ALASKA
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (RFM) CERTIFICATION

A RIGOROUS FISHERIES STANDARD AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROGRAM

Verification of Responsible Fisheries Management
Without Logo Licensing Fees
The Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Program was developed in 2010 to offer seafood buyers and sellers a credible, cost effective choice in seafood certification. 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.

In addition, 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 Alaska RFM Program is owned and managed by ASMI.
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 Alaska RFM is in alignment with all 143 applicable Essential Components. The Benchmark Report is available at 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, will identify and recognize robust and credible certification schemes and support other schemes to improve.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNANCE</th>
<th>IMPARTIAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Established, sound structure with expert advisory committees</td>
<td>Well-defined appeals and complaints processes ensures unbiased outcome</td>
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<td>STAKEHOLDERS</td>
<td>TRACEABLE</td>
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<td>Comprehensive engagement procedures at multiple levels</td>
<td>Certified seafood that can be traced back through the supply chain</td>
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<td>TRANSPARENCY</td>
<td>AFFORDABLE</td>
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<td>Open, collaborative and transparent assessment process</td>
<td>No logo licensing fees, the Alaska RFM Seal is free to use</td>
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**FISHERIES STANDARD**

**SIX KEY PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATING FISHERIES:**

1. The Fisheries Management System
2. Science and Stock Assessment Activities
3. The Precautionary Approach
4. Management Measure
5. Implementation, Monitoring and Control
6. Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem

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

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**Two Standards**

The RFM Program consists of two seafood certification standards that Alaska 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 Alaska fisheries. The CB is responsible for ensuring the competency and consistency of assessment practices.

**Alaska RFM Initial Certification and Recertification Assessment Stages**

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

For more detail on assessment stages and annual surveillance audits go to http://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/about-rfm/how-it-works/
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 seal, 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.

Steps for Using RFM Seal and/or Certification Claim
## Alaska RFM Certified Species/Fisheries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISH SPECIES</th>
<th>GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF FISHERY</th>
<th>GEAR TYPE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PACIFIC SALMON SPECIES</strong></td>
<td>Region 1: Southeast &amp; Yakutat&lt;br&gt;Region 2: Central&lt;br&gt;Region 3: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim&lt;br&gt;Region 4: Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands</td>
<td>Troll, Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet&lt;br&gt;Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet&lt;br&gt;Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet, Fish Wheel&lt;br&gt;Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PACIFIC HALIBUT</strong></td>
<td>Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</td>
<td>Benthic Longline</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SABLEFISH (BLACK COD)</strong></td>
<td>Federal and State fisheries&lt;br&gt;Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</td>
<td>Benthic Longline, Pot, Non-pelagic Trawl</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALASKA (WALLEYE) POLLOCK</strong></td>
<td>Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</td>
<td>Pelagic Trawl, and other gears (Non-pelagic Trawl, Jig, Longline, Pot) from other non-directed pollock fisheries legally landing pollock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PACIFIC COD</strong></td>
<td>Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands</td>
<td>Non-pelagic Trawl, Longline, Pot, Jig</td>
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<td><strong>FLATFISH COMPLEX</strong></td>
<td>Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands&lt;br&gt;Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea &amp; Aleutian Islands&lt;br&gt;Gulf of Alaska</td>
<td>Non-pelagic Trawl</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CRAB</strong></td>
<td>Bristol Bay&lt;br&gt;Eastern Bering Sea&lt;br&gt;St. Matthew Island</td>
<td>Pot</td>
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