

Overview of Alaska RFM Fisheries Standard (Conformance Criteria) Version 1.3 & Accompanying Scoring Guidance

Purpose of documents:

The RFM Fisheries Standard and Scoring Guidance are tools for use in the evaluation of fisheries to the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program. The Conformance Criteria are formulated from existing publicly available documents principally developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Process for developing currently posted documents:

ASMI engaged Global Trust to facilitate the formatting of the FAO key reference documents to an auditable criteria framework to develop the current Fisheries Standard Version 1.2 (September 2011) of the Conformance Criteria. Global Trust acted as facilitator and secretariat (non-voting member) to a Conformance Criteria Committee (CCC) with formal terms of reference and an independent Oversight Board reviewed and approved the workings of the CCC. The Oversight Board voted on the final draft of the Conformance Criteria (Version 1.2) and agreed that it was directly derived from the FAO Code and this was then submitted to the National Accreditation Board for formal ISO accreditation review under ISO 65 Standard.

Process for developing proposed drafts:

This revised RFM Standard Version 1.3 and Scoring Guidance, are the result of a review of RFM Conformance Criteria Standard Version 1.2, (September 2011), by the RFM Conformance Criteria Committee. RFM staff and technical consultants facilitated two meetings with the current CCC to develop the draft Version 1.3 of the Conformance Criteria and accompanying Scoring Guidance. The primary driver for modifying the current Standard is to meet GSSI requirements. Additional consultations were done with Management authorities (ADF&G, Council & NMFS), and the RFM Committee.

The CCC have reviewed these documents and passed a motion for the Board to adopt them barring any additional input by management authorities.

Summary of Changes:

The changes are limited to grammar corrections, the removal and grouping of repetitive and similar clauses, and the improved specificity of some clauses; specifically those relating to information presented in updated and relevant FAO Guidance Documents (e.g. 2011 FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery products from Inland Capture Fisheries).

These are considered minor changes to the Standard by the Conformance Criteria Committee and therefore only justify a *revision change* and not a claim of a full review and re-issue of the RFM Standard. Guidance on edits to certain clauses was also given via the GSSI Benchmarking Standard 2015.

(Please refer to Appendix B: Summary of Key Revisions for AK RFM Standard V 1.3 & Appendix C: RFM Standard V 1.3 Scoring Guidance–Summary Notes for complete details on changes.)

Process for developing future revisions:

The CCC will start work on Version 2 of the Fisheries Standard in December. The CCC will look to the ASMI Board to set the objectives for Version 2. A scoping document is being prepared of key points that have come out of the stakeholder consultations to date for further consideration by the RFM Committee.

The CCC's current Program of Work is publicly available on the ASMI website

<http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/improvements>

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommend adoption of Version 1.3 of the Fisheries Standard and accompanying Scoring Guidance Document as modified by the CCC.