



Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation

Title: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STANDARD SETTING/REVISING – PROCEDURE

1. PURPOSE

This procedure describes the method by which the Technical Committee (TC) of the Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation (IRFF) shall set/revise the Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management Standard.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The main objective is to transparently demonstrate that fisheries management and practices in Iceland are conducted responsibly in a credible and internationally recognized manner to the criteria specified by the FAO. The scope of the standard are the fisheries of Icelandic vessels within the Icelandic EEZ and the pelagic fisheries of shared stocks by Icelandic vessels.

3. METHOD

The requirements in the standard shall be based on the *FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries (2005/2009)* and the *1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, as well as draw upon *1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 9, EC Regulation 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, ISO/IEC Guide 14024:1999. Environmental labels and declarations - Type 1 environmental labelling - Principles and procedures, ISO/IEC Guide 59 CODE of good practice for Standardization, and the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement Annex 3 Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards, for the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Second Triennial Review Annex 4, Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides.*

4. PROCEDURES

- 4.1. The Technical Committee (TC) shall consider writing/revising standard:
 - a) If changes/additions are made to FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines
 - b) By an initiative from the TC
 - c) At least every 5 years.

- 4.2. When a decision has been made to write/revise standard the Scheme Owner (SO) shall, if needed, develop or update terms of reference (ToR), which include at least the following elements:
 - a) proposed scope of the standard and intended geographic application

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Authorisation Date	<i>5. Jan 2017</i>
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- b) clear objectives that the standard seeks to achieve and how those are linked to the organisation's intended change.
- 4.3. The SO shall develop a workplan and a timeline for the TC on the standard writing/revision process.
- 4.4. When a decision has been made to revise standard it shall be announced in the appropriate media and participating stakeholders in IRFF shall be informed that prior to a formal review the present standard shall be available for a 30 day public and stakeholders comment period.
- 4.5. At the outset of a standard writing/revision process, the SO makes publicly available a summary of the process that includes:
 - a) Contact information and information on how to contribute to the consultation,
 - b) Summary of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the standard, including proposed scope, objectives and justification of the need for the standard,
 - c) Steps in the standard-setting process, including timelines and clearly identified opportunities for contributing,
 - d) decision-making procedures, including how decisions are made and who makes them.
- 4.6. The TC shall analyse, write and agree on new/revised standard.
- 4.7. New/revised standard shall be publically announced on IRFF's website for a 60 days consultation period for public and stakeholders review and comments, and a notice sent to media and IRFF's participating stakeholders announcing the consultation period.
- 4.8. The final draft shall be validated by the Certification Body and Accreditation Body.
- 4.9. The TC will consider all comments based on their content and objectiveness, with respect to providing an improvement in the effectiveness of the Responsible Fisheries Management Certification consistent with the overall objectives of IRFF. The TC will not provide individual written response to comments.
- 4.10. The final draft standard shall be published on IRFF's website with transition period until its final formal issue.
- 4.11. A summary of substantive comments received during the public consultation period shall be made publically available in a non-attributable way.
- 4.12. The transition period is decided by the TC depending on the nature of the work.

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- 4.13. IRFF shall inform the certification body of the new/revised standard and transition period.

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AMENDMENT LOG

DATE	AMENDMENT	AUTHORISED BY
3 rd February 2016	Following sentence added to clause 4.3 "The SO shall develop a workplan and a timeline for the standards writing/revision process" and new clause 4.8 added.	
22 nd March 2016	The words "validated by" added after "shall be" and the word "approval" deleted.	
5 th January 2017	The words "FISHERIES MANGEMENT" added in the title; the words "and associated chain of custody standard" deleted in art. 1; the plural "s" in the word standards deleted in art. 2, art. 3, line 1, art. 4.2, line 1, art. 4.3, art. 4.4, art. 4.5, line 1, art. 4.6, art. 4.7, art. 4.10 and art. 4.13.	

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