



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Confidence in certified seafood



GSSI TEAM

GSSI STEERING BOARD 2016

Bill DiMento, Vice President of Quality Assurance, Sustainability, and Government Affairs, High Liner Foods Inc. – Co-chair of the GSSI Steering Board

Tania Taranovski, Director of Programs and Operations, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium – Co-chair of the GSSI Steering Board

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Friederike Sorg, Project Coordinator Global Program on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, GIZ

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Christian von Dorrien, Leader Fisheries and Environment Research Group, Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries Thünen Institute

Andrea K. Weber, Director Corporate Responsibility
Metro Cash & Carry, Metro AG

GSSI SECRETARIAT 2016

Herman Wisse, GSSI Program Director

Dr. Jens Kahle, Benchmark Manager

Niklas Wehner, Outreach Coordinator

A WORD FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE GSSI STEERING BOARD



Bill DiMento

Vice President of Quality Assurance, Sustainability, and Government Affairs, High Liner Foods Inc.



Tania Taranovski

Director of Programs and Operations, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium

2016 MARKS THE END OF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR

for the GSSI global partnership, which has been hard at work to deliver on GSSI's mission to build confidence in certified seafood.

With the Global Benchmark Tool fully up and running, momentum grew rapidly and an increasing number of seafood certification schemes signed up to be benchmarked in 2016. Important milestones were achieved in July and November when first Alaska RFM, and subsequently Iceland RFM, became the first GSSI-recognized schemes, and the public consultation for MSC's draft benchmark report came to a close at the end of the year. Taking the results of the Tool further in 2016, over 20 companies joined the GSSI commitment, translating benchmarking outcomes into change across the supply chain.

GSSI's partnership expanded its network in 2016 with 10 new companies coming on board from seven countries, adding their commitment to the existing support of 35 partners. GSSI also made headlines throughout the year, presenting at 20 conferences and trade shows in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia and reaching over 2,400 stakeholders. GSSI updates gathered over 40,000 Twitter views and the initiative was featured in more than 80 articles in the seafood media, including *The Financial Times Special Report on the Future of Food*.

The year also marked another first with GSSI being run as an independent Foundation supported by its partners, and the end phase of the public-private partnership with GIZ. Thanks to the close collaboration with GIZ (including vital financial and human resources), GSSI has been able to go from strength to strength, building its global reach and expertise. Together with continued backing from the FAO, GSSI presented to over 130 countries at the 32nd Committee on Fisheries, and continued its work in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. GSSI moved ahead in developing the platform's strategic direction, exploring the role it can play in addressing the seafood sector's collective challenges through its non-competitive approach.

We warmly thank all GSSI partners and sector stakeholders for their continued support and strong commitment and look forward to jointly building on this success in 2017 and beyond.

WHAT GSSI DELIVERED IN 2016

FEBRUARY



Intrafish recognized GSSI Program Director, Herman Wisse, as one of their Top 40 under 40.



40 under 40: Herman Wisse, program manager, Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative

"We need to trust each other and build a common future for aquaculture and fisheries. Less talking, more action!"

GSSI MISSION:

ENSURE CONFIDENCE IN THE SUPPLY AND PROMOTION OF CERTIFIED SEAFOOD AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT IN SEAFOOD CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GSSI partners present to 60+ member states at the 15th Session of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

MARCH



GSSI trains 5 additional Benchmark Committee members to review draft Benchmark Reports and ensure high quality of the Benchmark Process



GSSI Public Consultation on Benchmark Report for Alaska RFM Certification Program.

APRIL

GSSI Partner Council sets strategic priorities for future of GSSI following an internal consultation..



METRO GROUP puts GSSI at the heart of their 2020 vision for more sustainable seafood.

JULY

Alaska RFM Certification Program becomes first GSSI-recognized scheme.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GSSI presents to 130+ Member States at 32nd Session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries.

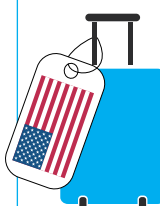


KROGER launches new seafood policy and makes GSSI recognition a core requirement for credible certification.

Four companies join GSSI as new Funding Partners: CONXEMAR, THE FISHIN' CO., FORTUNE FISH AND GOURMET, AND THAI UNION.



AUGUST



GSSI visits US presenting at industry conferences and meets with over 40 interested companies, partners and NGOs in 15 states.



GSSI Public Consultation on Benchmark Report for Iceland Responsible Fisheries Certification Program.

SEPTEMBER



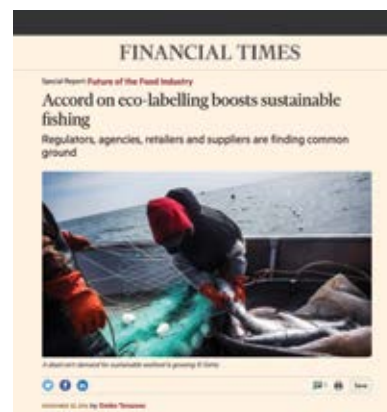
GSSI Steering Board approves mandates to start scoping future strategic direction of GSSI based on outcomes of the discussions at the Partner Council meeting.

NOVEMBER

Iceland RFM Certification Program becomes second GSSI-recognized scheme.



GSSI Public Consultation on Benchmark Report for MSC.



