ALASKA
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (RFM) CERTIFICATION

A RIGOROUS FISHERIES STANDARD AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROGRAM

Verification of Responsible Fisheries Management
Without Logo Licensing Fees

Certified Sustainable
ALASKA RFM

ABOUT ALASKA RFM

The Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Program was developed in 2010 to offer seafood buyers and sellers a credible, cost effective choice in seafood certification. It is a comprehensive certification program founded on the strongest and most widely acknowledged international standards and practices. Based on United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) criteria, it is one of the few programs accredited under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code.

RFM is a voluntary and internationally accredited assessment of whether a fishery meets strict criteria to be certified as meeting "responsible fisheries management."

In addition, RFM has a complete Chain of Custody program, providing assurance to buyers that RFM certified fish can be traced through the supply chain back to its origin — a certified fishery.

Certified Sustainable
ALASKA RFM

First To Be Recognized By GSSI

Alaska RFM Certification was the first certification program to be benchmarked against the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative's (GSSI) Global Benchmark Tool and achieve recognition. This recognition demonstrates that Alaska RFM is in alignment with all 143 applicable Essential Components. The Benchmark Report is available at www.ourgssi.org. GSSI is a global platform and partnership of seafood companies, NGOs, experts, governmental and intergovernmental organizations. GSSI increases comparability and transparency in seafood certification and enables informed choice for procurement of certified seafood. GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool, which is based on international reference documents, identifies and recognizes robust and credible certification schemes and supports other schemes to improve.

KEY FEATURES OF RFM AND ALASKA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE
Established, sound structure with expert advisory committees

STAKEHOLDERS
Comprehensive engagement procedures at multiple levels

TRANSPARENCY
Open, collaborative and transparent assessment process

IMPARTIAL
Well-defined appeals and complaints processes ensures unbiased outcome

TRACEABLE
Certified seafood that can be traced back through the supply chain

AFFORDABLE
No logo licensing fees, the Alaska RFM Seal is free to use

FISHERIES STANDARD

SIX KEY PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATING FISHERIES:

1. The Fisheries Management System

2. Science and Stock Assessment Activities

3. The Precautionary Approach

4. Management Measure

5. Implementation, Monitoring and Control

6. Serious Impacts of the Fishery on the Ecosystem

THE FISHERIES STANDARD was developed by an independent Fisheries Standard Committee (FSC) and is based on FAO Guidelines and Documents.

Two Standards

The RFM Program consists of two seafood certification standards that Alaska fisheries and the supply chain are assessed against:

1) FISHERIES STANDARD (FS)
2) CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD (COC)

How the RFM Assessment Process Works

An ISO 17065 Accredited Certification Body (CB) conducts the assessment and certification of Alaska fisheries. The CB is responsible for ensuring the competency and consistency of assessment practices.

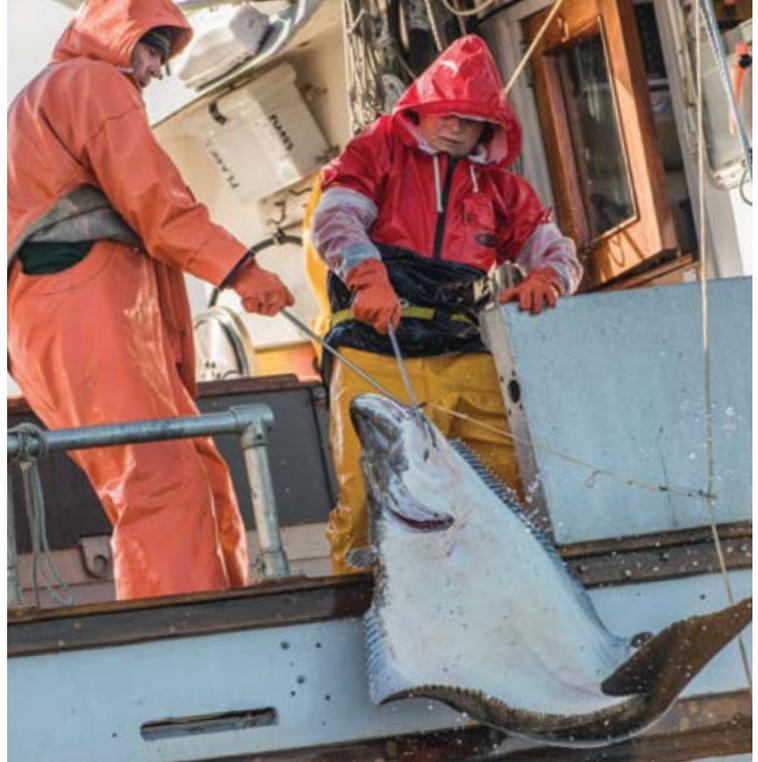## Alaska RFM Initial Certification and Recertification Assessment Stages

