

Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.) Certification Program

Notice of Full Assessment Team Nomination

January 2015

The Louisiana Blue Crab Commercial Fishery

Based on the technical expertise required to carry out the above fishery assessment, Global Trust Certification Ltd., is pleased to confirm the Full Assessment team members for the fishery as follows.

Vince Guillory, Assessor

Vince has a B. S. in Zoology (1971) and a M. S. in Fisheries (1974) from Louisiana State University and worked as a freshwater biologist for Gulf South Research in New Iberia and Florida Game and Fish Commission for six years and then as a marine biologist with Marine Fisheries Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for 33 years. For most of his career with LDWF he was a coastal study area manager in the Terrebonne Bay estuary, and was responsible for comprehensive fishery independent surveys of commercially and recreationally important species such as blue crab and oysters. In addition, fishery dependent surveys of commercial and recreational harvests were conducted. Vince was the facilitator and LDWF representative on the Crab Task Force for 20 years, a member of the Crab Subcommittee, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for over 25 years, project coordinator for the derelict crab trap removal program, and authored numerous publications on crab traps and long term analyses of monitoring data. Five oyster seed grounds were present in the Terrebonne Bay estuary, and each was monitored intensively for oyster density and mortality and for commercial harvests.

Dr. Romuald N. Lipcius, Assessor

Dr. Lipcius is a Professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), College of William & Mary (Virginia, USA), where he has been on the faculty in the Department of Fisheries Science since 1986. He received a Ph.D. (major: Biological Science; minor: Statistics) from Florida State University in 1984, and was awarded Postdoctoral Fellowships by the Smithsonian Institution (1984-85) and US National Research Council (1985-86) before joining the faculty. His main interest is in Marine Conservation Ecology and Fisheries Management, and has over 30 years of experience conducting basic and applied research on blue crab, eastern oyster, Caribbean spiny lobster, queen conch, Nassau grouper and various marine bivalves. He

has 28 years of experience as the state's expert on blue crab ecology and management by providing formal management advice to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee, and Chesapeake Bay Program Fisheries Goal Implementation Team, and 10 years of experience serving as scientific advisor on oyster restoration to US Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, and Chesapeake Bay Program Fisheries Goal Implementation Team. He has been Chief Scientist of the Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey for 25 years, Co-Principal Investigator of the Blue Crab Stock Assessment in Chesapeake Bay, and served on the review panel of the 2013 Gulf of Mexico Blue Crab Stock Assessment. Dr. Lipcius has 97 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as numerous technical reports. Besides his postdoctoral fellowships, he has been awarded two Outstanding Faculty Awards at VIMS (1993, 2002), and a Coastal America Award (2009) by the Executive Office of the President of the US. He has also been selected as a Senior Postdoctoral Fellow of the Smithsonian Institution (1997-99), Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow (2006), and US National Academy of Sciences Kavli Fellow (2009).

Dr. Ivan Mateo

Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 15 years' experience working with natural resources population dynamic modeling. His specialization is in fish and crustacean population dynamics, stock assessment, evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, bioenergetics, ecosystem-based assessment, and ecological statistical analysis. Dr. Mateo received a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with Fisheries specialization from the University of Rhode Island. He has studied population dynamics of economically important species as well as candidate species for endangered species listing from many different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, the Northeast US Coast, Gulf of California and Alaska. He has done research with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Based Fishery Management on bioenergetic modeling for Atlantic cod. He also has been working as environmental consultant in the Caribbean doing field work and looking at the effects of industrialization on essential fish habitats and for the Environmental Defense Fund developing population dynamics models for data poor stocks in the Gulf of California. Recently Dr. Mateo worked as National Research Council postdoc research associate at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on population dynamic modeling of Alaska sablefish.

Vito Ciccio Romito, Lead Assessor

Vito Ciccio Romito is Italian and holds a BSc in Ecology and a MSc in Tropical Coastal Management from Newcastle University in the U.K. After his BSc, he worked in Tanzania as a Marine Research officer at the Mafia Island Marine Park carrying out biodiversity assessments and monitoring studies of coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems. Subsequently, for his MSc, he worked on fisheries assessment techniques, ecological dynamics of overexploited tropical marine ecosystems, and evaluation of low trophic aquaculture as a support to artisanal reef fisheries. Over the last 5 years he has been fully involved through Global Trust with the FAO-based RFM Assessment and Certification program covering the Alaska commercial salmon, halibut, sablefish, pollock, crab, Pacific cod and flatfish fisheries as well as the Icelandic cod, saithe, haddock and redfish fisheries. Vito has also participated in IFFO fisheries assessments for anchovy and sardine



stocks in both Chile and Peru, and other pre-assessment work in Canada and the Gulf of Mexico. Vito is also lead, third party IRCA approved auditor.