



# RFM UPDATE

SPRING 2016



The Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification is a rigorous program founded on the strongest and most widely acknowledged international standards and practices. As the owner of Alaska RFM Certification, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) developed the program to offer a credible, cost effective choice in seafood sustainability certification.

## PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS:

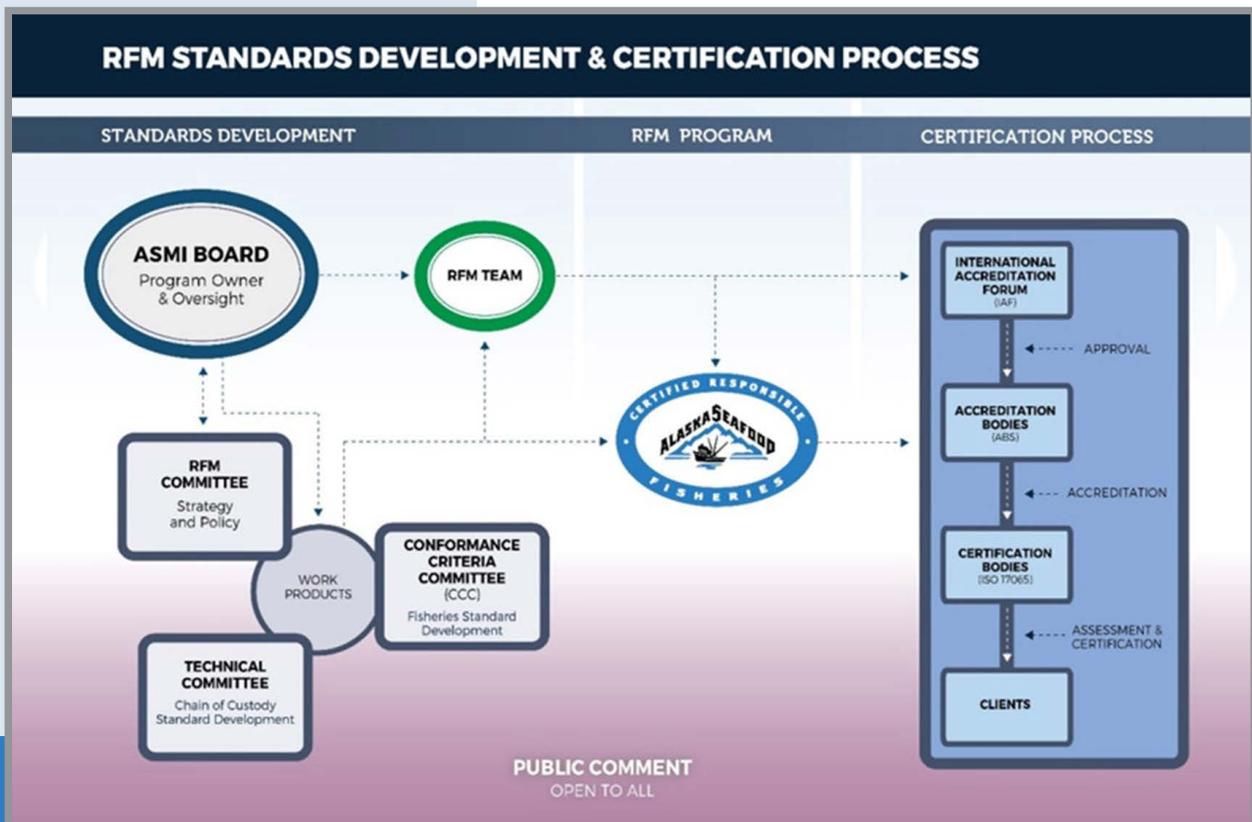
### RFM Quality Management System

The RFM Quality Management System (QMS) has been developed. This is now uploaded onto the ASMI website <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-quality-management-system> and includes:

