



Dear Sir:

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) Red Crab Council is proud to call **Asian Pacific Seafood** a founding member in good standing. **Asian Pacific Seafood's** membership and dedication to the sustainability of Red Swimming Crab stocks, and the communities that harvest them, give it the right to display the Council logo on its packaging.

Red Swimming crabmeat is a popular import item for the U.S. seafood market with over 9 million pounds imported a year. To preserve the long-term health of the fishery, the Red Crab Council has joined together pre-competitively to spearhead a resource management plan. By January 2018, the Red Crab Council will have launched an effort that will execute a comprehensive Red Crab FIP, one of China's first, and commit to funding a multi-year sustainability project. Please find here-in a summary of the Red Swimming Crab council's work-to-date and impending actions:

In July 2016, the NFI Red Crab Council with assistance from seafood NGO Ocean Outcomes (O2) convened a stakeholder workshop in Dongshan. Attendees included representatives from the processing community, fisherman organizations, government officials and Chinese seafood industry groups. The workshop resulted in stakeholder agreement on the necessity of a management plan for the red swimming crab fishery of the Fujian Province.

In November 2016, the Red Crab Council commissioned Ocean Outcomes to conduct a scoping exercise of the fishery. The council funded the \$51,500 report with an assessment on its members' pounds of imported crab as well as through a matching grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The scoping project included stakeholder and supply chain mapping, engaging with strategic project partners, forming a dialogue among stakeholders, ensuring the existence of a strong local processing organization and developing a strategy to address key issues in the fishery.

Ocean Outcomes' resulting report detailed fishery needs, presenting a draft five year action plan based on MSC performance indicators. The management framework is inclusive of fishery monitoring, catch data system development, stock assessment, gear-fishery modification testing, and harvest strategy evaluation. Funding for this project will originate with contributions from the Red Crab Council and be generated from a quarterly assessment of its members' pounds imported. The Red Crab Council is now identifying implementing partners at the industry and government levels working towards a public FIP launch in January 2018.

An industry-led initiative, the NFI Red Crab Council is at the forefront of sustainability work designed to ensure that consumers receive quality, affordable and responsibly sourced crab for years to come. If you have any questions **Asian Pacific Seafood** about participation please do not hesitate to reach out directly. The Council is happy to be a resource for anyone interested in learning more about the leading, global Red Swimming Crab sustainability effort.

Sincerely,

Gavin Gibbons
NFI Crab Council