

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP)

Wild-Caught Fish Listening Session

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NOP Listening Session Roadmap

- Why a Listening Session on Wild-Caught Fish?
- Brief History of Wild-Caught Fish and the NOP
- Understanding Organic Certification, Accreditation & Enforcement
- Wild-Caught Fishery Certifications and USDA AMS Definition
- Our Questions for You!
 - Use Chat for Responses and Feedback
 - Names and Chats will be Published on AMS Website

Why a Listening Session on Wild-Caught Fish?

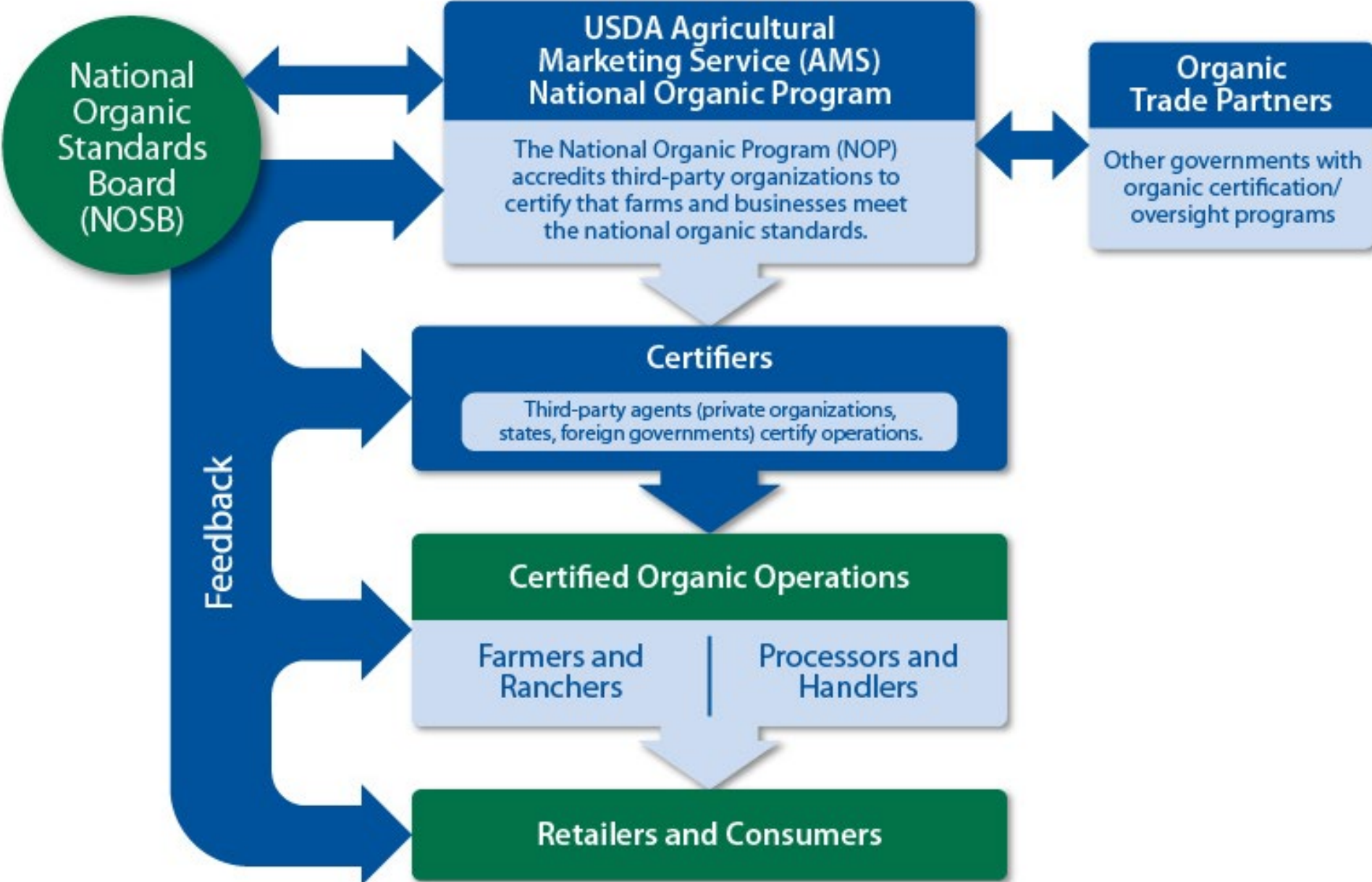
- Congress has urged the NOP to assess the feasibility and appropriateness of developing organic production, handling, and labeling standards for wild caught seafood.
- NOP is reaching out to wild caught fish stakeholders, the organic community, and other interested stakeholders to invite feedback.

