



**Alaska RFM Certification Program
Improvement Work Plan Update
Update: October 2014**

Governance:

The aim is to strengthen & make more visible the RFM Governance Structure

Progress to date:

- ASMI has proclaimed full ownership of the Alaska RFM program and will serve as the standard owner based on FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines.
- The Alaska RFM *Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual has been designed for the following uses:
 - As a control and management manual for the Alaska RFM Program to ensure consistency between certification bodies, accreditation bodies and the organized management of committees and procedures.
 - As a training and reference guide for relevant parties and RFM Committees.
 - As a reference and education tool for external bench-markers and interested parties who wish to learn about the integrity of Alaska RFM and how the Alaska RFM Program works.

** Final document will be available by December 31, 2014*

Fishery Applicant:

The aim is to have consistency between different Certification Bodies and to clearly show separation between the Applicant and the Program Owner

Progress to date:

- ASMI will no longer act in a fishery client capacity. All new Alaska fishery clients will be identified by December 31, 2014, and will have separate contracts with Certification Bodies.
- The process for fishery applicants, through certification, will be outlined in the new * Alaska RFM Policy and Procedures Manual

** Final document will be available by December 31, 2014*

Certification Bodies (CBs):

The aim is to formalize the system for on-boarding further CBs and to ensure consistency of the process between each

Progress to date:

- Certification guidance documents have been developed.
- In August 2014, ASMI approved SCS Global Services to perform Chain of Custody audits.
- ASMI will solicit additional Certification Bodies to conduct Alaska RFM assessments and audits.
- The Alaska RFM Program is currently accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB). ASMI is currently seeking additional accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which should be finalized in 2015.
- Certification Body and ANSI training will take place in late 2014, or 2015. *(dates to be announced)*.

Conformance Criteria Committee (CCC):

The aim is to further formalize and make more transparent the makeup and workings of the Conformance Criteria Committee

Progress to date:

- ASMI has established a multidisciplinary Alaska RFM Conformance Criteria Committee (CCC), with members appointed by the ASMI Board. The CCC members will include international representation from science, industry, resource management, trade and environmental NGO sectors. The CCC will function as the standard custodian. Examples of CCC responsibilities include:
 - Ensuring the Alaska RFM Conformance Criteria remains current and aligned with FAO key documents.
 - Development, revision and interpretation of requirements & procedures for Assessments and for Assessment Bodies.
 - The Conformance Criteria (version 1.2) September 2011, will open for a 60-day public consultation in November 2014. All public comments will be reviewed by the CCC.

RFM Task Force:

The aim is to strengthen communications and understandings of the RFM Program with Industry and Markets

Progress to date:

- An Alaska RFM Task Force formed in June 2014, comprised of 10 members, representing a broad spectrum of the Alaska seafood industry.
- ASMI will no longer act in a fishery client capacity. All new Alaska fishery clients will be identified by December 31, 2014, and will have separate contracts with Certification Bodies.
- An Alaska RFM 5-year Strategic Plan was completed and approved by the ASMI Board in October 2014.
- The existing members of the Alaska RFM Task Force will transition to the new **Alaska RFM Committee** which was approved by the ASMI Board in October 2014.

Transparency:

The aim is to continue to make information about the program accessible for interested parties and for benchmarking initiatives.

Progress to date:

- The Alaska RFM program is consistent with “The Sustainability Consortium (TSC)” Seafood Sustainability Principles. Click [here](#) for more information.
- ASMI intends to be benchmarked against the Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI) certification criteria, and will continue to actively engage in the GSSI process.
- Alaska RFM Fishery Assessments will open for public comment, both when the Certification Body begins assessment work, and prior to the issue of a certification. (*starting in 2015*)
- A formal complaint and appeals process will be established.
- ASMI will coordinate periodic stakeholder workshops beginning in 2015.
- With the establishing of the Alaska RFM Committee, ASMI will dedicate additional resources to the management and oversight of the RFM program.