



RFM

Chain of Custody Process

Stakeholders in the RFM Certified fisheries value chain can apply for the RFM Chain of Custody Certification.

If an Applicant buys seafood from a certified fishery and wishes to make the certified claim on any of their packaging, 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.

The application and certification process has a number of distinct stages (this process may take from 1-3 months)

- 1** **General information** on the RFM Chain of Custody program can be found on the RFM website: <https://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/chain-of-custody/>
- 2** If the potential Applicant wishes to progress to certification they will need to complete an official application form from one of the **RFM approved Certification Bodies**. A single organization or a group organization can apply. **Companies who currently have MSC CoC through one of the RFM approved CBs can do a combined RFM/MSC certification audit and save on costs.
- 3** The Applicant's application form is assessed by the Certification Body and an **Assessment plan is created** on how the Applicant will gain certification to the Chain of Custody Standard.
- 4** If the Applicant agrees to the assessment plan, an **audit by an Approved Assessor will be conducted**.
- 5** During the audit the assessor will **compile an Assessment report** of how the Applicant does or does not meet the Chain of Custody Standard.
- 6** The **assessment report will be submitted** to the Certification Body's Certification Committee for a Certification Decision.
- 7** When the certification of the Applicant is confirmed the Certification Body will issue a Chain of Custody Certificate to the Applicant. **The certificate is valid for 3 years with annual re-assessments**.
- 8** The certified Applicant can apply to the Certified Seafood Collaborative for the right to use the **Certified Sustainable RFM logo or statement**. This request can be made at rfm@alaskaseafood.org.