



Project Plan: Major Revision Capture Fisheries Standard 2.0.0

Fair Trade USA

1. Introduction

Fair Trade USA® empowers farmers, fishers, and workers to enhance the value of their work in ways that improve lives and protect the environment. Rather than creating dependency on aid, it harnesses the power of markets to help producers, businesses, and consumers alike to invest in a better future.

Fair Trade USA and partnering Conformity Assessment Bodies audit and certify supply chains around the world to help ensure that farmers, fishers, and workers are paid fair prices and wages, work in safe conditions, protect the environment, and earn community development funds to improve their lives.

The Fair Trade USA Capture Fisheries Standard (CFS) defines the requirements for fishers and associated processing facilities to obtain Fair Trade certification. The fishers are organized in Fishing Associations or cooperatives, while the associated processing facilities are the first point of processing once the seafood product is landed. This document summarizes the objectives, project activities, and decision-making process for the major revision of the Capture Fisheries Standard (CFS). The project will be carried out according to [Fair Trade USA Standards Development & Revision Procedure](#), and ISEAL's [Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice](#).

2. Scope

Fair Trade USA's Capture Fisheries Standard covers fishers globally who catch wild caught marine seafood. It applies to fishers organized in Fishing Associations or cooperatives, as well as covers workers at processing facilities and landing sites.

This project will directly affect our Capture Fisheries Standard 1.1.0, in addition to all guidance and policies associated with this Standard. As part of the major revision described in this document, we will be updating all binding and guidance documents regarding compliance with the Capture Fisheries Standard. All Certificate Holders certified against the Capture Fisheries Standard will be directly involved in this process, as well as the general seafood community, including, but not limited to, stakeholders such as fishers, traders, non-profit organizations, academics, and governmental institutions.

3. Background and Rationale

Updating the Capture Fisheries Standard will allow us to better enable sustainable livelihoods for fishers and processing facility workers while creating value for businesses and ensuring that the Standard fits with Fair Trade USA's organizational strategy for impact and growth. Additionally, it is considered best practice in standards-setting and certification to conduct a standards major revision at least every five years. This ensures that the standards are up-to-date and drive the desired impact. Fair Trade USA's Standards Development & Revision Procedure is in line with this best practice, and this regular review of the Capture Fisheries Standard was initiated given that the initial version of this Standard was published in 2014.



Some specific issues with our current Capture Fisheries Standard which the revision aims to address include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The current version of the Capture Fisheries Standard is the first and original version from when Fair Trade USA launched its Seafood program in 2014. Since then, the CFS has undergone a minor revision, however, it has become clear that a substantial update is needed to ensure that the Standard is fit for purpose in the different geographies we work in.
- Currently there is a lack of alignment between our producer standards. This revision will allow for alignment of the CFS to the Agricultural Production Standard (APS) leading to an overall alignment with Fair Trade USA's Theory of Change. This will help us work more efficiently and effectively across the organization to achieve our impact goals.
- Fisheries and operations differ greatly depending on size, and the current CFS does not account for this. The revision will differentiate requirements based on the size of the fishery and operation.
- The Governance section of the CFS is written in a way that expects Fishing Associations and cooperatives to be involved in co-management of the resources. This requires the direct involvement with fishery management authorities, which has been a challenge across the globe. A major change to these requirements is necessary to continue to encourage fishers to be involved in fisheries management and possibly encourage co-management, while allowing them to make improvements without holding them responsible for factors out of their control.
- Overall, the Resource Management section requires a revision. The criteria are written to focus on the management of the resource. However, given that the scope of the CFS is focused on the fishers and not the resource itself, some of the requirements ask for results from situations which individual fishers don't have the power to improve or control.
- The CFS covers fishers and workers at the first point of processing. However, it is not clear which criteria are applicable to one or both fishers and processing facility workers. Additionally, criteria applicable to fishers are not written to include cases where fishers fall under a hired-labor situation, as opposed to independent fishers.
- The seafood industry has a strong interest and need for waste management at sea and at processing facilities. We would like to improve the CFS waste management requirements to address this need.
- Alignment with the general seafood movement. Fair Trade USA has been part of the Certifications & Ratings Collaboration since 2017. One of the goals of this collaboration is to create harmonization between programs when possible. This will allow for possible collaboration and reduce complexity for outside stakeholders to understand and apply the different programs.

As part of this revision, we will be standardizing the structure of the criteria from our Capture Fisheries Standard to match the structure of the Agricultural Production Standard. This will bring consistency across our programs and allow us to work with fishers with different realities and capacities. The structure will allow participants to choose their own path with specific criteria, while still reaching the same goal with the overall program.

