

# RFM CERTIFICATION

## RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

A RIGOROUS FISHERIES STANDARD  
AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROGRAM

Verification of Responsible Fisheries Management  
Without Logo Licensing Fees





# ABOUT RFM



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RFM provides a credible and affordable certification choice for customers who want to:

- Communicate the origin of the certified sustainable seafood
  - Demonstrate proof of sustainable seafood sourcing
  - Lessen the cost burden for all participants in the supply chain and, ultimately, for consumers
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As one of the most credible choices for wild-capture sustainable fisheries certifications, Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification provides a unique opportunity for the entire supply chain to have zero-logo-cost proof their seafood comes from responsibly managed certified sustainable fisheries. Not all certifications offer this affordable accessibility.

RFM is a voluntary and internationally accredited assessment of whether a fishery meets strict criteria to be certified as meeting “responsible fisheries management.” It is a comprehensive certification program founded on the strongest and most widely acknowledged international standards and practices. Based on United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) criteria, it is one of the few programs accredited under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code.

RFM has a complete Chain of Custody program, providing assurance to buyers that RFM certified fish can be traced through the supply chain back to its origin — a certified fishery.

The RFM program is owned and managed by the Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation.

# FIRST TO BE RECOGNIZED BY GSSI

Alaska RFM Certification is the first certification program to be benchmarked against the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative's (GSSI) Global Benchmark Tool and achieve recognition. This recognition demonstrates that RFM is in alignment with all 143 applicable Essential Components. The Benchmark Report is available at [www.ourgssi.org](http://www.ourgssi.org). GSSI is a global platform and partnership of seafood companies, NGOs, experts, governmental and intergovernmental organizations. GSSI increases comparability and transparency in seafood certification and enables informed choice for procurement of certified seafood. GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool, which is based on international reference documents, identifies and recognizes robust and credible certification schemes and supports other schemes to improve.



## KEY FEATURES OF RFM



### GOVERNANCE

Established, sound structure with expert advisory committees



### STAKEHOLDERS

Comprehensive engagement procedures at multiple levels



### TRANSPARENCY

Open, collaborative and transparent assessment process



### IMPARTIAL

Well-defined appeals and complaints processes ensures unbiased outcome



### TRACEABLE

Certified seafood that can be traced back through the supply chain



### AFFORDABLE

No logo licensing fees, the RFM logo is free to use

RFM LOGOS ALWAYS INCLUDE  
**ORIGIN**



# FISHERIES STANDARD

## FOUR KEY COMPONENTS FOR EVALUATING FISHERIES:

1. The fisheries management system
2. Science and stock assessment activities, and the precautionary approach
3. Management measures, implementation, monitoring and control
4. Impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem

INCLUDES 13 FUNDAMENTAL CLAUSES, WITH ANOTHER 125 SUPPORTING CLAUSES

**THE FISHERIES STANDARD** was developed by an independent Fisheries Standard Committee (FSC) and is based on FAO Guidelines and Documents.

## Two Standards

The RFM program consists of two seafood certification standards that fisheries and the supply chain are assessed against:

- 1) FISHERIES STANDARD (FS)
- 2) CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD (COC)

## How the RFM Assessment Process Works

An ISO 17065 Accredited Certification Body (CB) conducts the assessment and certification of fisheries. The CB is responsible for ensuring the competency and consistency of assessment practices.

## RFM Initial Certification and Recertification Assessment Stages

- 1 Application and Applicant Review
- 2 Notification to Public/Stakeholders
- 3 Assessment Verification/Information Review  
Site Visits, Assessment Report
- 4 External Peer Review
- 5 Draft Assessment Report for Public Comment
- 6 Final Assessment Report
- 7 Certification Decision

For more detail on assessment stages and annual surveillance audits go to <https://rfmcertification.org/about-rfm/how-it-works/>



# CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

Certification to the RFM Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard ensures traceability through the supply chain and that only seafood products bearing a statement 'sourced from a certified (Name of Origin) Fishery' can make this claim. This allows companies to demonstrate their commitment to responsibly sourcing seafood from an independently assessed certified fishery and gives confidence to all buyers of the seafood that it can be traced back through the supply chain to the RFM certified fishery.