GSSI featured in Financial Times Special Report: Future of the Food Industry.

DECEMBER

Six companies join GSSI as new Funding Partners:
MARINER SEAFOOD, CABOMAR, NOREBO, HB GRANDI, KLAAS PUUL, AND ROYAL GREENLAND.



End of GSSI's initial Public-Private Partnership with GIZ and definition of priorities for future collaboration.

GSSI VISION:
MORE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD
FOR EVERYONE

GSSI GOALS IN 2017 AND BEYOND

2017+

- ▶ More schemes sign up to be benchmarked and are GSSI-recognized.
- ▶ Seafood sector (industry, NGOs, governments) continues to use Tool outcomes in operations and certification schemes adopt the Tool, supporting continuous improvement.

2018

- ▶ Formal review of the Global Benchmark Tool to keep it updated and relevant.

By 2020

- ▶ Target to achieve 30% of seafood to be certified to a GSSI-recognized scheme.

20+ COMPANIES JOINED THE COMMITMENT
TO RECOGNIZE ALL GSSI-RECOGNIZED SCHEMES
WHEN SOURCING CERTIFIED SEAFOOD

60+ COMMENTS RECEIVED
DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS
ON **3 GSSI BENCHMARKED**
CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

5 ADDITIONAL BENCHMARK COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND 1 INDEPENDENT EXPERT
TRAINED ON THE GSSI BENCHMARK TOOL

10 COMPANIES FROM 7 COUNTRIES
JOINED THE GSSI FOUNDATION
AS NEW FUNDING PARTNERS

2 SEAFOOD CERTIFICATION SCHEMES
WERE RECOGNIZED BY GSSI

2,400+ SEAFOOD SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS
REACHED AT **20+ GSSI SESSIONS**
IN **15 COUNTRIES**

8 GSSI STEERING BOARD MEETINGS HELD
WITH **15 BOARD MEMBERS**

1 GSSI PARTNER COUNCIL HELD
WITH **20 PARTNERS**

4 MORE GSSI SPEAKER SERIES
INTERVIEWS ADDED ONLINE

12 GSSI PRESS RELEASES AND E-UPDATES
REACHED **1,300+ SUBSCRIBERS**

80+ ARTICLES ON GSSI
APPEARED IN SEAFOOD MEDIA

40,000+ TWITTER VIEWS
500+ TWITTER FOLLOWERS

GSSI'S BENCHMARK TOOL IN 2016: BRINGING CLARITY TO CERTIFICATION

GSSI CHARTER OBJECTIVE

to build, operate and maintain a common, consistent and global benchmark tool for seafood certification schemes.

✓ DELIVERED & ONGOING

GSSI SUCCESS FACTOR:

Market share for certified seafood

There is willing and informed involvement by seafood certification schemes.

✓ BEING DELIVERED

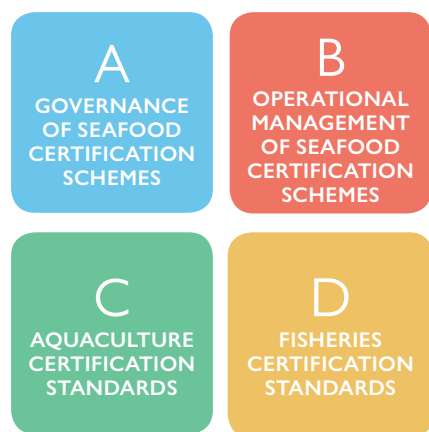
GSSI SUCCESS FACTOR:

Delivering improvement

The mission of GSSI is to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood worldwide as well as to promote improvement in the seafood certification and labelling schemes.

✓ BEING DELIVERED

THE FOUR PARTS OF THE GSSI BENCHMARK TOOL



IN 2016, GSSI proved that its Global Benchmark Tool, based on internationally-recognized FAO guidelines, was in demand and worked. Throughout the year, over eight schemes worldwide registered their interest in being benchmarked by GSSI. In 2016, Alaska RFM and Iceland RFM became GSSI-recognized and MSC finalized the public consultation process.

GSSI published the results of the benchmarking process online, with a dedicated section on www.ourgssi.org, highlighting recognized schemes and providing access to the benchmark reports. Email updates went out to over 1300 seafood sector stakeholders asking for comments during the 30-day Public Consultation period on each scheme's draft benchmark report. Over 60 comments and letters from five organizations were received during the three consultations. A wide range of media sites including the Financial Times, IntraFish, Seafood News, Seafood Source, The Aquaculturist, The Fish Site and Undercurrent News reported on GSSI's benchmark updates. To support the benchmarking process, five additional Benchmark Committee Members and an additional Independent Expert were trained on the Tool.

As a result, in 2016, GSSI has been successful in setting up the first level playing field for certification schemes, which has started to bring greater clarity and transparency to the certification landscape. At the same time, schemes have voiced how engaging with the robust GSSI benchmarking process has helped them in making further improvements.





ICELAND RFM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GSSI-recognized, 8 November 2016

"We are proud that the IRFM Certification Programme is recognized as meeting all the Essential Components of the GSSI Benchmark Tool. The participation in the GSSI process has been a valuable journey for us and has given us the opportunity to look at our own certification program in a critical way. We expect that this tool, that honours internationally adopted principles and guidelines, will level the playing field and promote order in the market for seafood."



