



WFCF Seafood Standards Public Consultation

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

Various environmental standards exist for seafood production globally, covering a breadth of species, production or fishery practices, and regions. These programs have all played a role in moving the industry toward more responsible practices, but more work is required. With its long history of terrestrial product certification and innovative solutions to supply chain assurance, Where Food Comes From (WFCF) is well placed to continue pushing the seafood industry forward.

The WFCF Seafood Standards are built around two pillars: animal care and environment. Verification of practices in these key areas gives confidence to consumers that the seafood they purchase is produced responsibly.

The draft WFCF Seafood Standards are based on best practices in seafood production. Expert committees in fisheries and aquaculture have reviewed each respective standard. WFCF now seeks public comment from interested stakeholders to ensure that standards are relevant, meaningful, and effective. Comments from stakeholders along the seafood supply chain, from producers to consumers, will be targeted for feedback during this process.

2. Background and Context

Where Food Comes From, Inc., is an independent, third-party verification company that aims to create opportunities through transparency for farmers, ranchers, fishers and consumers by inspiring a more sustainable food model for the world. With a long history of terrestrial certification, WFCF has the experience and technology to move into the seafood space and drive production towards greater sustainability and increased traceability.

3. Project Objectives

Through the consultation process are soliciting feedback from various stakeholder groups. Feedback from producers, industry associations, supply chain players, academics, non-profits, and seafood lovers are welcome. The feedback received during the consultation process will help inform the direction of the WFCF Seafood Standards and aid in determining if the scope, metrics, and intent of the standards are appropriate to meet program objectives.

4. Scope of work

The current consultation covers two WFCF Seafood Standards: Aquaculture, and Fisheries. The standards are built to scale from extensive, small-scale producers to large scale, intensive production. Aquaculture standards cover finfish and crustacea; shellfish and seaweed are not included under the current scope. The wild fishery standard does not cover enhanced or deep-sea fisheries.

5. Timeline

The public consultation period will launch July 1, 2024, and run for 60 days. After the close of the public comment period, all comments will be evaluated, summarized and responses will be posted online. Pilot audits may be conducted at several operations to test the practicality and intent of the standards. Standard requirements may be adjusted, where necessary, based on comments received and the results of pilot audits. All changes will be reviewed by the WFCF expert committees in September 2024. Once approved, WFCF will submit updated standards to the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) for formal evaluation and benchmarking.

6. Contact

If you have any questions or comments on the WFCF Seafood Standards or the consultation process, please contact publiccomment@wherefoodcomesfrom.com.