



**American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA)  
Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery  
MSC Certification**

**Certification Body: Moody Marine Ltd**

**Confirmation of Assessment Team Members**

Based on the technical expertise required to carry out the main assessment of this fishery, Moody Marine is pleased to confirm the assessment team membership. Team members are to be **Joe Powers**, Professor of Stock Assessment in the School of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University and **Michael Laurs**, marine fisheries consultant. Lead assessor will be **Andrew Hough**, Moody Marine, UK. Further details on team members are provided below.

Date: 13 June 2006

**Team membership (in alphabetical order):**

**Michael Laurs.** Michael 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. He 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 where fishermen that were trained, tagged and released over 30,000 albacore. This resulted in a unique, valuable database used in albacore 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.

**Joseph Powers.** Dr. Joseph E. Powers currently serves as a professor of Stock Assessment in the School of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University. Previously Dr Powers served as Senior Stock Assessment Scientist of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center conducting research on the implementation of science-based management

Moody Marine Ltd  
Moody International Certification  
Salisbury House  
Stephenson's Way  
The Wyvern Business Park  
Derby. DE21 6LY  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1704 834 644  
Fax:  
Email: [enquiries@moodymarine.com](mailto:enquiries@moodymarine.com)  
Web Site: [www.moodymarine.com](http://www.moodymarine.com)



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policies for the nation's and world's fisheries. He has had extensive experience in conducting population dynamics studies, scientific stock assessments, in communicating results to constituents and managers, and serving as a fisheries manager. He has been the lead US scientist conducting stock assessments for Atlantic tuna and billfish species including bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore and marlins for the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Additionally, Dr. Powers served as the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT (1998-2002) coordinating international research efforts and providing the scientific advice for management to a Commission involving more than 30 nations. Dr. Powers' research interests continue to be the modeling of robust sustainable management procedures, integrating ecosystem factors into stock assessments, risk analysis in decision-making and the role of scientific investigations in fisheries management policy

Moody Marine Ltd  
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Salisbury House  
Stephenson's Way  
The Wyvern Business Park  
Derby. DE21 6LY  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1704 834 644  
Fax:

Email: [enquiries@moodymarine.com](mailto:enquiries@moodymarine.com)

Web Site: [www.moodymarine.com](http://www.moodymarine.com)