Dr. Hrefna Karlsdóttir, Manager, Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation (IRFF)



ALASKA RFM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GSSI-recognized, 12 July 2016

"ASMI appreciates the opportunity to be part of the GSSI process and would like to thank all those involved for many years of dedicated work. We are pleased Alaska RFM is recognized as meeting all applicable Essential Components of this Benchmark Tool. Seafood buyers want to make informed choices and GSSI provides a tool for them to identify credible certification programs. We look forward to seeing how this will help resolve some of the challenges faced by those in the seafood industry."



Susan Marks, Sustainability Director, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)



MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL GSSI-recognized, 14 March 2017

"The MSC offers a science and evidence based program to recognise sustainable fishing practices throughout the world, rewarding existing good practice and driving real and lasting change on a global scale. Recognition from GSSI reaffirms the rigor and credibility of MSC certification".



Rupert Howes,
Chief Executive of the MSC

GSSI'S BENCHMARK TOOL: BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN CERTIFIED SEAFOOD

GSSI CHARTER OBJECTIVE

to reduce cost by eliminating redundancy and improving operational efficiency of seafood certification schemes, thereby increasing affordability and flexibility within the supply chain.

✓ **DELIVERED & ONGOING**

GSSI SUCCESS FACTOR

Committed businesses

Committed retailers, brand manufacturers, food service companies and their suppliers. Their organizations commit themselves to consider the outcomes of the Benchmark process in their daily operations.

✓ **BEING DELIVERED**

IN 2016, over 20 major global buyers went a step further in their commitment to support all GSSI recognized schemes by updating seafood sourcing policies and joining the GSSI Partner Commitment, which was picked up by the media and captured on www.ourgssi.org. This commitment is promoting supply chain acceptance of seafood from fisheries and aquaculture operations that have been certified by GSSI-recognized schemes. Thanks to dedicated outreach by GSSI partners at conferences in 2016, more companies registered their interest in making this pledge going forward.

GSSI's benchmark is now starting to provide harvesters, producers, suppliers and retailers with a credible choice of schemes, driving down costs and promoting environmental sustainability.

THE BENCHMARK PROCESS:



VOLUNTARY
SCHEME OWNER
STARTS PROCESS



IMPARTIAL
LED BY
INDEPENDENT
EXPERTS



TRANSPARENT
30-DAY PUBLIC
CONSULTATION



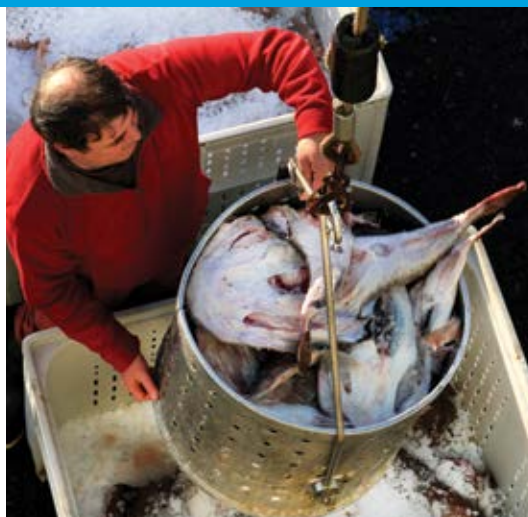
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
STEERING BOARD
RECOGNITION



SELECTED SEAFOOD SOURCING HEADLINES AND POLICIES



AHOLD DELHAIZE welcomes GSSI, as it provides the mechanism that major seafood buyers need to mainstream sustainability in our supply chains, and to better reach and improve fishing and fish farming practices globally. We hope to see that GSSI recognition becomes the norm when sourcing certified seafood.



By 2020, **KROGER** will source: 100% of its wild-caught seafood from fisheries that are Marine Stewardship

Council (MSC) certified, in MSC full assessment, in comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), or certified by other GSSI-recognized programs.



METRO GROUP publishes new seafood policy stating that 80% of its top species "will be certified by 2020 according to [a] [...] certification scheme that has been recognised by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI).



Canada-based processor **HIGH LINER FOODS** will add the sustainability certification Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management to the 'toolkit' of eco-labels that it uses. High Liner decided to add the certification, which is operated by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), because of its recognition by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI).



Other certification programs exist but have differing levels of credibility. If other certification programs are recognized by the GSSI benchmarking tool, **SODEXO** will also recognize these certification programs. Sodexo encourages its suppliers to themselves become members of the GSSI and to also recognize the certification schemes that will be recognized by the GSSI in the future



MORRISON'S is committed to accept all GSSI recognized certification schemes when sourcing certified seafood.



