

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard

Monitoring Of Continued Alignment

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification program, with Fisheries Certification (Requirements and Guidance Version 2.0, issued 1 October 2014) obtained GSSI recognition on 14 March 2017 against Section A (Governance), Section B (Operational Management) and D (Fisheries) of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool.

In March 2019, GSSI's Monitoring of Continued Alignment (MOCA) procedure began which comprises a review of any changes in the Scheme's ownership, management or the standard itself. The Independent Experts found that the MSC certification program, with Fisheries Standard and Guidance Version 2.01 (31st August 2018) and their Fisheries Certification Requirements and Guidance Version 2.1 (31st August 2018), continues to be in alignment with all GSSI Essential Components. The Benchmark Committee recommended therefore continued recognition, a decision approved by the GSSI Steering Board.

ABOUT THE MOCA PROCESS

The GSSI Monitoring of Continued Alignment (MOCA) process is carried out on a three-year cycle (alternating with the full re-assessment). It starts with a self-assessment by the Scheme Owner, followed by a report to GSSI indicating any changes in the Scheme Ownership, Scheme Management or the Standard itself. With the report, the Independent Experts (IEs) conduct a Desktop Review to provide a recommendation on the continued alignment of the scheme. During the MOCA process, the IEs focus on two main parts to conclude whether the scheme continues to be in alignment with the GSSI Benchmark Tool and can maintain its recognition:

- A. Identification of substantive changes in the reference documents since the recognition to determine if the scheme is still in alignment with all Essential Components of the Benchmark Tool.
- B. Verification of continued evidence of implementation.

The recommendation by the IEs is presented to the members of the Benchmark Committee (BC) for review. Following review by the Benchmark Committee, a notification is sent to the Board and a public announcement is made.

ABOUT THE GSSI BENCHMARKING PROCESS

GSSI's [Global Benchmark Tool](#) provides formal recognition of seafood certification schemes that successfully complete a rigorous and transparent benchmark process, underpinned by the FAO Guidelines. The Tool's [7-step Benchmark Process](#) is voluntary and designed to be independent, impartial and transparent. The expert-led process involves objective assessments made against performance areas covering scheme governance, operational management (including chain of custody) and standards for aquaculture and fisheries certification. Once a scheme has gone through



the Benchmark Process and is found in alignment with the 186 Essential Components, it will be publicly recognized by GSSI and the Benchmark Report will be made available on the GSSI website: www.ourgssi.org.

ABOUT THE MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC)

The Marine Stewardship Council is an international non-profit organisation. It recognises and rewards efforts to protect oceans and safeguard seafood supplies for the future so that future generations are able to enjoy seafood and oceans full of life, forever. Its vision is of the world's oceans teeming with life, and seafood supplies safeguarded for this and future generations. Its mission is to use their ecolabel and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood and working with their partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.

For more information on MSC visit <https://www.msc.org/home>

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