



Certified Seafood Collaborative RFM Program of Work
January 1 2022 - June 2022

Program of Work for RFM Fisheries Standard

The **RFM Fisheries Standard** is reviewed by the Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC) Fisheries Standard Committee (FSC) for recommended changes. Details of this committee and relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) are available on the website. The RFM Fisheries Standard Version 2.0 (V2.0) went active in May 2018.

With the full reissue of Fishery Standard (V2.0) and Guidance passed in May 2018, the RFM Program will be training Accreditation Bodies, Certification Bodies and Fishery Clients, concentrating on the following key areas of change:

- Addendum for Data Deficient Fisheries (DDF) Assessment
- Modification of the scoring matrix to a numerical system
- Review of additional FAO documentation and related inclusion of some clauses
- Inclusion of specific metrics and indicators and improved specificity of some clauses
- Scoring and Guidance document improvements
- Rewording of complex clauses, general housekeeping, restructuring, and fusion of clauses with overlapping requirements.

The first fishery to use V2.0 was the Alaska Salmon Fishery which was successfully re-certified in June of 2020.

In September of 2020 the RFM Fisheries Standard was reissued as Version 2.1 which was a change in scope only. Version 2.1 is a reissue of Version 2.0 reflecting that the scope is changing from Alaska only fisheries to North American fisheries operating within the U.S and Canadian 200nm EEZ.

There was an extensive review and updating of the Quality Management System (QMS) that governs the RFM program. Those changes went into effect in January 2018.

At this time, the RFM Fishery Standard will not expand its scope to include socio-economic elements for assessment.

Review Process and Timeline

Stage	Description	Target Date	Participants	Status
1	Training and communication continue for V2.1RFM Standard with CB's and Client Groups	January 2022 - June 2022	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
2	Joint CoC Standard with Iceland adopted, CB's trained to new Standard	January 2022 - June 2022	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
3	Remain in alignment with GSSI and start the application to the new benchmarking tool	January 2022- June 2022	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress
4	Review and collect pertinent FAO documentation that will bear upon next review of Fishery Standard	January 2022- June 2022	RFM Team and contracted experts	In-Progress

Program of Work for RFM Chain of Custody (CoC)

The **CSC's RFM Chain of Custody Standard** is reviewed by the Technical Committee for recommended changes. The current RFM CoC Standard is Version 2.4 which was finalized and implemented in January 2016.

The following are key objectives for the RFM CoC Program:

- 1) Determine how RFM CoC may be harmonized with other internationally recognized and Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) aligned CoC standards.
- 2) Develop a joint CoC with Iceland that contains a multi-site component.
- 3) Update to the RFM Quality Management System (QMS) Procedure pertaining to the CoC.

This aim is to reduce audit fatigue within the supply chain and to promote additional use of the RFM logo to support the RFM program. The objective of the CoC Standard will be alignment to the GSSI Benchmarking Tool

Joint CoC with Iceland:

The soon to be accredited version, finalized in 2021, is the result of the unification of the two standards. It is intended to be applied in both certification programs, as well as in other responsible fisheries management certification programs including those currently under development.

This Chain of Custody Standard is based on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries adopted in 2005 and amended/extended in 2009. These in turn are based on the current suite of agreed international instruments addressing fisheries, in particular the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as related documentation including the 2001 Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, as well as various other relevant documents from ISO and other sources. This document is also based on the EA-6/04 M: 2011 EA Guidelines on the Accreditation of Certification of Primary Sector Products by Means of Sampling of Sites.

Review Process and Timeline

Stage	Description	Target Date	Participants	Status
1	Seek accreditation of the new joint CoC with a multi-site component	July 2020- Dec2021	RFM Team/Iceland	Ongoing
2	Continue to explore harmonization with existing and in-development RFM programs	July 2021 -Dec 2021	RFM Team/Iceland/GULF/ MEL	Ongoing

3	New Procedures on website / Certification Bodies and all relevant RFM organizations Notified	July 2021 -Dec 2021	RFM Team	Ongoing
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