



Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Program of Work
December 2019 - December 2020

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.

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 Standard presented to Accreditation Boards and Certification Bodies	Dec 2019 - March 2020	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
2	Training and communication commence for new V2.0 RFM Standard	Oct 2019 - Dec 2020	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
3	FSC Webinars to discuss V2.0 RFM Implementation and programmatic changes	Dec 2019 -Dec 2020	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
4	RFM Glossary adopted by program	Dec 2019 -Dec 2020	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
5	Remain in alignment with GSSI	Dec 2019-Dec 2020	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress

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.

Review Process and Timeline

Stage	Description	Target Date	Participants	Status
1	Develop a shared CoC with the Iceland RFM program	Dec 2019- Dec 2020	RFM Team	Ongoing
2	Seek accreditation of the new joint CoC with a multi-site component	Feb 2019-Dec 2020	RFM Team	Ongoing
3	Continue to explore harmonization with existing and in development RFM programs	Dec 2019 -Dec 2020	RFM Team	Ongoing
5	AK RFM Owner Meeting: CoC Procedures presented for approval (as part of QMS)	Nov 2020	AK RFM Owner Meeting, RFM Team	Ongoing
6	New Procedures on website / Certification Bodies and all relevant RFM organizations Notified	Q2 2020	RFM Team	Ongoing