



September 2, 2021

Coronavirus Announcement

Letter of Temporary Variance for site visits/audits associated with Chain of Custody and Fishery Certification Processes

In response to the continued concerns over the coronavirus and consideration of the wellbeing of all persons participating in the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification system, the program is updating this letter of variance to allow for the continuation of scheduling and conducting remote site visits and audits for the Chain of Custody and Fisheries certificate holders, and also for the original certification and re-certification of fisheries.

The RFM Chain of Custody requirements (RFM Procedure 4 “Application to certification procedures for the Alaska CoC”) can be found at:

<https://uploads.alaskaseafood.org/2019/10/Procedure-4-Version-4.0-Final-Posting-New-RFM-Seal102219.pdf>

This letter of variance allows for all required certifications/audits/recertifications on-site requirements found in Procedure 4: **Sections 4, 7.1 and 9.1** be waived until further notice.

The RFM Fishery Certification Process requirements (RFM Procedure 2 “Application to Certification Procedures for the Alaska RFM Fishery Standard Version 2.0”) can be found at:

<https://uploads.alaskaseafood.org/2019/10/Procedure-2-Version-5.0-Final-Posting-New-RFM-Seal102219.pdf>

This letter of variance allows for all fishery certification activity requirements found in Procedure 2: **Sections 3.10, 3.11, 3.13 and 4.1 regarding on-site requirements** to be waived until further notice.

The RFM Certification program will continue to monitor the ongoing travel restrictions and precautions associated with the coronavirus with the hope that in the coming months these variances will no longer be needed. Upon such time these variances will be rescinded with at least 30 days’ notice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: jrregnard@gmail.com / 1-907-240-8978.

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