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**\*\*\*\*\* ADVISORY \*\*\*\*\***

***MSC Assessment of Alaska Salmon Fisheries***  
**Nominations for Peer Reviewers of MSC Draft Assessment Report**  
**2 January 2007**

The MSC process for independently re-assessing the commercial salmon fisheries in Alaska is continuing. Since it has taken longer than expected to complete a draft assessment report satisfactory to both the assessment team and the client, Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. is re-issuing a list of potential peer reviewers to ensure that stakeholders have the most up-to-date information when determining if they would like to input information into the assessment process. The list now includes some additional reviewers for consideration, as well as removal of some previously listed.

The scientists SCS is nominating as potential peer reviewers are:

Dr. Alex Wertheimer NOAA Fisheries, Auke Bay, AK

Alex Wertheimer is a Fishery Research Biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory. He has been involved with salmon research in Alaska for over 30 years, and has authored numerous journal publications and agency reports on various aspects of the biology, culture, and status of Pacific salmon in Alaska. His research has focused on enhancement technology and strategies for Alaska salmon; interactions of enhanced and wild production; and the marine ecology of juvenile salmon. He is currently a member of the Pacific Salmon Commission's Chinook Technical Committee, and of the Science Coordination Panel for the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund in Alaska. He is a past president of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and in 2003 received from the Alaska Chapter the Wally Noerenberg Award for career excellence in his field.

Dr. Ray Hilborn University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Ray Hilborn is a Richard C. and Lois M. Worthington Professor of Fisheries Management in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington specializing in natural resource management and conservation. He was a scientific advisor to the Presidents Commission on Ocean Policy, served on the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council and at present serves as an advisor to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, Fish and Fisheries, Reviews in Fish

Biology and Fisheries, and Natural Resource Modelling. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in aquatic resource conservation. Major books include "Quantitative fisheries stock assessment" with Carl Walters in 1992, and "The Ecological Detective: confronting models with data" with Marc Mangel in 1997. Significant areas of current and past research interest include the biocomplexity of coupled natural human systems in Bristol Bay Alaska and the California coastal fisheries, Bayesian analysis of decision making in natural resources, the dynamics of the Serengeti ecosystem in east Africa, the role of hatcheries in management of Pacific salmon, the ability of institutions to learn from experience, statistical methods in testing dynamic ecological hypotheses, the analysis of migration and dispersal from mark-recapture data, and the ecological dynamics of fishing fleets.

Dr. Vidar G. Wespestad (independent)

Dr. Wespestad was a research scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Science Centers for 25 years researching the fish resources of the Northwest Pacific Ocean. During his tenure with NOAA he conducted research and provided management advice to regional fishery management bodies. A principal duty was annual estimation of the abundance and safe harvest levels of Bering Sea Alaska pollock, the world's largest fishery. He engaged in collaborative research with Asian scientists primarily in the Russian Far-east on understanding the fisheries and resources of the Sea of Okhotsk and adjacent seas.

Since leaving NOAA in 1997, Dr. Wespestad has served as Chief Scientist for the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative and as scientific consultant to the American Fisherman's Research Foundation on albacore tuna stock assessment and management. He has worked with several groups in the US, Canada, and Chile on stock assessment reviews, and serves as a Program Reviewer for the Norwegian Research Council. He is an adjunct Professor in Fisheries and Ocean Science at the University of Alaska.

Dr. Robert Francis University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Dr. Francis is Professor Emeritus of the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Dr. Francis has taught fisheries science since 1986, with previous positions with NOAA Fisheries, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and Colorado State University. Recognized internationally for his work in fisheries, over the past 25 years Dr. Francis has been invited to either participate in or Chair a number of committees on fisheries issues including the National Marine Fisheries Service Ecosystem Principles advisory Panel (1997- 2000), The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council Committee on the Bering Sea Ecosystem (Chair 1993 – 1996), The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council Committee on Porpoise Mortality from Tuna Fisheries (Chair 1990 – 1993), Ecological Society of America Ad Hoc Working Group on Ecosystem Management (1993-1996), and the Pacific Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee (1987 – 1990, 1999 – present). Dr. Francis has published extensively in peer reviewed scientific journals on numerous issues, the most recent area being ecosystem-based management for fisheries.

Dr. Milo Adkison, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

Milo Adkison is an Associate Professor at the Juneau Center, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks. He earned a doctorate in fisheries from the University of Washington in 1994, and had a post-doctoral appointment at Simon Fraser University. He's also worked for the Biological Resources Division of USGS and as crew on a Bristol Bay gillnetter. The research of Dr. Adkison and his students typically involves applying quantitative methods to aspects of Pacific salmon biology and fisheries management.

The peer review for Alaska salmon is expected to be conducted between January and February 2007. Any specific comments or objections should be submitted by 12 January 2007 and fully supported with a written explanation.

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All comments and/or objections should be directed to:

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