Brief History of Wild-Caught Fish & the NOP

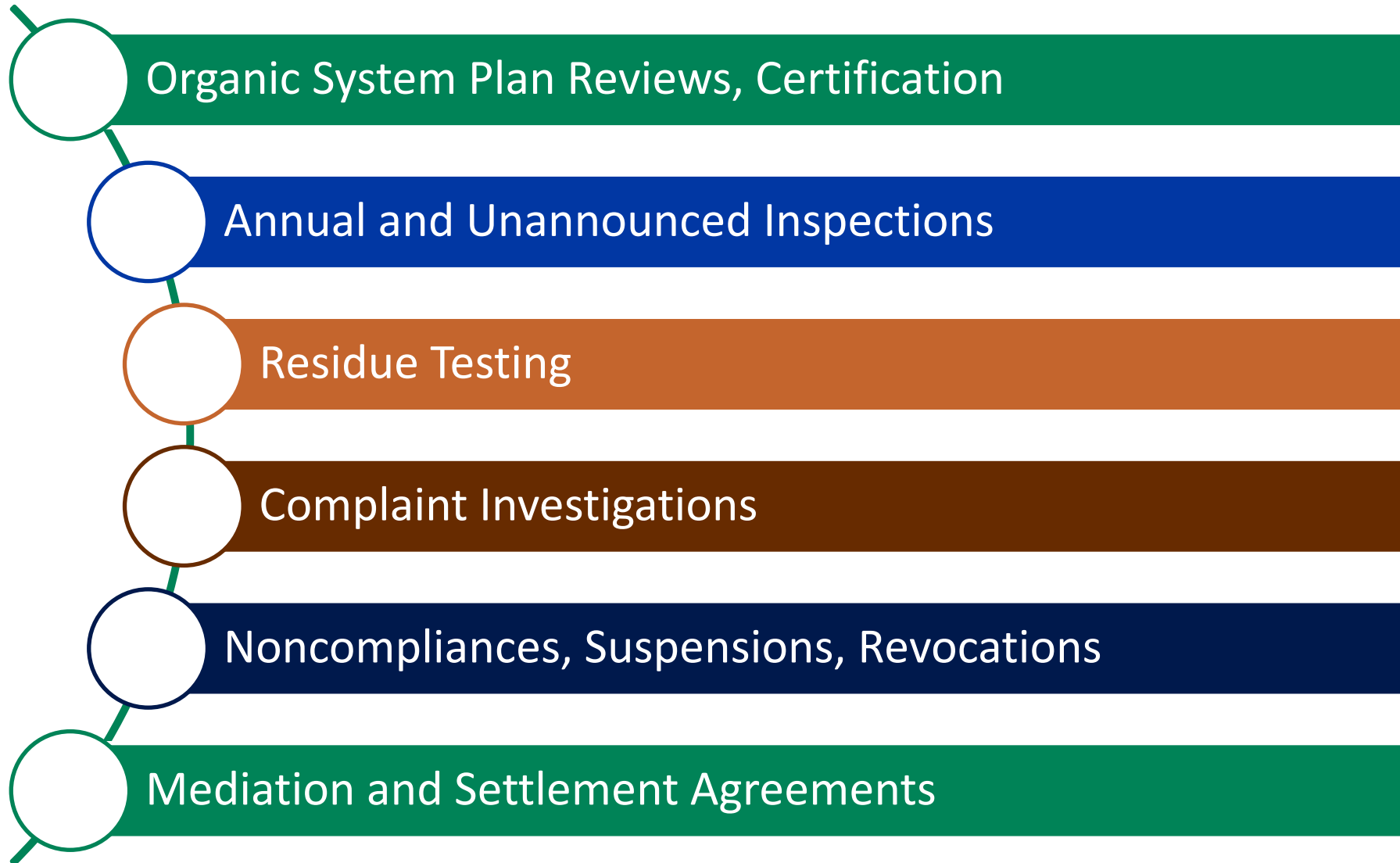


- May 2001: National Organic Standards Board (NOSB): Only a discrete population of aquatic animals, analogous to herd of ruminants or flock of poultry, are suitable for organic certification.
- April 2003: Congress amended section 6506 of OFPA to provide for the certification of wild caught fish as organic.
- May 2005: Secretary appointed 12 aquatic animal and wild fisheries experts to the Aquaculture Working Group (AWG) to recommend standards for aquatic animals and aquaculture, including the consideration of wild caught fish as organic.
- Nov 2007: NOSB hosted symposium on feeding wild-caught fish to fish being raised as organic in aquaculture facilities and the use of open net pens.
- 2008 - 2010: NOSB submitted multiple recommendations on aquaculture to the NOP
- 2012 - 2016: NOP drafted a proposed rule for aquaculture that does not include wild-caught fish. The proposed rule was not published and is not on the Regulatory Agenda at this time.

The Public-Private Partnership of Organic Certification and Oversight



Certification & Enforcement



Wild-Caught Fishery Certifications and Definitions



Certification Bodies:

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification

USDA AMS Country of Origin Label Definition of Wild Caught Fish:

- Naturally-born or hatchery-originated, released in the wild and caught, taken, or harvested from noncontrolled waters or beds.
- Must include country of origin and method of production at the point of sale.
- U.S. origin - are hatched, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States and have not undergone substantial transformation outside of the U.S.
- Imported fish or shellfish that have undergone substantial transformation in the U.S. labeled as “From Country X, Processed in the U.S.” or “Product of X, U.S.”