GSSI'S GROWING GLOBAL

● GSSI OUTREACH AT CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY

SeaWeb Seafood Summit
St Julian's, Malta

15th Session of the FAO COFI
Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
Agadir, Morocco

MARCH

Seafood Expo North America
Boston, Mass., United States

APRIL

Seafood Expo Global
Brussels, Belgium

MAY

CAPPMA Workshop
Xiamen, China

Tuna 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

JUNE

European Fisheries
Development Advisor
Network Meeting
Paris, France

Prince of Wales' International
Sustainability Unit "The Global
Transition to Sustainable
Fisheries - Taking Stock"
Conference,
London, UK

SeaFish Common
Language Group
London, UK

JULY

32nd Session FAO
Committee on Fisheries
Rome, Italy

AUGUST

FMI Global
Sustainability Summit
New Orleans, LA., US

SEPTEMBER

GAA GOAL
Guangzhou, China

OCTOBER

Conxemar Conference
Vigo, Spain

FAO Vigo Dialogue
on Decent Work in
Fisheries and Aquaculture
Vigo, Spain

Ground Fish Forum
Hamburg, Germany

OECD Committee
on Fisheries
Paris, France

Meeting of the
Dutch Fisheries Federation
The Hague, Netherlands

NOVEMBER

SeaFish Common Language
Group
London, UK

German Seafood Industry
Roundtable
Berlin, Germany

Seafood Value Chain
Roundtable
Ottawa, Canada

DECEMBER

Seafood Industry
Sustainability Seminar
Reykjavik, Iceland



● GSSI SPEAKER SERIES



Ernesto Godelman,
Chairperson, CeDePesca,
Argentina

"NGOs will use the GSSI benchmark to encourage different certification schemes to improve. It's important that new partners join GSSI – the participation of NGOs gives more robustness to the programme."



Alastair Macfarlane,
Trade Policy and Business
Consultant, Seafood New Zealand

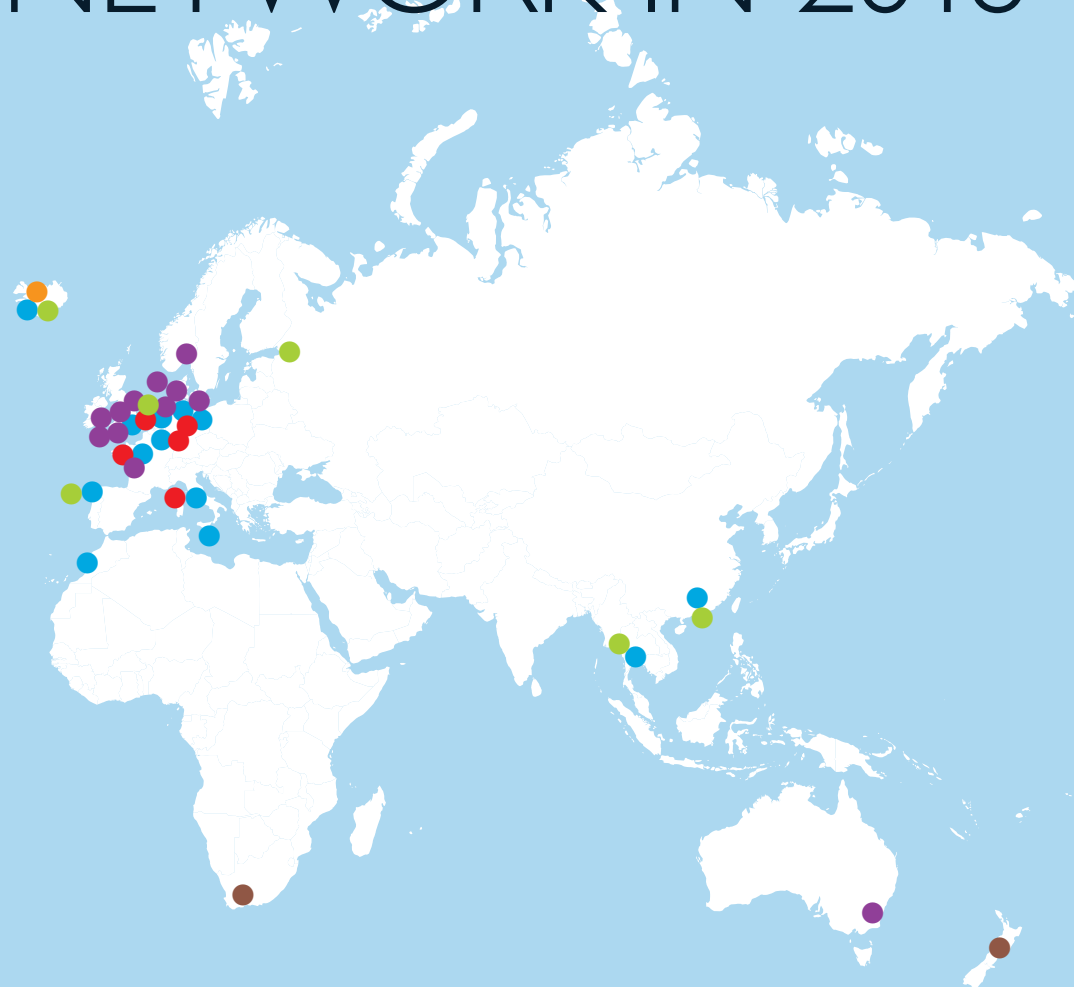
"The impact of GSSI's first recognition is proof of concept in the marketplace – the opportunity for those in the fishing sector to have confidence that this tool will work for them."



Belemane Semoli,
Director Aquaculture Research
and Development, Department of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
South Africa

"GSSI will help governments, like my own, which are still in the process of developing a certification scheme. We can work from the Benchmark Tool backwards."

