



Alaska RFM Certification Program Improvement Work Plan Update March 2015

Governance

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

- The Alaska RFM Policy and Procedures Manual (P&P) Manual will be complete in May 2015;
- Members of the current Conformance Criteria Committee can be found here <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/committee-members>

Fishery Applicant

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

- New fishery clients have been identified for Pacific Salmon, Pacific Cod, Alaska Sablefish and Alaska Halibut;
- Fishery clients for Alaska Pollock, Alaska Crab and Alaska Flatfish will be in place by April 30th, 2015.
- The process for fishery applicants is outlined in the Alaska RFM Policy and Procedures Manual.

Certification Bodies (CBs)

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

- ASMI continues to have ongoing discussions with CBs to conduct Alaska RFM assessments and audits for Chain of Custody and Fishery audits;
- ASMI has started the process for formal accreditation of the RFM Program by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the process should be completed in early 2016;
- The Alaska RFM Program remains accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB).

Conformance Criteria Committee (CCC)

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

- The 60-day Public Consultation period for the Conformance Criteria (version 1.2) closed on February 10, 2015;
- The multidisciplinary Alaska RFM Conformance Criteria Committee will evaluate input received and provide responses to comments;
- The next version of the RFM Conformance Criteria will be available in early 2016.

RFM Task Force:

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

- The ASMI Board approved the transitioning of the RFM Task Force to become the Alaska RFM Committee in October 2014;
- The 9-member, industry led, RFM Committee will help with marketing, communications and outreach of the Alaska RFM Program.

Transparency:

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

- We continue to be active in the GSSI (Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative), and plan to have RFM benchmarked against their Standard with target completion of December 2015;
- Alaska RFM Fishery Assessments will open for public comment when the Certification Body begins assessment work and, once again, prior to the issue of a certification (*starting in Q3/Q4 of 2015*);
- A formal complaint and appeals process is being established and will be available in the P&P Manual.