



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

We are pleased to announce that the MSC fishery certification assessment is underway for the AAFA South Pacific albacore fishery. This assessment will evaluate this fishery for compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. The certification body contracted to assess this fishery is Intertek Moody Marine.

The fishery under assessment is defined here as the AAFA South Pacific albacore troll/jig fishery.

The client for the assessment is AAFA.

As is normal practice it is our intent to combine the final surveillance audit for the existing certification with the re-certification site visit. The date for the visit will be announced in due course.

The provisional assessment schedule sets out the key stages and approximate timings involved. Initially, Intertek Moody Marine seeks to open a dialogue with all organisations or individuals with a direct interest in this fishery. Anyone wishing to become a consultee 'stakeholder', to nominate other organisations/individuals as stakeholders or to provide comments or information to the assessment process (in terms of the status of the stock, ecosystem interactions or fishery management practices) is invited to contact Intertek Moody Marine.

The assessment schedule identifies future key consultation stages (marked in red). For reference, month 1 is taken to be September 2011. The target date for certification of the fishery is 1st September 2012.

We are also in the process of assembling an assessment team of individuals with experience of stock assessment, ecosystem interactions and fishery management appropriate to this fishery. Any nominations of suitable individuals are also welcomed.

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