NETWORK IN 2016



2 GSSI-RECOGNIZED SCHEMES

Alaska RFM
Certification Program
Seattle, WA, US

Iceland RFM
Certification Program
Reykjavik, Iceland

AFFILIATED PARTNERS

FAO, Rome, Italy

GIZ, Eschborn, Germany

IDH, Utrecht, Netherlands

Thunen Institute
Rostock, Germany

WWF, Washington, DC, US

New England Aquarium
Boston, MA, US

Ocean Outcomes
Portland, OR, US

CeDePesca
Buenos Aires, Argentina

SeaWeb Europe
Paris, France

10 NEW FUNDING PARTNERS FROM 7 COUNTRIES

Cabomar, Vigo, Spain

Conxemar, Vigo, Spain

Fortune Fish Company
Bensenville, IL, US

HB Grandi, Reykjavik, Iceland

Klaas Puul
Volendam, Netherlands

Mariner Seafood
New Bedford, MA, US

Norebo, St Petersburg, Russia

Royal Greenland
Copenhagen, Denmark

Thai Union, Bangkok, Thailand

The Fishin' Company
Pittsburg, PA, US

FUNDING PARTNERS

A.Espersen A/S
Ronne, Denmark

Ahold Delhaize
Zaandam, Netherlands

American Seafoods Group, LLC., Seattle, CA., US

ANOVA Seafood BV
Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

Bumble Bee Foods, LLC.
San Diego, CA, US

Darden Corporation
Orlando, FL, US

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
Canberra, Australia

Gorton's Inc
Gloucester, MA, US

Grobest, La Verne, CA, US

High Liner Foods, Inc.
Lunenburg, Canada

Loblaw Co. Ltd
Brampton, Canada

Marine Harvest ASA
Oslo, Norway

Marks and Spencer PLC.
London, UK

Metro AG
Düsseldorf, Germany

National Fisheries Institute
Washington DC, US

Nomad Foods Group (Iglo), London, UK

Pacific Seafood Group
Clackamas, OR, US

Rubicon Resources LLC.
Culver City, CA, US

Sainsbury's Supermarkets, Ltd.
London, UK

Sea Delight, LLC, Miami, FL, US

Sea Fish Industry Authority
Grimsby, UK

Slade Gorton & Company, Inc.
Boston, MA, US

Sodexo, Paris, France

Trident Seafoods Corporation
Seattle, WA, US

Wm Morrisons Supermarkets, PLC., Bradford, UK

GSSI EXPANDS THE PARTNERSHIP IN 2016: NEW FUNDING PARTNERS JOIN

GSSI CHARTER OBJECTIVE

to provide an international multi-stakeholder platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange in seafood sustainability.

✓ DELIVERED & ONGOING

GSSI SUCCESS FACTOR:

A solid economic business case

Suppliers are able to reduce their costs and maintain or improve their income.

✓ ONGOING

IN 2016, 10 new Partners, including suppliers, processors and harvesters from Greenland, Iceland, The Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Thailand and the United States, joined GSSI's multi-stakeholder platform in support of GSSI's vision of "more sustainable seafood for everyone."

More companies worldwide have also registered their interest in joining as GSSI Funding Partners



"We joined GSSI as we fully support its mission to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood. We encourage businesses to help us build a level playing field for certification and join the GSSI partnership."

Maiko van der Meer, CEO



"GSSI is a unique opportunity for us to collaborate with global stakeholders and drive change towards a more sustainable seafood industry."

Vilhjálmur Vilhjálmsson, CEO



"Certification is a powerful tool for Fortune Fish to provide assurance to our customers that our products meet their high expectations. But the increase of seafood certification schemes has led to confusion along the supply chain over how to recognize a credible scheme. We became part of GSSI as we fully support its mission to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood as well as to promote improvement in seafood certification schemes. We encourage our industry peers to follow our commitment and join the GSSI partnership."

Sean O'Scannlain, President and CEO





“Becoming part of GSSI was a straightforward decision. The seafood sector needs more clarity on certification and GSSI provides the ideal solution to our common challenge.”

Sergey Sennikov,
Chief Sustainability Officer

“We are proud to be the first Spanish company to join GSSI’s partnership and call on our industry peers across Europe to follow. We will now be accepting GSSI recognized schemes in sourcing certified seafood.”

Eduardo Freire, Commercial Director

NOREBO

“Joining GSSI was a natural choice – GSSI’s vision of more sustainable seafood for everyone reflects our commitment to our customers. We look forward to working jointly on the challenges facing the seafood sector.”

Jack Flynn, CEO and Founder

“Individual responses will not work for the global challenges of our sector. We are proud to be part of GSSI’s unique partnership of industry, NGOs, governments and the FAO and encourage more companies to join us in shaping the seafood sector’s future.”

Mikael Thinghuus, CEO

cabomar



GSSI'S PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH IN 2016

GSSI CHARTER OBJECTIVE

to provide an international multi-stakeholder platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange in seafood sustainability.

✓ DELIVERED & ONGOING

In 2016, GSSI consolidated its strong public-private partnership approach with continued support from GIZ and the FAO, who have been closely involved since GSSI's launch in 2013. Both organizations have driven GSSI's work to involve producer countries, raising awareness among governments and stakeholders worldwide and promoting sustainable development.