4. Intended Outcomes of the Standard

The Capture Fisheries Standard focuses on the continuous improvement of fishers' and workers' livelihoods by supporting their economic development. Fair Trade Premium, Fair Trade Committees, and Needs Assessments are mechanisms by which fishers are empowered to identify and address their



challenges. The environmental criteria train and empower fishers to better understand the results of their fishing activities, as well as how to improve fishing practices, raising awareness of the importance of following good resource management. The requirements of the Capture Fisheries Standard improve working conditions, access to services, and ensure fair wages for individuals who are part of the program. Furthermore, through requirements around documentation, transaction reporting, and contracts, the Capture Fisheries Standard also regulates product traceability.

The primary goal of Fair Trade USA is to enable sustainable livelihoods for the farmers, fishers, and workers who grow, catch, and produce the goods consumers purchase. Our Capture Fisheries Standard focuses on social, economic and environmental progress, as well as working conditions which support fishers and workers around the world.

5. Project Activities

We began the process of updating the Capture Fisheries Standard in mid-late 2019 and aim to publish the revised Standard in early 2021. Outlined below are the activities over the course of the project's lifecycle.

Step	Timeline	Description
Initiate standard review process	Q4 2019	<p>Conducting a detailed internal review of the current CFS, processing learnings from monitoring, implementing and evaluating the Standard since 2014. During this process strategic questions were identified, and a framework of the CFS was developed for discussion.</p> <p>This phase includes consultation with internal stakeholders, including Fair Trade USA staff and Field Staff. Activities include stakeholder mapping, identifying topics for deeper discussion, as well as refining the plan for external outreach. It includes at least one presentation to the relevant staff, as well as cross-functional discussions on key themes such as governance, fishery-size definition, and separation of compliance criteria into progress and critical criteria. Additionally, an implementer summit is held with Fair Trade USA implementers from Asia to gather feedback from their experiences and to help prioritize topics for the revision.</p>
		<p>Formally begin the revision process and make a revision plan publicly available on our website.</p> <p>The Standards team develops an initial draft of the updated Capture Fisheries Standard. Targeted external stakeholders are consulted on key topics identified in previous steps of the revision.</p>
Develop first public draft of revised standard	Q4 2019 - Q2 2020	
Public consultation	Q3- Q4 2020	The draft Capture Fisheries Standard is published for public consultation at the end of Q2. The consultation will be open for two months, this public consultation is part of Fair Trade



Analysis and revision of standard	Q4 2020 - Q1 2021	<p>USA's commitment to integrate stakeholder input and to follow the consultation process laid out in the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice.</p> <p>During the public consultation phase, all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate and provide feedback on the CFS. Consultation methods include an online public comment form, email announcement, and direct outreach.</p> <p>The Standards Team reviews the comments received during the public consultation phase and uses this feedback to inform the changes to the CFS. They make recommendations to the Standards Committee regarding the content of the final Standard.</p> <p>A summary of the feedback from the consultation phase and how the feedback was incorporated will be published. If needed, further consultation will be held to address any pending topics and a second summary of feedback will be published. If no further consultation is needed an announcement of the plan for release of the final Capture Fisheries Standard will be published.</p>
Approval and publication	Q1-Q2 2021	<p>Fair Trade USA's Standards Committee and Executive Team approves the Capture Fisheries Standard 2.0.0. The approved document is translated into multiple languages and implemented. The final version will be made available and its publication will be announced, along with a transition plan including the effective date of the revised Capture Fisheries Standard to relevant partners and stakeholders.</p>

6. Summary of Changes Since Last Revision

The Capture Fisheries Standard went through a minor revision during 2017, it was published on November 2017, and became effective on January 2018. Below is a summary of the changes done during this last minor revision.

Date of Revision	Description of Change
November, 2017	<p>Clarified language in the Intent and Clarification of multiple criteria, this enabled a better implementation of the Standard.</p> <p>Consolidated the two separate documents (Standard and Compliance Criteria) into a single document containing all the information for compliance. This change ensured the CFS matched the format of the recently published (March 2017) Agricultural Production Standard (APS). Additionally, it allowed consistency across the different Standards held by Fair Trade USA.</p>



7. Decision-making Process

Fair Trade USA's Standards and Implementation Resources Team works with the Standards Committee to review stakeholder feedback, discuss core strategic issues, and ensure all Fair Trade USA standards' content is consistent with the organization's vision, strategy, theory of change, and impact goals.

The Standards Committee is responsible for approving final standard content. Once the standard's content has been approved, the Executive Team will review adherence to Fair Trade USA's Standards Development and Revision Procedure. The Executive Team's final approval closes the standard development or revision process.

8. How to Get Involved

The Standards Team at Fair Trade USA is leading this project, the Draft CFS 2.0.0 will be open for public consultation between the end of September and the end of November. We invite you to provide us with your feedback by filling out our online survey, available on the Standards Development and Revision webpage. You can also email us directly with your comments at standards@fairtradeusa.org.

Summary of the comments received and Fair Trade USA responses will be publicly shared along with the final Standard.