- Controls and Policies
- Roles and Responsibilities/ Terms of Reference
- Key Operating Procedures
- Certification Body and Fishery Applicant Procedures

### Improved RFM Governance and Transparency

As part of the RFM QMS, the Program describes the roles of the advisory committees and Governance structure. [Click here](#) for this diagram of Alaska RFM Governance or go to <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/alaska-rfm-governance-structure>





## NEW RFM PROCEDURES

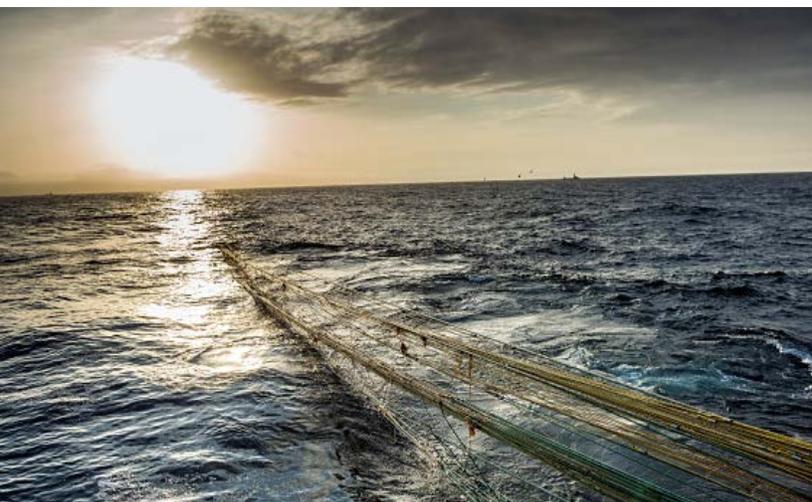
### VERSION 1.3 - Minor Changes to the Standard

In November 2015, ASMI issued **VERSION 1.3 of the RFM Fishery Standard**. The new V1.3 will be used for all new fisheries that wish to be certified and for fisheries seeking re-certification to the Alaska RFM program from January 1, 2016. Surveillance audits for existing certified fisheries will continue to be against RFM V1.2 until January 2019 unless the Client specifically requests an assessment against the new RFM V1.3 Standard.

#### KEY CHANGE:

**Addition of a 30-day Public Comment Period for new assessments and full Fishery re-assessments. The Draft Assessment Report will be open for comment for 30 days to registered stakeholders, before it goes forward for Certification decision.**

VERSION 1.3 represents minor changes to the Standard. For details on what else is new and improved with V 1.3 [click here](http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/version13) or go to <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/version13>



### Small Scale Fishery/Data Deficient Addendum

ASMI developed the **Alaska RFM Data Deficient Framework (DDF)** as an addendum to VERSION 1.3 RFM Scoring Guidance. It was developed specifically for the assessment of Small Scale and/or Data Deficient Fisheries, should they wish to apply for certification to the RFM program. By creating the DDF, smaller scale fisheries that wouldn't previously have been able to apply to the Alaska RFM program now have the opportunity to consider certification.

More information about the DDF can be found here: <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Data-Deficient-Fishery-Framework-Addendum-to-Scoring-Guidance-Final.pdf>



### Fishery Standard VERSION 2.0 Development

A required essential component of the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) benchmark framework is a full review and re-issue of certification standards at a minimum of every five years. The RFM Conformance Criteria Committee is currently working on a full review. VERSION 2.0 is scheduled to be released in January 2017, and a 60-day public comment period will begin in March/April 2016. A complete Program of Work can be found [here](#).



### Chain of Custody

The Chain of Custody Standard ensures that only Alaska Seafood products bearing a statement “sourced from a certified Alaska fishery” can make this claim. It gives confidence to all buyers of the seafood that it can be traced back through the supply chain to the certified fishery that was certified as part of the Alaska RFM program.

In November 2015, ASMI issued The Alaska RFM Chain of Custody **VERSION 2.4**. The new V.2.4 will be used for all new applicants that wish to be certified to the Alaska RFM program from January 1, 2016.