Moving to Chat Phase....

- **Background:** We used this same approach for early development sessions for the Organic Integrity Database, the Organic Integrity Learning Center, and the Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rulemaking. It is a proven way to get great feedback early in a process.
- **Process:**
 - We will start with 4 main questions to facilitate flow.
 - Please start each chat line with the number of the question you are responding to – I will also paste the questions in Chat.
 - Remember – your name and chat will be published in the Chat Record.

Questions for Chat



1. What is the industry's definition of wild caught fish?
2. What is your feedback about the development of organic production and handling regulations for wild caught fish?
3. What types of provisions might differentiate organic wild caught fish from conventional wild caught fish in the production phase?
During the processing/handling phase?
4. What would the impact of organic production and handling regulation be on the wild caught seafood industry?

Follow-Up Questions



- 5. How could wild caught fish be regulated and enforced for organic labeling?
- 6. How does the wild-caught fish industry control the origin of harvested fish, control what is fed to their harvested fish, and treat medical conditions of their harvested fish?
- 7. What location would an inspector use for announced and unannounced inspections?
- 8. What could an organic system plan look like for wild caught fish production or wild caught fish processing?

Next Steps



- Written input due March 26, 2021 to Valerie.Frances@usda.gov
 - Do not need to resend chatted content
- NOP will post on AMS website:
 - Slides
 - Chat Record
 - Session Transcript
- NOP will prepare Report for Congress – to be posted on AMS website.