



Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Program of Work
August 2018 - August 2019

Program of Work for RFM Fisheries Standard

The Alaska **RFM Fisheries Standard** is reviewed by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) Fisheries Standard Committee (FSC) for recommended changes. Details of this committee and relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) are available on the ASMI website. The current RFM Fisheries Standard is Version 2.0, May 2018.

With the full reissue of Fishery Standard (V2.0) and Guidance passed by the ASMI Board in May 2018, the RFM Program will be training Accreditation Bodies, Certification Bodies and Fishery Clients, concentrating on the following key areas of change:

- Addendum for Data Deficient Fisheries (DDF) Assessment
- Modification of the scoring matrix to a numerical system
- Review of additional FAO documentation and related inclusion of some clauses
- Inclusion of specific metrics and indicators and improved specificity of some clauses
- Scoring and Guidance document improvements
- Rewording of complex clauses, general housekeeping, restructuring, and fusion of clauses with overlapping requirements.

There was an extensive review and updating of the Quality Management System (QMS) that governs the RFM program. The ASMI Board passed those changes in January 2018. Training and implementation of the new QMS will continue through this work cycle.

The scope and geographic application of the proposed V2.0 RFM Standard will remain unchanged.

At this time, the RFM standard will not expand its scope to include socio-economic elements for assessment.

Review Process and Timeline

Stage	Description	Target Date	Participants	Status
1	New V2.0 RFM Standard posted on ASMI Website and all RFM relevant organizations notified	Jan - May 2018	RFM Team	Completed
2	New V2.0 Standard presented to Accreditation Boards and Certification Bodies	August 2018 - Jan 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	In-Progress
3	Training and communication commences for new V2.0 RFM Standard	August 2018 - Jan 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	In-Progress
4	Training and communication on QMS and Procedures	August 2018 - Jan 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	In-Progress
5	FSC Webinars to discuss V2.0 RFM Implementation and changes to the DDF	August 2018 - Jan 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	In-Progress
6	FSC Development of RFM Glossary	August 2018 - Nov 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	In-Progress
7	RFM Committee and ASMI BOD review and approval of RFM Glossary and DDF changes	Nov 2018 - May 2019	RFM Team and Contracted Experts	

Alaska RFM Program of Work for Chain of Custody (CoC)

The Alaska **RFM Chain of Custody Standard** is reviewed by the ASMI Technical Committee for recommended changes. Details of this committee and relevant TOR's are available on the ASMI website. The current RFM CoC Standard is Version 2.4 which was finalized and implemented in January 2016.

The following are key objectives for the RFM CoC Program:

- 1) Determine how RFM CoC may be harmonized with other internationally recognized and Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) aligned CoC standards.

This aim is to reduce audit fatigue within the supply chain and to promote additional use of the Alaska RFM seal to support the RFM program. The scope and geographic application of the Alaska CoC standard will remain unchanged. The objectives of the standard will be alignment to the GSSI Benchmarking Tool.

2) Update to the RFM Quality Management System (QMS) Procedure pertaining to the CoC. Technical Committee will review sections and Procedures relevant to the CoC Program.

Review Process and Timeline

Stage	Description	Target Date	Participants	Status
1	Continue to explore harmonization - commence consultation phase with other CoC programs to establish if harmonization would be possible	August-Dec 2018	RFM Team, Contracted Experts	Ongoing
2	Conduct gap analysis of RFM CoC standard with interested CoC programs	Jan 2019	RFM Team, RFM Committee, Contracted Experts	
3	Technical Committee: To review the finding of the harmonization gap analysis	Feb-April 2019	Technical Committee, RFM Team, Contracted Experts	
4	RFM/Technical Committee Webinar: To finalize review of CoC standard certification and supporting procedures	May 2019	Technical Committee, RFM Team, Contracted Experts	
5	ASMI Board Meeting: CoC Procedures presented for approval (as part of QMS)	Nov 2019 All Hands	ASMI Board, open public meeting	
6	New Procedures on website / Certification Bodies and all relevant RFM organizations Notified	Q1 2020	RFM Team	