



■ **Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management (IRFM) Certification Programme**

MONITORING OF CONTINUED ALIGNMENT

The Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management (IRFM) Certification Programme with Fisheries Certification IRFM Standard (Version 2, 2016) obtained GSSI recognition on 8 November 2016 against Section A (Governance), Section B (Operational Management) and D (Fisheries) of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool.

In May 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 IRFM certification program, with Fisheries Standard (Version 2, 2016) continues to be in alignment with all GSSI Essential Components. The Benchmark Committee therefore recommended 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 Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation (IRFF)**

The Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation (IRFF) owns and manages a third-party scheme for the certification of fisheries in Iceland to an FAO based Responsible Fisheries Management Specification (the IRFM Scheme Standard). The Foundation was established in February 2011 and took over the operation and management of the IRF certification programme from the Fisheries Association of Iceland. The foundation is directed by a Board and operates on a cost basis, as a non-profit organisation. The Scheme is operational since 2010 although, the development commenced a number of years before then.

For more information on IRFM visit: <https://www.responsiblefisheries.is/certification>