



**American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA)
South Pacific Albacore Troll/Jig Fishery**

**MSC Certification
Certification Body: Intertek Moody Marine**

Confirmation of Assessment Team Members

Intertek Moody Marine is pleased to confirm the assessment team membership for this fishery. This team will undertake the upcoming combined 4th surveillance audit and reassessment site visit.

The Lead Assessor will be **Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme**, Intertek Moody Marine, Canada:

Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme has worked in marine fisheries science, management and policy for more than 15 years. Prior to becoming a fisheries consultant, Dr. Blyth-Skyrme was the Deputy Chief Officer for Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the largest inshore fisheries management organization in England, with management responsibilities for one of the most important bivalve shellfish fisheries in the country. He then became a senior advisor to the UK Government on marine fisheries and environmental issues, leading a team dealing with fisheries policy, science and nationally significant casework. He has extensive experience of running and providing lead input to workshops and management fora. Dr. Blyth-Skyrme now runs a marine fisheries and environmental consultancy with offices in the UK and Hawaii and has undertaken all facets of MSC work as a lead assessor and expert team member.

The first Team Member will be **Dr. Norm Bartoo**, independent fishery consultant:

Dr. Norman Bartoo received a BS in Fisheries Management and Administration in 1970, a Masters in Fisheries Statistics in 1972, and a PhD in Fisheries Population Biology in 1977 from the University of Washington. From 1977 through 2009, Dr. Bartoo was employed by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). There he conducted stock and fishery assessments on tunas, billfish, sharks and other highly migratory species in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Dr. Bartoo directed research and stock assessments of coastal pelagic species, marine mammal stocks, Antarctic species and others. Dr. Bartoo served as a US science delegate and advisor to numerous international science bodies and forums and has extensive experience on both international and domestic scientific committees and workshops, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Dr. Bartoo retired from the NMFS in 2009 as the Regional Science Director, managing all research and done by the SWFSC's 3 laboratories and 4 Divisions. He has also served as the Scientific Editor of the US Fishery Bulletin and NOAA's Professional Paper series (2002-2005), and was on the Editorial Board of Ciencias Marinas. Dr. Bartoo has authored or co-authored over 60 publications and numerous technical reports.

The second Team Member will be **Dr. Mike Laurs**, independent fishery consultant:

Dr. Michael Laurs 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

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with the US albacore fishing industry. Dr. Laurs 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. Dr. Laurs established a notably successful albacore tagging program that resulted in a unique, valuable database of 30,000 albacore used in 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.

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