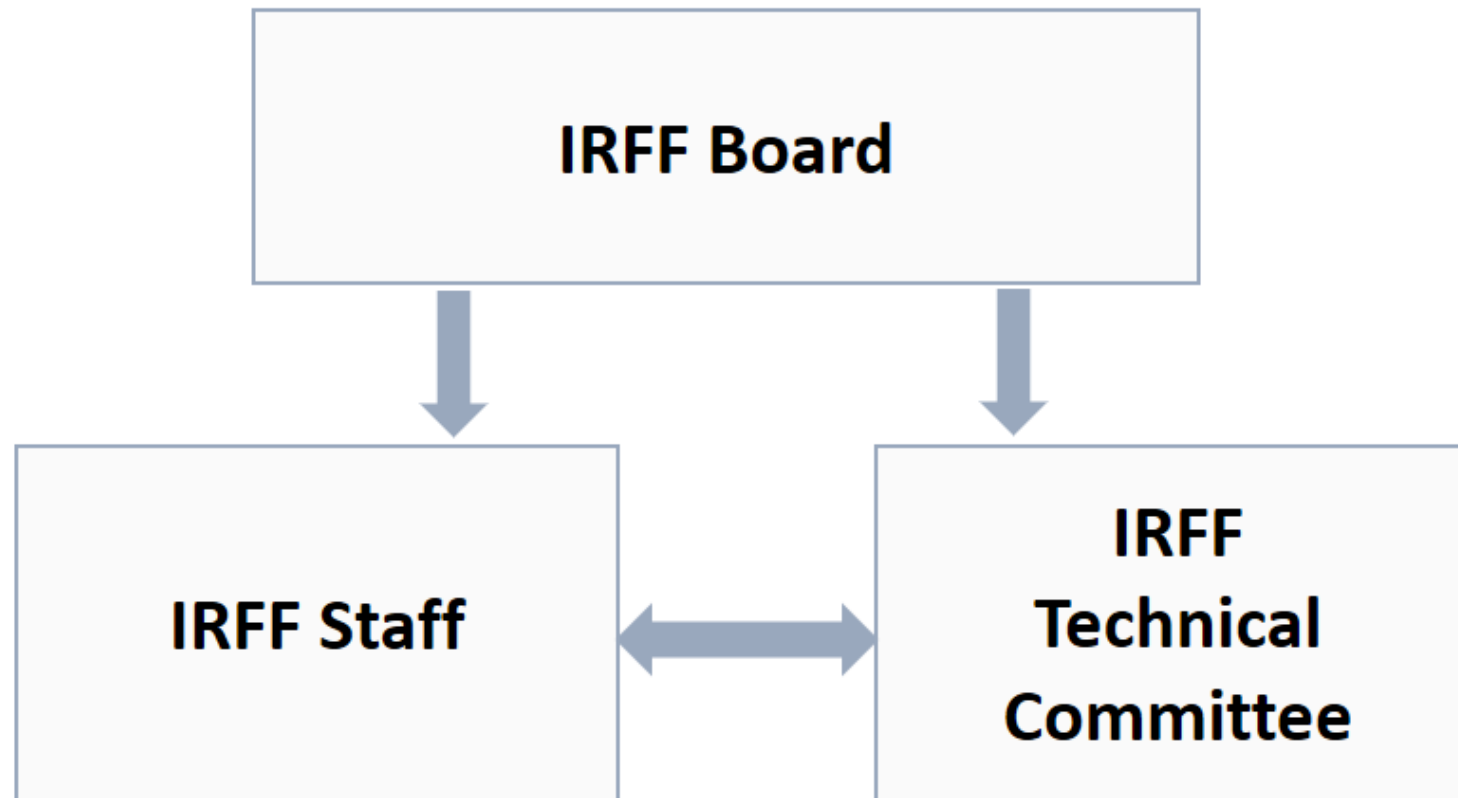

Why IRFM certification?

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Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation (IRFF)



Mission

- To document well managed Icelandic fisheries to the highest level of assurance
- To preserve the fisheries management principles adopted by the international community
- To offer our customers choice in certification



A clear focus on internationally accepted criteria - FAO Criteria

- UN FAO via, the COFI has set out the minimum criteria for responsible fisheries management
- A process with participation from all FAO member states offering consensus on those agreed criteria
- Iceland wanted to ensure that its certification was founded on this international consensus without exception
- Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management (IRFM) Standard is based on the 2005/09 FAO's Eco-labelling Guidelines for fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries and places them in Icelandic fishery management context



Direct participation in the standards setting process

- The IRFM scheme has given Icelandic fisheries direct participation in:
 - Standards setting process
 - Overall objectives and direction of IRFM
 - Procedures and processes for the certification system
- Result has been the adoption of a robust and meaningful third party certification system specific to the needs of Icelandic fisheries



Credible Standards and Certification – ISO and IAF

- Standards are set via an appointed committee of seafood stakeholders in Iceland
- The standard setting process and certification system are implemented in accordance with International ISO norms - ISO17065
- ...and formally accredited by a body member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- Accreditation oversight is maintained to ensure the ISO17065 requirements continue to be adhered to



CERTIFIED

Competent and accredited third party certification

- The IRFM scheme uses only fully accredited, third party certification that has proven competency in fishery evaluation
- The programme follows FAO Guidelines for certification processes
- Certificates are valid for 5 years with annual surveillance audits
- Iceland can set the scheme requirements within the framework of ISO
- Rules are straight-forward, transparent and common sense
- Certificates are universal for Iceland fishers – no exclusion of Icelandic fishers and no duplication
 - IRFM certified cod can only come from Iceland



International benchmarks

- With the advent of GSSI, a benchmark process has been adopted for seafood standards and certification systems that make claims of responsible practice and sustainability
- Iceland RFM now benchmarked and listed as a GSSI approved scheme
- This recognition adds further evidence that Iceland RFM meets international norms and FAO Criteria for credible, transparent and meaningful certification of fisheries



Iceland RFM scheme

- The result:
 - IRFM is specific to Icelandic values and needs
 - It remains truthful to the FAO criteria – it does not dilute these
 - It allows for provenance – IRFM is specific to Iceland.
 - It has internationally recognised accreditation – **ISO/IAF**
 - It follows internationally recognised and agreed criteria – **FAO**
 - It is GSSI recognised





THANK YOU

Please contact finnur@irff.is for further information