



## ***Press Release***

For Immediate Release

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### **Alaska Quality Seafood and Scientific Certification Systems Announce Partnership to Provide MSC Chain-of-Custody Audit and Certification Services**

Anchorage, AK -- May 30, 2006 -- Alaska Quality Seafood (AQS) and Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) are partnering to provide Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) chain-of-custody audit and certification services in the Alaskan seafood market. By signing an agreement with Alaska Quality Seafood, Scientific Certification Systems – an accredited certification body of the MSC – further extends its reach into the Alaskan seafood market, where seafood processors actively seek access to the MSC marketplace for sustainable seafood.

With local auditors operating out of Anchorage-based AQS, SCS is now well-situated to serve Alaskan seafood handlers that seek a cost-effective way to engage in the MSC Chain-of-Custody certification process. “We are pleased to have a team of highly trained Alaska-based auditors,” said Aaron Maizlish, director of Chain-of-Custody Services for SCS. Scientific Certification Systems has already certified Alaska Salmon, Black Cod, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Gulf of Alaska Pollock, Pacific Cod, and Pacific Halibut fisheries, and “with a local presence,” added Mr. Maizlish, “we can better serve the Alaskan seafood supply chain – processors, distributors and retailers – with supply chain verification.”

Marine Stewardship Council Chain-of-Custody certification is a traceability program that independently verifies that marine products originate from an MSC well-managed fishery. In the Chain-of-Custody certification process, auditors review production processes and records to confirm that the supplier can track inputs back to certified fisheries. Fish products in a certified supply chain earn the right to use the coveted blue MSC logo.

“With an increasing demand for sustainable seafood and associated price premium,” says Hugh Bertmaring, business manager of AQS, “handlers of all sizes want to enter the MSC marketplace and realize a greater return on their fish product.” Cost effective auditing and certification services make it possible for small and mid-sized facilities to also enter the MSC marketplace.”

Located in California, SCS is an accredited certification body of the MSC. Alaska Quality Seafood is an Alaska based seafood quality assurance firm operating the Alaska Quality Seafood Program.

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**About Alaska Quality Seafood – [www.alaskaqualityseafood.org](http://www.alaskaqualityseafood.org)**

Alaska Quality Seafood (AQS), the Center for Alaska Seafood Quality Assurance, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit corporation, funded in part through USDA - CSREES. AQS administers the voluntary Alaska Quality Seafood Program that was developed by Alaska seafood quality experts to help the industry bring consistent top quality wild Alaska seafood to buyers throughout the distribution chain. Participating harvesters, handlers, and processors help to preserve quality from the moment fish is caught by following detailed handling, chilling, and delivery guidelines that are certified and audited. For more information, visit [www.alaskaqualityseafood.org](http://www.alaskaqualityseafood.org) or call 907-565-5655

**About Scientific Certification Systems – [www.scscertified.com](http://www.scscertified.com)**

SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental and quality performance. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in the fields of agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and retail. As an accredited certification body of the MSC operating globally, SCS has evaluated hundreds of fisheries and certified over 2 million metric tons of fish. For more information about SCS, visit [www.scscertified.com](http://www.scscertified.com) or call 510-452-8000.

**About MSC – [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)**

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an independent non-profit organization set up to promote solutions to the problem of over fishing. It has developed the only independent and international fishery certification program and eco-label in the world.

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