



# Responsible Fishing Scheme

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- The UK Seafood Industry Authority
- A Non-Departmental Public Body
- Funded by a levy on first sale of marine seafood (domestic & imports; not diadromous or canned)
- Report to all 4 UK Fisheries Ministers
- Industry defines our work programme



# Responsible Fishing Scheme

- Certifying high standards of crew welfare & responsible catching practices on fishing vessels
- Business-to-business tool
- Independent, third-party auditing
- Compliant with ISO 17065
- Complements existing standards eg MSC
- Aimed at the global marketplace

# Why did industry develop the RFS?



# Why did industry develop the RFS?

Provides fishers with a tool to:

- showcase high standards against industry agreed best practice
- protect and enhance their reputation

Provides supply chain with tool to:

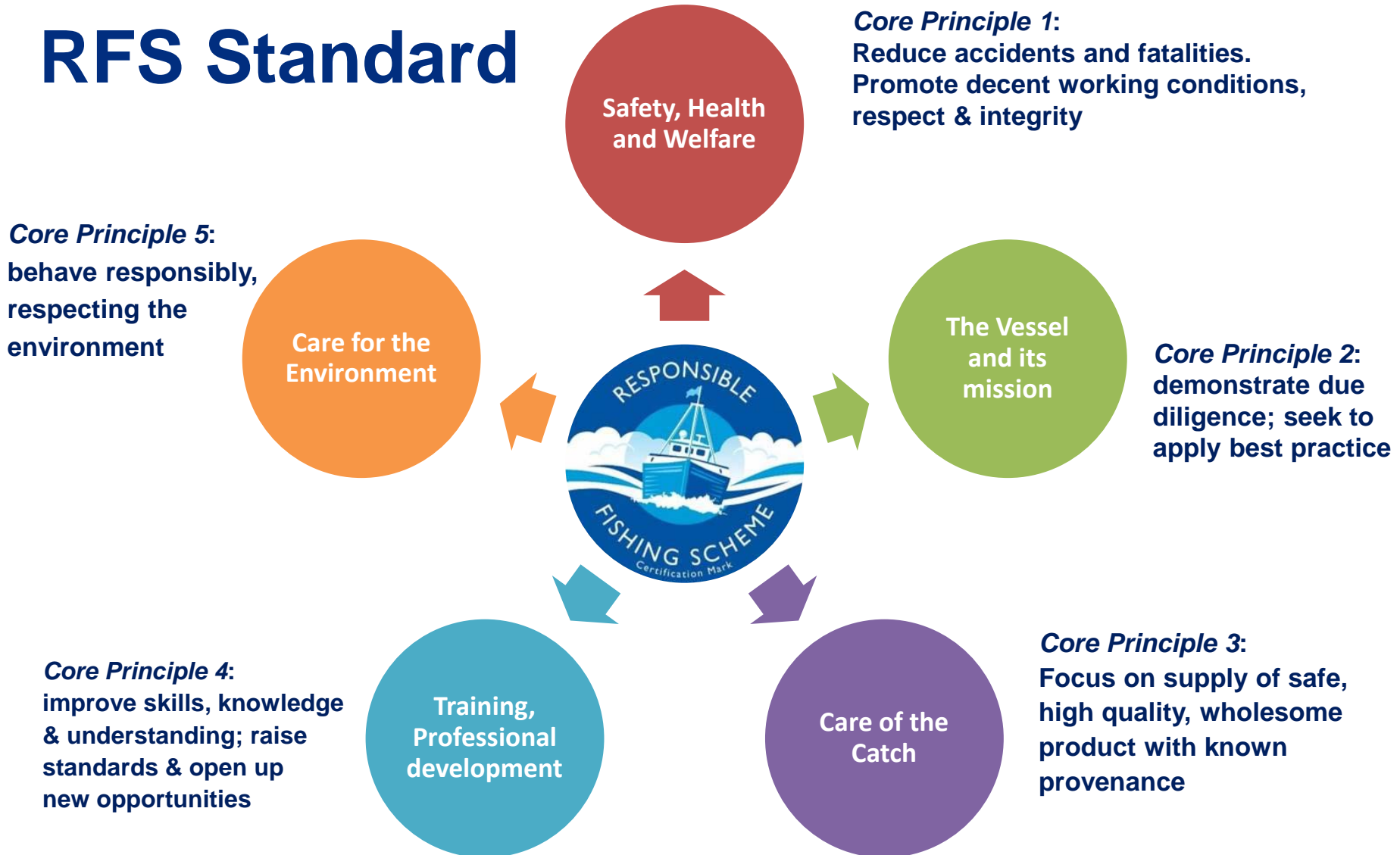
- Meet the requirements of new legislation
- protect and enhance their reputation

