Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.) Responsible Fisheries Management Standard

Notice of Full Assessment Team Nomination

April, 2016

Application submitted by the Audubon Nature Institute (Audubon)

On Behalf of:

Louisiana Oyster Commercial Fisheries

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.

Vito Ciccia Romito, Lead Assessor
Vito Ciccia Romito is Italian and holds a BSc in Ecology and an 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.

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 additional, 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).

Sam Dignan, Assessor

Sam Dignan is a fisheries scientist who has previously worked with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), Isle of Man and Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science Group (Wales). He has a BSc in Biological and Chemical Sciences with Zoology from University College Cork and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University. He has experience conducting stock assessments, from the survey design and implementation phases through to final analysis and report presentation; from 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the ICES working group on scallop stock assessment. He has been involved in providing scientific data to ensure fishery compliance with the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification framework and has participated in MSC surveillance audits from a client's perspective. Sam has extensive experience of interacting directly with fishers and their representative organisations as well as members of scientific and government institutions. He was previously an advisor to the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Management Board that manages the MSC certified Isle of Man queen scallop fishery. He has also worked on the spatial analysis of fishing activity, using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and logbook data, to spatially quantify fishing activity and fisheries-ecosystem interactions.