

GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Certification System - Monitoring of Continued Alignment

GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Certification System obtained GSSI recognition on the 20th April 2018, for its Integrated Farm Assurance System version 5.1-1 covering finfish, crustaceans and molluscs. The standard was compared against Section A (Governance), Section B (Operational Management) and C (Aquaculture) of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool (Version 1.0, 2016).

In July 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 GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture certification program (version 5.2, 2019) 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 GLOBALG.A.P.

GLOBALG.A.P. is a leading global certification program for farm assurance in agriculture and aquaculture. Our mission is to bring farmers and retailers together to produce and market safe food to protect scarce resources and build a sustainable future. The GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Certification System addresses the four pillars stipulated by the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification: Animal health and welfare, food safety, environmental integrity and socio-economic aspects. For the food safety component, it is currently the one and only certification system for aquaculture recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). Visit www.globalgap.org and www.ggn.org for more information.

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