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

Certification Body: Moody Marine Ltd

Nominations for Assessment Team membership

Moody Marine is currently undertaking the main assessment of the above fishery against the Marine Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. To assist in this assessment, we are looking to appoint a team of expert advisors with collective knowledge of the stock evaluation, ecosystem impacts and management framework applicable to this fishery.

The persons proposed as potential team members of this fishery assessment are set out below in alphabetical order, together with a brief resume of their background. Potential team members have been selected on the basis of their experience of fishery management, stock assessment and/or ecosystem interactions. The final team will comprise two or three expert advisors from the following list. The coordinating Assessor from Moody Marine will be Dr Andrew Hough.

All stakeholders are now invited to provide any comments on the suitability or otherwise of any of the nominees. We would, however, ask for any comments by the **5 May 2006** prior to continuing the assessment process. These should be sent to Andrew Hough at:

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Date: 12 April 2006

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Nominees for team membership (in alphabetical order):

Panayiota Apostolaki. Panayiota is currently Fishery Scientist with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK. Her expertise includes tuna and tuna-like species biology and fisheries management issues through extended work on North Atlantic bluefin tuna including contribution to the 2002 eastern and western North Atlantic BFT stock assessments; contribution to research on the Management of Tropical Atlantic Tunas in a Mixed Fishery undertaken in the context of a European project entitled "Framework For The Evaluation of Management Strategies"; reviews of the evaluation processes followed by the Blue Ocean Institute in New York to produce its ranked list of seafood (elasmobranch section) and assessment of the sustainability of shark fisheries in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and fishery management and sustainability issues related to a wide range of fisheries including multi-gear, multi-species, commercial, and recreational fisheries. She also has knowledge of U.S. and European environmental legislation.

Sandy Argue. Sandy has experience of tuna fisheries management and tuna stock assessment through five years experience with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia as one of two Senior Scientists on the SPC Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme, subsequent attendance at highly migratory species workshops and meetings conducted by SPC, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. Also more recently with the Canadian federal government and the BC provincial government as technical advisor to the Canadian negotiation teams for the Canada/US Albacore Agreement and the West Central Pacific HMS Convention. He currently represents the province on the federal Government/industry Tuna Advisory Board. My experience with the Marine Stewardship Council is via my being a technical advisor to the British Columbia Salmon Marketing Council who are seeking MSC certification of BC salmon fisheries.

John Dean. John has been intimately involved with the science and policies of management of highly migratory species for more than 25 years. His laboratory was a leader in developing the techniques and conducting studies of age estimation of large pelagic species such as swordfish, marlin and tunas. He taught many undergraduate and graduate students that continue to contribute professionally to the literature of fisheries ecology, and all continue his laboratory's tradition of participation in fisheries policy at the local, national and international levels. His experiences as an advisor to the seafood industry, and service as a member of public sector bodies, such as the regional fishery management council, have provided him with unique perspectives. He is recognized for his research contributions and advice to organizations from a non-advocatory perspective. He has collaborated with scientists in Japan (sabbaticals in Nagasaki and Hakodate), Mauritius, Latin America, Netherlands, Italy (sabbatical in Sardinia and collaborations in Bari and Sicily), Greece and Turkey. For the last ten years he has been very involved in collaborative studies of the biology and management of bluefin tuna, swordfish and albacore in the Mediterranean. He retired from the University of South Carolina in 2002 and continues to have an active program of collaborative research, writing and public service.

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James Joseph. James has been employed by the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and was a visiting scientist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in New Zealand. He served as Director of the IATTC from 1969 to June 1999, and as an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington and at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. He has served as either chairman or member on numerous advisory committees, task forces, and consultative groups in the United States and elsewhere dealing with marine science and conservation, including, *inter alia*, those of the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the United Nations, and FAO. He has also lectured widely on subjects relating to marine research and resource conservation at conventions, universities, and institutions throughout the world. Additionally, he has served as a technical advisor to many international organizations, government ministries, and heads of state on matters pertaining to marine science, especially marine resource, management, and conservation. Dr. Joseph has testified on many occasions as an expert in marine sciences before both the U.S. Senate and House, as well as before similar legislative bodies in Latin America and the European Union. He has published more than 100 books and articles on fisheries science, resource conservation, and management, most of which deal with tuna.

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 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

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(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

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