1. **Application and Applicant Review**

2. **Notification to Public/Stakeholders**

3. **Assessment Verification/Information Review Site Visits, Assessment Report**

4. **External Peer Review**

5. **Draft Assessment Report for Public Comment**

6. **Final Assessment Report**

7. **Certification Decision**

For more detail on assessment stages and annual surveillance audits go to
http://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/about-rfm/how-it-works/
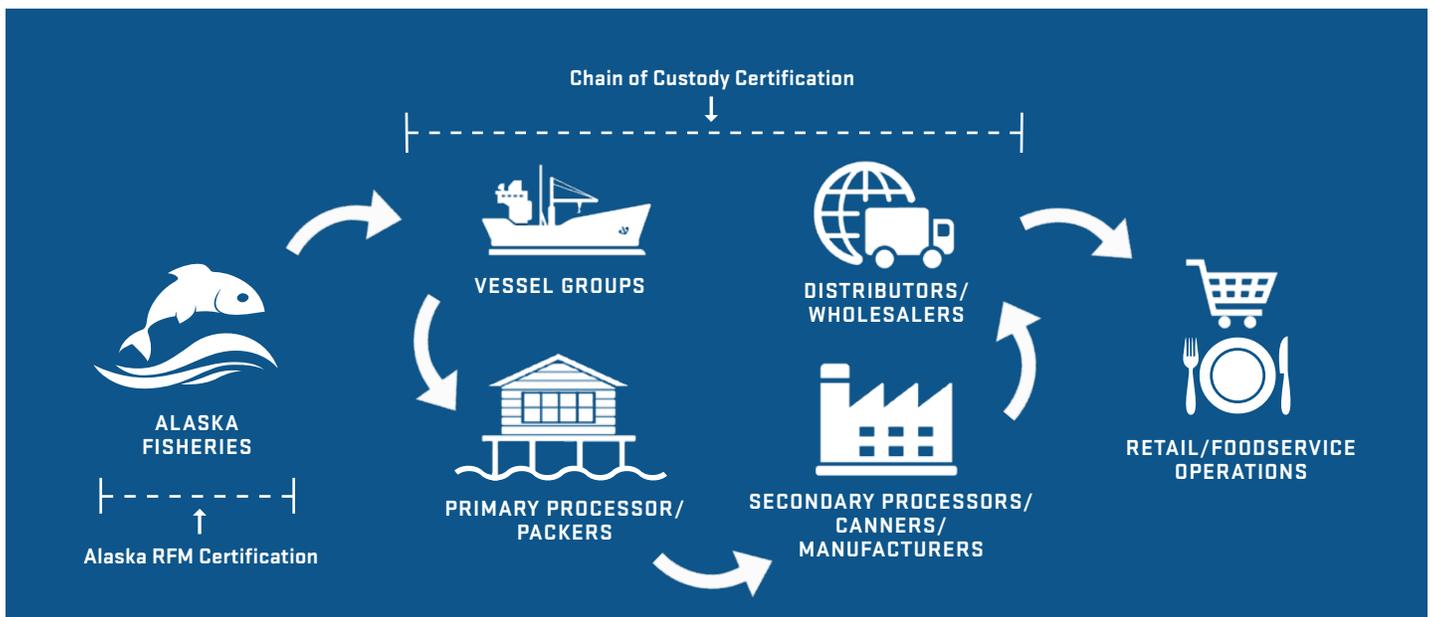
CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

Certification to the Alaska RFM Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard ensures traceability through the supply chain and that only Alaska Seafood products bearing a statement 'sourced from a certified Alaska Fishery' can make this claim. This allows companies to demonstrate their commitment to responsibly sourcing seafood from an independently assessed certified fishery and gives confidence to all buyers of the seafood that it can be traced back through the supply chain to the RFM certified fishery.

Who Will Need Chain of Custody Certification?

If a customer buys seafood from a certified fishery and wishes to make the certified claim or uses the RFM seal, Chain of Custody certification is required. Every organization that takes ownership of the certified seafood, from the point of first handling after the seafood has been landed, until it is processed into the final consumer product, will need to be certified to the Chain of Custody Standard.

Steps for Using RFM Seal and/or Certification Claim

Chain of Custody Certification

ALASKA FISHERIES

Alaska RFM Certification

VESSEL GROUPS

PRIMARY PROCESSOR/ PACKERS

DISTRIBUTORS/ WHOLESALERS

SECONDARY PROCESSORS/ CANNERS/ MANUFACTURERS

RETAIL/FOODSERVICE OPERATIONS

CHAIN OF CUSTODY Required for Every Organization That Takes Ownership of Certified Seafood

Alaska RFM Certified Species/Fisheries

FISH SPECIES	GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF FISHERY	GEAR TYPE
PACIFIC SALMON SPECIES Client: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (King/Chinook, Sockeye/Red, Coho/Silver, Keta/Chum, Pink)	Region 1: Southeast & Yakutat Region 2: Central Region 3: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region 4: Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands	Troll, Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet, Fish Wheel Purse Seine, Drift Gillnet, Set Gillnet
PACIFIC HALIBUT Client: Fishing Vessels Owners Association (Eat on the Wild Side)	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Benthic Longline
SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) Client: Fishing Vessels Owners Association (Eat on the Wild Side)	Federal and State fisheries Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Benthic Longline, Pot, Non-pelagic Trawl
ALASKA (WALLEYE) POLLOCK Client: Alaska Pollock Fishery Group (Pacific Seafood Processors Association, At-Sea Processors Association, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank)	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Pelagic Trawl, and other gears (Non-pelagic Trawl, Jig, Longline, Pot) from other non-directed pollock fisheries legally landing pollock
PACIFIC COD Client: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation	Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands	Non-pelagic Trawl, Longline, Pot, Jig
FLATFISH COMPLEX Client: Alaska Seafood Cooperative • Yellowfin sole • Flathead sole • Northern rock sole • Southern rock sole • Arrowtooth flounder • Kamchatka flounder • Alaska plaice • Greenland turbot • Rex sole	Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska Gulf of Alaska; Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Gulf of Alaska	Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl Non-pelagic Trawl, Longline Non-pelagic Trawl
CRAB Client: Bering Sea Crab Client Group LLC • Red King crab • Snow crab • Blue King crab • Golden King crab	Bristol Bay Eastern Bering Sea & Bristol Bay St. Matthew Island Aleutian Islands	Pot Pot Pot Pot

For fisheries assessments go to https://www.alaskaseafood.org/rfm-certification/certified-fisheries/