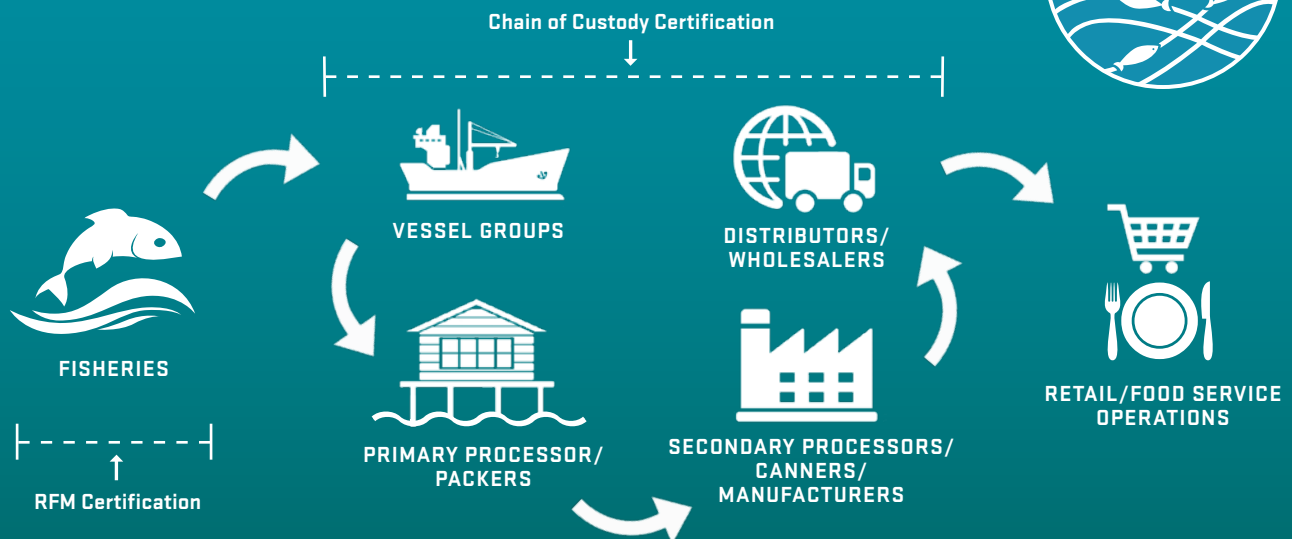
## Who Will Need Chain of Custody Certification?

If a customer buys seafood from a certified fishery and wishes to make the certified claim or uses the RFM logo, Chain of Custody certification is required. Every organization that takes ownership of the certified seafood, from the point of first handling after the seafood has been landed, until it is processed into the final consumer product, will need to be certified to the Chain of Custody Standard.

## RFM LOGO ZERO LOGO FEES

RFM does not charge licensing fees for any use of the RFM logo. The logo is used purely as a way for those with RFM Chain of Custody to communicate, at no cost, the origin and that their seafood is certified sustainable. Our goal is to make certified sustainable and traceable seafood more accessible to all.

## STEPS FOR USING RFM LOGO AND/OR CERTIFICATION CLAIM



**CHAIN OF CUSTODY** Required for Every Organization That Takes Ownership of Certified Seafood

# RFM CERTIFIED SPECIES/FISHERIES



FISH SPECIES	GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF FISHERY	GEAR TYPE
<b>ALASKA PACIFIC SALMON SPECIES</b> King/Chinook, Sockeye/Red, Coho/Silver, Keta/Chum, Pink	Region 1: Southeast & Yakutat Region 2: Central Region 3: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region 4: Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands	Troll, Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet, Fish Wheel Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet
<b>ALASKA PACIFIC HALIBUT</b>	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Benthic Longline
<b>ALASKA SABLEFISH (BLACK COD)</b>	Federal and State fisheries Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Benthic Longline, Pot, Non-pelagic Trawl
<b>ALASKA POLLOCK (WALLEYE)</b>	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Pelagic Trawl, and other gears (Non-pelagic Trawl, Jig, Longline, Pot) from other non-directed pollock fisheries legally landing pollock
<b>ALASKA PACIFIC COD</b>	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Non-pelagic Trawl, Longline, Pot, Jig
<b>ALASKA FLATFISH COMPLEX</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellowfin sole</li> <li>• Flathead sole</li> <li>• Northern rock sole</li> <li>• Southern rock sole</li> <li>• Arrowtooth flounder</li> <li>• Kamchatka flounder</li> <li>• Alaska plaice</li> <li>• Greenland turbot</li> <li>• Rex sole</li> </ul>	Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska	Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl, Longline Non-pelagic Trawl
<b>ALASKA CRAB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red King crab</li> <li>• Blue King crab</li> <li>• Golden King crab</li> <li>• Snow crab</li> <li>• Tanner crab</li> </ul>	Bristol Bay St. Matthew Island Aleutian Islands Bering Sea Bering Sea	Pot Pot Pot Pot Pot
<b>ALASKA ATKA MACKEREL AND ROCKFISH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atka Mackerel</li> <li>• Pacific Ocean Perch</li> <li>• Northern Rockfish</li> <li>• Dusky Rockfish</li> </ul>	Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska	Trawl Trawl Trawl Trawl
<b>PACIFIC WHITING (HAKE)</b>	Washington, Oregon, California – FAO Area 67	Midwater Trawl
<b>U.S. GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP</b> Brown, white and pink shrimp	Federal and state waters of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and west coast of Florida	Otter trawls, skimmers, butterfly nets

For fisheries assessments go to <https://rfmcertification.org/certified-fishery-species/>

CERTIFIED SEAFOOD COLLABORATIVE

<https://rfmcertification.org/>  
[rfm@rfmcertification.org](mailto:rfm@rfmcertification.org)

