avenue, Suite 103  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Tel: (907) 276-8252  
Fax: (907) 276-8262

### **SEATTLE**

4039 21st Avenue W., Suite 400  
Seattle, WA 98199  
Tel: (206) 285-5139  
Fax: (206) 285-1841

### **WASHINGTON, DC**

1735 New York Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: (202) 661-3975  
Fax: (202) 661-3979