GIZ

2016 marks the end of the highly successful public-private partnership set up between GIZ and the 35 GSSI Founding Companies, which was co-funded through BMZ's public-private partnership facility – develoPPP.de. The initial partnership was extended to four years and funding doubled, which allowed GSSI to develop and run its flagship Global Benchmark Tool.

In 2016, GIZ continued to provide vital expertise to GSSI by seconding staff to the Secretariat to drive the Benchmarking and Outreach operations, by overseeing strategic decision-making as part of the GSSI Steering Board, and by supporting GSSI with financial resources.

This close engagement with GSSI reflects German development cooperation's longstanding promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production in line with its wider strategy.

BMZ 10-point Action Plan for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries (selected targets)

- Encourage sustainable fishing and aquaculture
- Encourage sustainable, socially responsible processing and marketing of fish
- Build strategic partnerships with the private sector

GIZ remains a committed GSSI partner and, going forward, will be supporting the exploration of GSSI's potential future role in promoting socially responsible practices in fisheries and aquaculture.

On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

develoPPP.de



Implemented by



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



"GSSI is an outstanding example for how successful collaboration between governments, private sector and civil society can drive change towards a more sustainable seafood sector."

Tim Sauler, Senior Policy Officer,
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ), Germany

**GSSI RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM FAO MEMBER STATES
AT THE 32ND COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES IN JULY 2016
AND AT THE 15TH COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE
IN FEBRUARY 2016**



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



**INTERVIEW WITH
DR. AUDUN LEM,**

Deputy Director of
the Policy and Resources
Division in the Fisheries and
Aquaculture Department,
FAO

**What has FAO achieved by partnering with
GSSI in 2016?**

GSSI builds on FAO instruments, especially the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Ecolabelling and Certification Guidelines. This is also why we partner with GSSI. We were very pleased to see the Global Benchmark Tool being successfully launched at the 20th anniversary celebrations of the FAO Code of Conduct in Vigo. The feedback that we received from partners, media and the industry in 2016 was very encouraging. We saw for the first time a lot of interest from new stakeholders and from scheme owners to go through the benchmark process. The first recognitions also resulted in very positive responses from our member states.

**How does FAO view the milestones of the first
GSSI-recognized schemes and partner pledges?**

Through the Benchmark Process we're now seeing that the principles set by the member states are being recognized and implemented. It is highly encouraging that various large buyers have bought into GSSI's Benchmarking Tool, recognizing the excellent work GSSI has done as well as the strength of its global platform. This collaboration between the public and the private sectors is fundamental if we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Especially since much of today's seafood supply base is rooted in developing countries.

**How have FAO member states engaged with
GSSI in 2016 and with what impact?**

In 2016 we held two very important meetings; at the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in Agadir we hosted a side event specifically on GSSI with very positive feedback from our membership. There is a lot of interest, also from national governments, including in developing countries, wanting to set up their own national schemes. They understand the need to achieve international recognition and are therefore showing growing interest to engage with GSSI.

**What opportunities exist for members
to get involved in 2017+?**

There are different levels. We see a renewed interest by national governments and agencies in national certification schemes. But they understand that in order to achieve wide recognition they have to build on internationally recognized Guidelines, such as the FAO Guidelines. So hopefully by entering the GSSI Benchmark Process we will see in the future a number of schemes from the developed and developing countries that achieve international recognition.

**Where will FAO focus its collaboration
with GSSI going forward?**

In the last couple of years a number of new Guidelines have been adopted by FAO's members and other international organizations, for example FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries and the International Labor Organisation's Convention 188 on Work in Fishing. I think that we will see increased interest by GSSI's stakeholders and partners to evaluate whether some of these components should form part of GSSI's future work.

**How will GSSI's work support the delivery
of the Sustainable Development Goals?**

GSSI is certainly supporting the implementation of various SDGs, in particular number 14. GSSI's work towards more clarity in the market place will reduce cost for scheme users and support the overarching goal of improving the sustainability of capture fisheries and aquaculture practices by driving the implementation of international guidelines.

GSSI: PARTNERING FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SECTOR

GSSI CHARTER PRINCIPLES

The participants recognize that there is much to understand about how to deliver sustainability in seafood and aquaculture production. The improvement of seafood sustainability shall be at the heart of the work for all GSSI participants.

✓ DELIVERED & ONGOING

GSSI VISION: More sustainable seafood for everyone.

GSSI MISSION: To ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood as well as to promote improvement in the seafood certification schemes.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, in particular 8, 12, 14, and 17, provide the framework for addressing sustainability concerns connected to the rising global demand for seafood.



Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth

Goal 12 Responsible consumption

Goal 14 Life under water

Goal 17 Partnerships for the goals

In 2016, GSSI's work to promote credible certification through the first results of the Global Benchmark Tool has, in turn, been supporting the sustainable development agenda and Goals 8, 12 and 14 on decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and life under water. GSSI's network of seafood companies, NGOs, experts, governments and international organizations grew in 2016, in support of Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals.

Building on this work, in April 2016, GSSI's Partner Council decided to continue to align GSSI's future strategic priorities including its benchmark operations, with the global 2030 agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Private sector industry leaders have repeatedly expressed the desire to create a global, multi-stakeholder platform that could develop a common approach to identifying and mitigating the key sectorial impacts both at the production and consumption side of the seafood supply chain.

