How can RFS help you?

Trade

If you are a primary or secondary processor, a wholesaler or a distributor, (foodservice, retail, cash & carry), the scheme will help you to meet your corporate social responsibility objectives and quality standards. You will be able to demonstrate that you source fish and shellfish from responsible fishermen who care about the environment and the quality of their catch.

To identify RFS qualified vessels and companies who sell their catch, please go to: http://rfs.seafish.org

Consumers

Consumers are becoming more and more demanding when it comes to provenance and the environment. They want to ensure that their seafood is caught responsibly, by fishermen who care about the environment and the quality of their catch. Using the RFS logo on your menu or seafood counter can make a real difference to consumers' purchase decisions.

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Supporting the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future

RESPONSIBLE FISHING SCHEME
Certification Mark

The Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) was launched in 2006 to reward best practice at sea and to raise standards within the catching sector. The scheme was created in response to a need by the whole seafood supply chain to demonstrate a commitment to the responsible sourcing of seafood.

RFS is not just a scheme, but a philosophy that fishermen adhere to on a voluntary basis. It is accepted by processors, foodservice operators and retailers as part of a responsible procurement strategy, and RFS certification is increasingly becoming a condition of supply to these sectors.

The standards were developed in consultation with fishermen and industry, and drafted by the British Standards Institution (BSI). Certification is managed and awarded by a UKAS accredited external auditing company. A RFS certificate is valid for three years, and is subject to a surveillance audit after 18 months.

The core standard covers four key areas:

- Fishing practices
- Vessel criteria
- Crew competence
- Environmental considerations

In addition, Seafish have developed a number of good practice guides for the pelagic, demersal, scallops and shellfish sectors, which take into account the specific needs of individual fisheries and catching methods.

Some vessels label their catch with the RFS logo to highlight their membership, and to ensure it can be easily identified at fish auctions and ports. This assists with the traceability process and increases buyers' confidence in purchasing from RFS certified vessels.