# Supply Chain Supporters

*“We have committed to incorporating the Responsible Fishing Scheme certification into our sourcing policies”*



# RFS Standard





# MSC and the RFS

Criterion	MSC	RFS
Fishery Management	✓	
Stock Sustainability	✓	
Care of Catch		✓
Crew Safety & Welfare		✓
Vessel Standards		✓
Crew Training and professional development		✓
Care for the environment (littering etc)		✓

Acquiring both would enable the certified claim  
“sustainable fishery responsibly harvested”



**Not 'one size fits all'**



**1 standard but with 2 annexes:  
1 for crewed vessels and 1 for  
single handed vessels**

## **‘Unit of certification’ is vessel + skipper**



**If the captain leaves the vessel, the certification is revisited**



# Getting it right in the UK first



- 30 Pilots being completed
- Certification timescale 3 - 5 months
- 20 members certified and >160 in application
- Formally re-launched Jan 2016 in UK Parliament
- Engagement around the UK

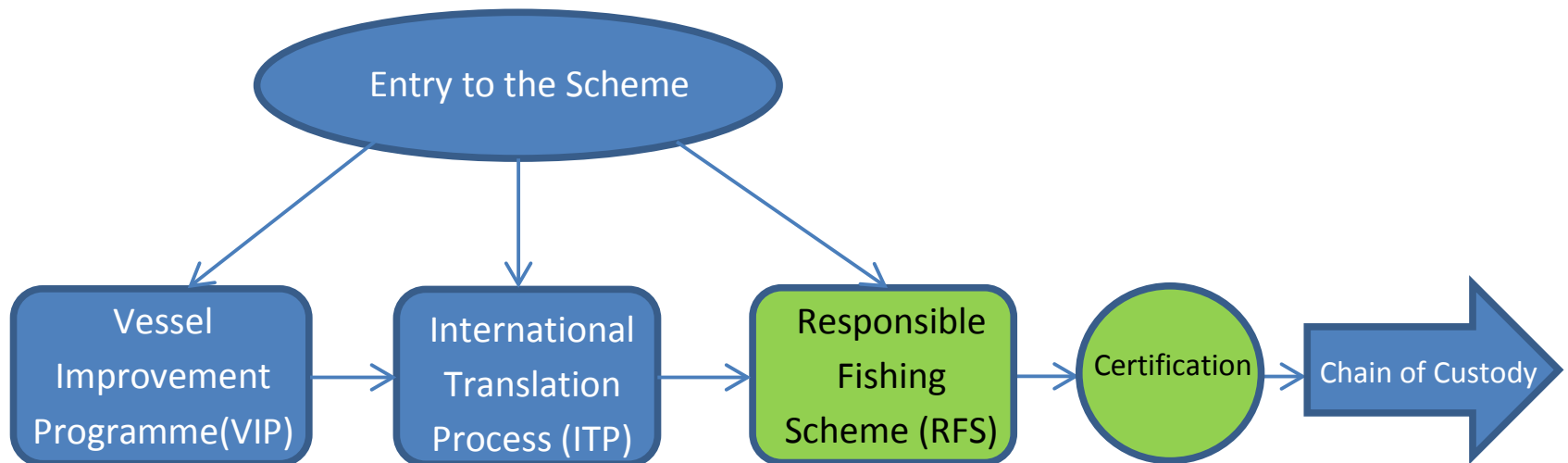
# Chain of Custody

- Members see this as vital element to protect provenance of product for certified vessels
- Proposed approach to maximise opportunity for harmonisation of audits for supply chain through collaboration with existing standard holders
- Development work commencing this year

# International Roll-out

- Considerable interest from overseas
- UK retailer commitments include international vessels by 2021
- Standard designed to be globally applicable
- Supporting guidance is UK-centric
- How applicable is standard/guidance elsewhere?
- International translation - Adopt or Adapt?

# Internationalisation of the RFS



# Vessel Improver Programme (VIP)

- Growing interest in RFS certification for fleets with reputational issues
- Structured improver programme uses the RFS Standard as a measure of performance
- Provides a pathway for improvement for vessels that at present would struggle to meet the RFS Standard
- Requires local management structure, similar to FIPs



# Benefits of VIP

- **Applicant** can maintain a market presence and an acceptance in the international community
- **Buyer** can demonstrate good CSR, be assured of legality of vessels
- **Together** drive social improvements
- Increase the participation of vessels into RFS

## Welcome to the Responsible Fishing Scheme website

The Responsible Fishing Scheme has been developed to raise standards in the catching sector, enabling those within the seafood supply chain to demonstrate their commitment to the responsible sourcing of seafood. The aim is that, over time, accreditation will become a condition of supply.

Please find a link to our regular update [here](#).

The UK Responsible Fishing Scheme



### Quick Search

Search by vessel, species, location or tag on the right, or go to our full search.

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