**THE RFM TEAM and ASMI Technical Committee are currently working on VERSION 2.5 of the Chain of Custody Standard. A primary goal of the program is to make Chain of Custody more accessible and less onerous for direct marketers and organizations considered to be low risk for introducing non-certified species into the supply chain.**

For more information visit:  
<http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/standard>

### Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)

The Alaska RFM Certification program is one of the first seafood certification schemes to go through the GSSI benchmarking process. RFM underwent the GSSI Office Visit in February 2016 and was found to be “in *Alignment*” with all of GSSI’s Essential Components by the Independent Experts. According to the GSSI Benchmarking Process the next step is a meeting of the GSSI Benchmark Committee followed by a 30-day public consultation on the Interim Benchmark Report. We expect the public consultation for Alaska RFM to begin in early March, and we anticipate the GSSI Steering Board to announce a final decision in late April.

**GSSI** is a global platform and partnership of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS), experts, seafood companies, and governmental and intergovernmental organizations working towards more sustainable seafood for everyone. GSSI was established to bring more clarity into the marketplace on the growing number of seafood certification schemes. Their goal is to make purchasing decisions more efficient by offering greater choice and driving down costs, while at the same time promoting environmental sustainability. 32 companies worldwide are backing GSSI as Funding Partners. GSSI also counts on the support of FAO and six non-profit Affiliated Partners. Examples of partners include: Darden, Ahold, Kroger, Sodexo, Loblaw’s, Morrisons, Iglo, FAO, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and SeaWeb Europe. For more information on GSSI - <http://www.ourgssi.org>





**ALASKA RFM CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**FISHERY CERTIFICATION:**

The following certifiers have been approved by ASMI to perform fishery certification audits for the Alaska RFM program.

**Global Trust Certification  
an SAI Assurances Business**  
Julie McDonald  
[gtcenquiries@saibglobal.com](mailto:gtcenquiries@saibglobal.com)  
+353 (0) 42 932 0912

**DNV GL \*NEW IN 2016\***  
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[dnvgl.com](http://dnvgl.com)  
+47 993 18 529

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION:**

The following certifiers have been approved by ASMI to perform Chain of Custody audits for the Alaska RFM program.

**Global Trust Certification  
an SAI Assurances Business**  
Julie McDonald  
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**SCS Global Services**  
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+1(510)452-8043

**Key Contacts**

Susan Marks is the Sustainability Director at ASMI and spearheads the Alaska RFM program. A team of technical consultants supports Susan, with the newest member of the team being Jeff Regnart. Jeff worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for over 30 years. He last served as Director of the Commercial Fishery Division which manages commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries within the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska.

For additional information please visit <http://alaskaseafood.org> or contact Susan Marks at [smarks@alaskaseafood.org](mailto:smarks@alaskaseafood.org)

To receive email updates for specific fishery certifications and to stay informed of the latest developments and news regarding the Alaska RFM Program please sign up to receive our E-Blasts [here](#).

ALASKA FISHERY CLIENTS	SALMON	HALIBUT	BLACK COD/ SABLEFISH	POLLOCK	CRAB	COD	FLATFISH
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. <a href="http://www.afdf.org/about/">http://www.afdf.org/about/</a>	✓					✓	
Fishing Vessels Owners Association/ Eat on the Wild Side <a href="http://fvoa.org/about-us/">http://fvoa.org/about-us/</a>		✓	✓				
Alaska Pollock Fishery Client Group (Pacific Seafood Processors Association <a href="http://www.pspafish.net">http://www.pspafish.net</a> , At-Sea Processors Association <a href="http://www.atsea.org">http://www.atsea.org</a> and the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank)				✓			
Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC					✓		
Alaska Seafood Cooperative <a href="http://www.alaskaseafoodcooperative.org">http://www.alaskaseafoodcooperative.org</a>							✓