

RFM Program Summary

Highlights June 2014 – June 2015

Documented RFM Program Management Structure and System

The RFM Quality Management System (QMS) has been developed. This is on the ASMI website <http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/alaska-rfm-governance-structure> and includes:

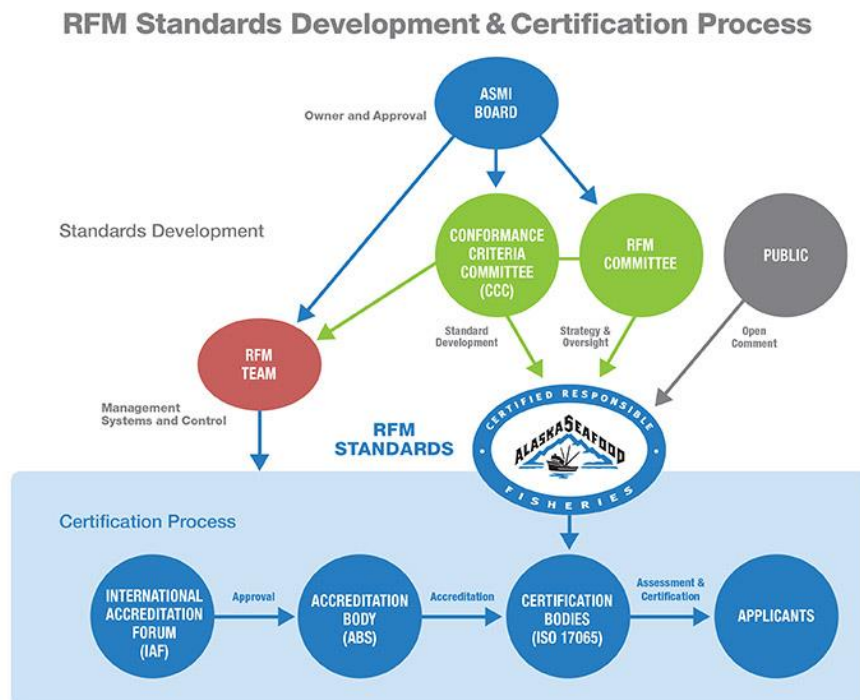
- Controls and Policies
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Key Operating Procedures
- Terms of Reference
- Report and Certification Templates

The new QMS offers the RFM Program a comprehensive, transparent and structured management system which serves two key purposes:

- Maintains RFM program consistency and credibility which can be externally reviewed and tested.
- Provides a training and legacy tool for new staff and stakeholders to the RFM Program.

Improved RFM Governance and Transparency

As part of the RFM QMS, the Program better describes and presents the Program Governance structure.



Committee Terms of Reference

- Two advisory committees have formal Terms of Reference established to provide transparency and allow for program oversight:
 - The industry led *RFM Committee* constitutes the oversight and management committee for the RFM Program. The Committee devises recommendations for RFM policy, strategy and targets to present to the ASMI Board for approval.
 - The *RFM Conformance Criteria Committee (CCC)*, an international multidisciplinary group of experts who will formally and periodically review the Standards and Scoring Guidance document.
- The RFM Committee developed a Strategic Plan approved by the ASMI Board in October 2014.

RFM Standard Development

- The RFM Conformance Criteria went out for 60-day Public Comment (ended 2/10).
- RFM Conformance Criteria Committee met in May and reviewed all comments received. Public comments will be posted to the ASMI website in Q3 2015.
- The RFM Conformance Criteria Committee has established an outline Program of Work for development of a V2 Standard. This Program of Work is on the ASMI website.
<http://certification.alaskaseafood.org/improvements>

RFM External Program Review

- ASMI has been active in the GSSI (Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative) and RFM participated in the pilot audits and was bench-marked against this global tool in June 2015. The full operational audit should take place in Q4 of 2015 – Q1 2016.
- GSSI is an extremely important initiative and will provide respected, third party verification of the RFM Program. This will be useful to provide markets and customers assurance that the RFM certification is a credible and relevant seafood certification program.
- The RFM Quality Management System (QMS) has been pilot tested via the GSSI pilot audit review and was found to be robust and fit for the purpose of meeting the GSSI Requirements (Compulsory), and also almost all GSSI Indicators (Voluntary).
- All RFM QMS Procedures were found to be aligned with GSSI and during the GSSI Pilot audit, RFM will need to demonstrate how these Procedures have been 'put in play' and records to support the Procedures will need to be provided.

New Fishery Clients

- Alaska Salmon & Pacific Cod: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.
- Alaska Halibut & Black Cod: Fishing Vessels Owners Association
- Alaska Crab: Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC
- Alaska Flatfish: Alaska Seafood Cooperative
- Alaska Pollock: Alaska Pollock Fishery Client Group, Pacific Seafood Processors Association, At-sea Processors Association, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

Outreach and Communication

RFM continues ongoing outreach and improved communications with specific sectors; including NGOs, Alaska Industry and corporate social responsibility and procurement officers in foodservice and retail sectors.

- Attendance and/or speaking at the following events:
 - Ocean Trust
 - FAO & Thai Department of Fisheries hosted National Workshop
 - SeaWeb Seafood Summit
 - Boston Seafood Show
 - Brussels Seafood Show
 - Comfish
 - Bering Seas Fisheries Conference

Participation by additional Certification Bodies (CB):

- RFM has two (2) approved CBs for Chain of Custody – SAI Global and SCS Global Services.
- ASMI delivered CB Training to interested CB's (Seattle Nov 2014)
- Discussions are ongoing with additional CB's to join the RFM Program:
 - DNV (Fisheries)
 - Bureau Veritas (Chain of Custody)
 - BSI (Chain of Custody)
 - ME (Fisheries and Chain of Custody)
- ASMI has commenced an annual CB performance review
- Goal is to add 1 more CB for Fisheries audits and 1 for Chain of Custody by Feb 2016.

Participation by Additional Accreditation Boards (AB)

- RFM has an additional AB – the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- ASMI has delivered AB Training to ANSI on the RFM Program
- ASMI has signed an MOU with ANSI

RFM Program Objectives for 2015-16

- Further QMS implementation for Full GSSI Approval
- Development of the new 'Conformance Criteria for Fisheries' through the Conformance Criteria Committee Process
- Consultations on the new emerging Conformance Criteria Standard and the RFM process to gain advocacy and greater market recognition
- Improve Chain of Custody Standard & process
- Training and on-boarding of new Certification Bodies
- Training and on-boarding of new Accreditation Boards
- Certification cost reduction for Fishery Client Certification