



Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) – Monitoring of Continued Alignment

Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) obtained GSSI recognition on the August 31, 2018, for its Salmon Standard v1.1 (April 27, 2017). 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 March 2021, 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 ASC Salmon Standard v1.3 (December 26, 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 ASC

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) is the world's leading certification scheme for farmed seafood and the ASC label only appears on food from farms that have been independently assessed and certified as being environmentally and socially responsible. ASC develops and manages the strictest standards in the industry. These standards include hundreds of requirements covering the potential impacts of aquaculture – including water quality, responsible sourcing of feed, disease prevention, animal welfare, the fair treatment and pay of workers and maintaining positive relationships with neighboring communities.

Our Vision: A world where aquaculture plays a major role in supplying food and social benefits for humanity whilst minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

Our Mission: To transform aquaculture towards environmental sustainability and social responsibility using efficient market mechanisms that create value across the chain.