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Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
Fisheries Standard Committee (FSC) Meeting
Via Webinar

Alaska RFM FSC Meeting 2019
Thu, Dec 19, 2019 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CST)

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DRAFT MINUTES

I. Opening items

a. Call to Order

Called to order at 1:30 pm PST.

b. Roll call

Committee Members Present: Chair Dr. William Smoker, R.J. (Bob) Allain, Tom Pickerell

Others Present: Sam Peacock, Jeff Regnart, John Burrows

c. Welcome Back

Chair Smoker welcomes the group back, and turns the meeting over to Jeff.

II. New Fisheries

a. Atka Mackerel, Pacific Ocean Perch and Dungeness Crab

Atka and rockfish have essentially been added onto the flatfish certification while it was renewed. It has gone through the public comment period and will be announced as officially certified in the next couple weeks. Most tonnage of these goes to Japan.

Dungeness has gone through pre-assessment, and it is currently being determined if it will be pursued to full assessment. This was done using the data deficient framework (DDF) which is intended to be used in fisheries with low exploitations. The client will likely have a decision in the next month.

III. 2019 Program Updates

a. Use of Version 1.3 of the Fishery Standard

Old version on the way out, but was used for flatfish since that assessment started over a year ago and we were not able to get the CB's trained up on version 2.0 in time. Since they were included on the flatfish ticket, the new certifications for Atka mackerel and rockfish were likewise assessed against 1.3.

b. Use of Version 2.0 of the Fishery Standard

In place and being used for the first time on Alaska salmon.

IV. Key Planned Activities for 2020

ASMI Board is the current owner of the program, but they decided in October to transfer it to a Foundation, per discussions over the past couple of years. This will take effect July 1. The ASMI Board created a set of by-laws for the foundation, and has filled 8 of 9 seats on the Interim Foundation Board. The Foundation Board will start meeting in early 2020. The RFM Committee will cease to exist January 1. There is no change to the Fisheries Standard, as that would fall to this committee, nor to the CoC standard which falls under the technical committee, it is only ownership that is changing. It is likely that funding will still come from ASMI for the first year, and an MoU will guide steps beyond that. The Foundation will be physically and legally separated as a 501(c)(4) (nonprofit). It will own the IP's and web content, and will be responsible for maintaining the standards, structure, maintenance of accreditations, etc. The messaging will still be on the ASMI website.

V. GSSI Annual Review Updates (MOCA)

First to be recognized back in 2016, with the original plan to be audited annually. That turned into every 3 years, and we completed it this fall and are still recognized/approved. They will try to make it more frequent, with the goal being every other year.

GSSI may want to include a social aspect going forward. Currently, the ASMI board has opted not to include a social aspect to RFM, and we cannot speak at present to what the Foundation Board will do but they will likely be careful. We've asked GSSI to put together a committee of recognized schemes so that we can engage with GSSI and know what they are planning so we're not caught off guard and can give input on their bandwidth direction.

VI. Questions

Might the FSC Committee be called on in the short-term?

It's likely we'll want to get this group together at least once in 2020 since we may need to examine the Fisheries Standard yet again. We now have a draft Chain of Custody Standard w/Iceland and that is sitting with the CB's, with the hope that we have a single CoC, that we could share with other FAO-based programs. Norway has embarked on creating their own fisheries standard which will be based on Iceland and Alaska, and we've issued LOI's stating we will assist with this process. The FSC may be asked to look at the veracity of what they come up with since they won't have their own committee, and Iceland's version of this committee would be involved as well. The hope is it would be similar to ours and Iceland, and Denmark may join in as well.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by committee member Allain, meeting adjourns.