It is widely recognized that impacts can be of ecological, social and economic nature. Approaches to promote improvement in aquaculture and fisheries addressing the main sectorial impacts, are often inconsistent, differ in scope and/or are limited in stakeholder engagement. This makes it difficult for the market to identify and engage with those efforts that are genuine, credible and deliver measurable improvement. In addition to this, the limited engagement of governments impairs the scalability of efforts.

In particular social responsibility and promoting improvement in aquaculture and fisheries which cannot (yet) meet certification requirements have been identified as priority areas alongside the continuation of benchmark activities and ensuring confidence in certified seafood. Moving forward, GSSI will explore the role it can play in addressing these collective challenges through its non-competitive, approach and unique public-private partnership.

GOING FORWARD IN 2017, GSSI is planning the following activities to explore the workstreams:

- Studies to map out stakeholders and initiatives and identify GSSI's added value
- Stakeholder consultations at seafood shows in Boston and Brussels on GSSI's approach and role
- Recommendation and workplan submitted for approval to the GSSI Steering Board by June



JOINING GSSI

MOMENTUM IS GROWING as more companies worldwide sign up and join GSSI's partnership and as certification schemes show strong interest in becoming GSSI-recognized.

GSSI is encouraging global leaders to join and work together to shape the seafood sector's future.



FIND OUT MORE:
WWW.OURGSSI.ORG

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FUNDING PARTNERS



AFFILIATED PARTNERS



On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

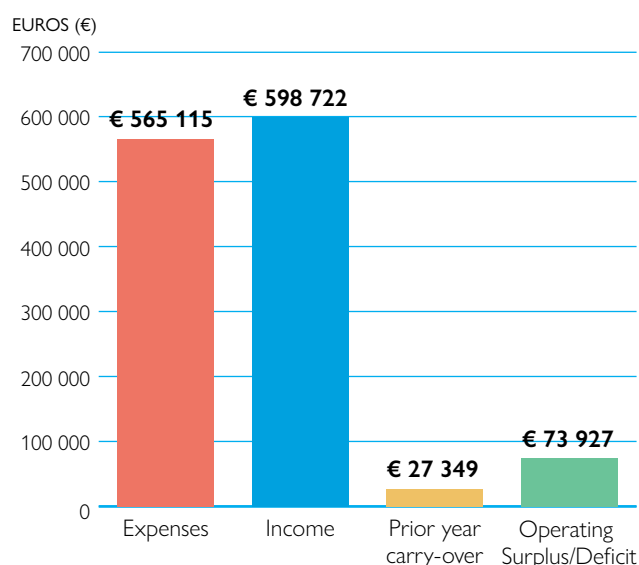
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für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GSSI 2016 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2016



Expenses

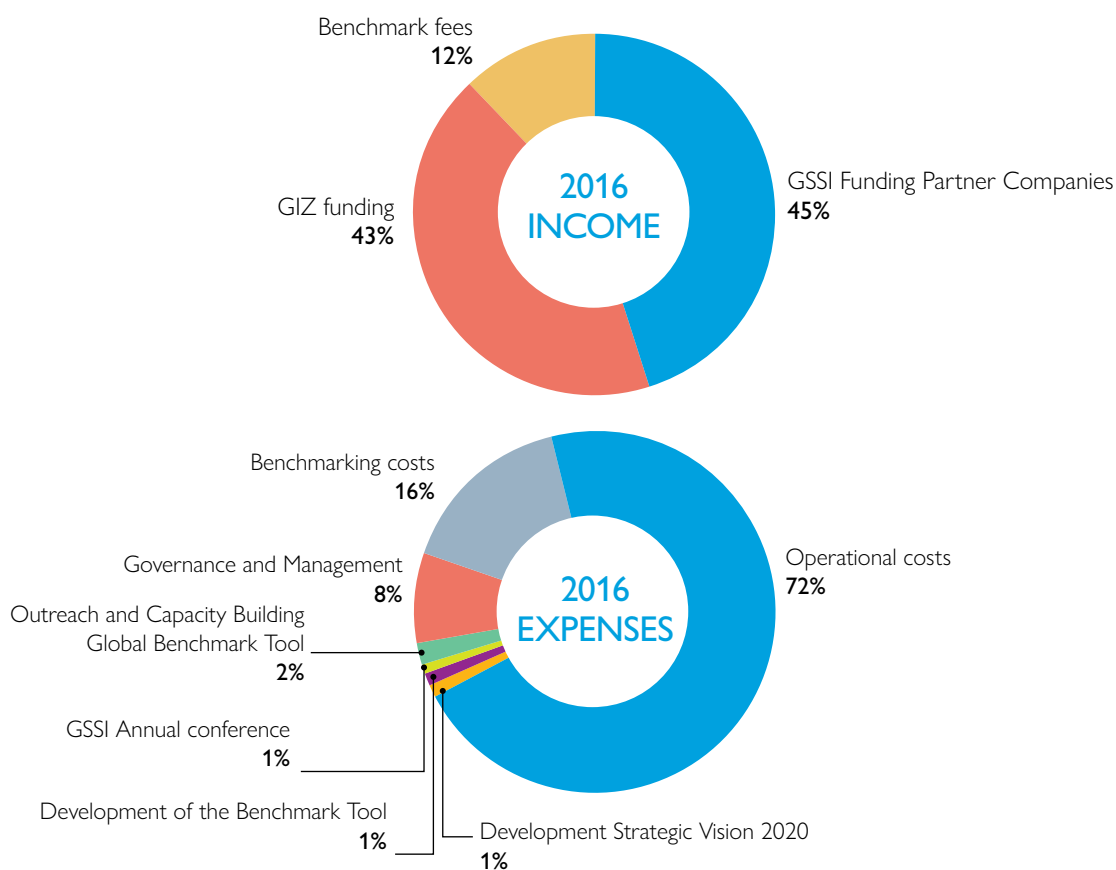
Expenses overall were 1% higher than budgeted, mainly caused by a slight increase in Operational Costs (GSSI Secretariat) and Benchmarking Costs, which were 3% and 7% higher than budgeted respectively.

Income

Income was 13% higher than budgeted due to the growth of the GSSI Partnership and increased income from the benchmark activities. The increased income from benchmark activities covers the increased costs of the Benchmark Process.

Result

An operating surplus of 2016 will be carried over to 2017 to support operations in 2017 and build a financial reserve for GSSI.



GSSI FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2013 – 2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL 2013-2016
COSTS					
Operational Costs	€ 234 117	€ 267 942	€ 444 868	€ 407 148	€ 1 354 073
Governance and Management	€ 58 930	€ 17 908	€ 73 600	€ 45 968	€ 196 407
Mid-Term Evaluation	€ 0	€ 26 354	€ 0	€ 0	€ 26 354
GSSI Annual Conference	€ 12 426	€ 6 005	€ 4 285	€ 3 588	€ 26 305
Development of the Benchmark Tool	€ 40 556	€ 144 622	€ 163 617	€ 4 020	€ 352 814
Pilot Testing Benchmark Tool	€ 0	€ 0	€ 158 441	€ 0	€ 158 441
Outreach and Capacity Building Global Benchmark Tool	€ 3 548	€ 4 652	€ 49 719	€ 8 716	€ 66 635
Benchmarking Costs	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 88 065	€ 88 065
Development Strategic Vision 2020	€ 0	€ 0	€ 13 731	€ 7 610	€ 21 341
SUBTOTAL COSTS	€ 349 577	€ 467 483	€ 908 261	€ 565 115	€ 2 290 436
INCOME					
GSSI Funding Partner Companies	€ 334 848	€ 219 017	€ 174 807	€ 255 000	€ 983 671
GIZ Funding	€ 321 666	€ 321 666	€ 321 666	€ 270 000	€ 1 234 998
IDH Funding	€ 0	€ 0	€ 59 000	€ 0	€ 59 000
Benchmark Fees	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 73 722	€ 73 722
SUBTOTAL REVENUES	€ 656 514	€ 540 683	€ 555 473	€ 598 722	€ 2 351 391
RESULT					
Subtotal Result	€ 306 937	€ 73 200	€ -352 788	€ 33 606	€ 60 955
Accounts Payable 2016				€ 25 000	€ 25 000
Accounts Receivable 2016				€ 12 028	€ 12 028
Prior year carry-over	0	€ 306 937	€ 380 137	€ 27 349	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	€ 306 937	€ 380 137	€ 27 349	€ 73 927	€ 73 927

Whereas:

- **Operational Costs:** Includes costs for Secretariat and Communications, this includes the costs for GIZ staff working for the GSSI Secretariat.
- **Governance and Management:** Includes costs for meeting rooms, legal advice for the GSSI Foundation, costs for financial management of the GSSI Foundation and the costs for professional facilitation of the Steering Board and Partner Council meetings.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation:** Includes costs for obligatory project evaluation under GIZ, conducted Jul-Sep 2014 by CAL Limited.
- **GSSI Annual Conference:** Includes costs for logistics of the annual GSSI Partner Council meeting.
- **Development of Benchmark Tool:** Includes costs to support development of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool by Expert Working Groups (EWGs), including: technical consultant support to the EWGs, travel costs support for non-industry EWG members and costs for logistics of EWG meetings.
- **Pilot Testing Benchmark Tool:** Includes costs for a Pilot Testing Program of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool with 8 seafood certification schemes globally, as well as the costs for the training of Independent Experts and development of training materials for Benchmark Committee members.
- **Outreach and Capacity Building Global Benchmark Tool:** Includes the costs of the development of targeted communication materials, participation at international conferences and events, and outreach and capacity development, including engagement with national certification schemes, in Asia, Africa and Latin America together with FAO. The outreach and capacity building activities in Asia, Africa and Latin America are financially supported by GIZ and IDH.
- **Benchmarking costs:** Includes costs for benchmarking certification schemes. Benchmarking costs are estimated to be cost neutral and covered by the Benchmark Fees paid by applicant schemes.
- **Developing Strategic Vision 2020:** Includes costs for the development of a strategic vision for GSSI towards 2020, including a Social Scoping study which was added to the project concept in 2013 as part of increased funding in the Strategic Alliance with GIZ in 2014 and 2016.



Find out more:

www.ourgssi.org

secretariat@ourgssi.org

 [#GSSIseafood](https://twitter.com/GSSIseafood)



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