



**GLOBAL BENCHMARK TOOL
Changes from v1.0 to v2.0**

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A hand holding a red pen pointing to a world map on a blue background. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America visible on the left and Europe and Africa on the right. The background is a blurred blue and white pattern.

Introduction
Global Benchmark Tool Framework

INTRODUCTION

At the Global Benchmark Tool launch in October 2015, it was agreed that the Tool would be reviewed every three years. Planning for the revision process began in October 2018, and the process officially started in the summer of 2019. The review was carried out by Expert Working Groups (EWG), consisting of GSSI partner representatives. Additionally, FAO representatives have taken part in the EWGs to ensure continuous consistency with FAO Code of Conduct and Guidelines.

The review process was meant to update and simplify the Global Benchmark Tool while maintaining the benchmark rigor and the Tool's alignment with the FAO Guidelines. The review therefore focused on the following three areas:

1. Clarification of Benchmark Component language
2. Reduction of the number of Components, with the aim to reduce complexity while maintaining the benchmark standard
3. Inclusion of new FAO Guidelines, as Supplementary Components in line with the original development of the Benchmark Framework.

The review by the EWG was focused on components for which users and other stakeholders provided comments, for strengthening, or simplification of the framework. Comments were received during Public Consultations. In total the process consisted of two Public Consultations, each followed by their own round of review by the EWGs. Thanks to the active participation of stakeholders and partners during this revision, the revision process has provided a strengthening to the tool that is supported by the seafood sector.

This document provides an overview of the changes to the Benchmark Framework that were made during this revision process. The changes are presented per Section, starting with a summary of the changes, followed by a detailed description on a component level and a table listing the Component numbering changes. Please note that only Components where there has been a change between versions 1 and 2 are included in this document while the full Global Benchmark Tool Framework Version 2.0 can be found on the GSSI website.



Section

Global Benchmark Tool Framework

Summary of changes

Merging of Components

To reduce the number of components, several Components have been merged. Either two Essential Components have been merged into one, or a Supplementary Component(s) has been merged into an Essential Component. In the case of the latter, it was carefully considered whether this did not "raise the bar" of the existing Essential Component. When Component numbers are mentioned in the "summary of change" in the tables that follow, they correspond to the numbering under version 1.0. Please see the table at the end of this section for the updated numbering under version 2.0.

Improved consistency in terminology

The EWG has chosen one term that can be used in all components to improve the consistency in terminology throughout the Framework.

Change in language to clarify the intent of the component

Different comments indicated that the intent of a component was unclear. Comments could include stakeholder questions, request for clarification by users (IEs or Scheme Owners) or complaints of inconsistent application during previous benchmarking processes. For these components, the EWG has proposed different Component and/or Guidance language, leaving less room for interpretation on the intent but maintaining the same robustness and flexibility of the component.

Change in requirements to better reflect practice

For certain components, certain elements of a requirement are removed because they were found to be irrelevant in practice. An example is removed requirement for certificates to include the name and address of the Scheme Owner and Accreditation Body, as in practice other information is found to be sufficient.

Supplementary Component A.1.01.02

Scheme Governance | Legal Status: Governance

Summary of change:	Deleted. These requirements about translation have been merged with the requirement of A.3.23
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner provides, within its means, translations into appropriate languages of its standard-setting procedures, most recent work program, and draft and final versions of its standards.</p>	<p>Scheme owner has a process for determining the need for translation and publication of documents in appropriate language to ensure access and transparency based on scope of activities and geographies. The procedure includes an assessment in order to ensure accurate translation.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevant policy and procedure document control system, - work plans covering language needs assessment, - process for ensuring accuracy of translations. 	<p>Deleted, incorporated in A.3.23</p>	<p>Deleted, incorporated in A.3.23</p>

Essential Component A.1.02

Scheme Governance | Impartiality (Governance)

Summary of change: Final sentence of component text is deleted, since the inclusion of the example in the guidance text suffices.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner is not directly engaged in the operational affairs (auditing or certification) of the certification or accreditation program. Note: This does not include complaint resolution or performance review.</p>	<p>Scheme Owner is not directly engaged in auditing, certification, or accreditation activities in order to ensure freedom of commercial or financial pressure of assurance processes and decision making. This does not include complaint resolution or performance reviews.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - impartiality policy, impartiality clauses in certification body and accreditation body contracts, management control procedures</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner is not directly engaged in the operational affairs (auditing or certification) of the certification or accreditation program. Note: This does not include complaint resolution or performance review.</p>	<p>Scheme Owner is not directly engaged in auditing, certification, or accreditation activities in order to ensure freedom of commercial or financial pressure of assurance processes and decision making. This does not include complaint resolution or performance reviews.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - impartiality policy, impartiality clauses in certification body and accreditation body contracts, management control procedures</p>

Essential Component A.1.03

Scheme Governance | Operating Procedures (Governance)

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>"Conformity assessment" is replaced by "quality assurance program", for vocabulary consistency within the document.</p> <p>Added "Procedures or" before "manual" to indicate more flexibility about document format.</p> <p>Enquiry about the meaning of "quality assurance program". Response: The Quality Assurance programme (or Conformity Assessment programme or Integrity Programme) is the programme to monitor and review the performance of certification bodies, auditors, companies to make sure they are in compliance with the certification programme requirements.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner operates to a documented set of governance policies and procedures specifying at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board or governance body election or appointment process, - Board or governance body representation and Terms of Reference, - Member categories (where applicable), - Income generation or funding processes, - An organizational structure, - The decision making processes of each governance body, - Key personnel roles (responsibility and authority), - Managing conflict of interest, and - A conformity assessment program. 	<p>The Scheme Owner has policies/procedures available covering all aspects in this Essential Component except Member categories if not applicable.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statutes and by-laws, organizational chart, internal procedures, job descriptions, conflict of interest statements, quality assurance manuals 	<p>The Scheme Owner operates to a documented set of governance policies and procedures specifying at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board or governance body election or appointment process, - Process to facilitate participation of stakeholders - Board or governance body representation and Terms of Reference, - Member categories (where applicable), - Income generation or funding processes, - An organizational structure, - The decision making processes of each governance body, - Key personnel roles (responsibility and authority), - Managing conflict of interest, and - A conformity assessment quality assurance program. 	<p>The Scheme Owner has policies/procedures available covering all aspects in this Essential Component except Member categories if not applicable.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statutes and by-laws, organizational chart, internal procedures, job descriptions, conflict of interest statements, quality assurance procedures or manual. - online process document for submission of input, governance body selection process and stakeholder composition, review of previous stakeholder inputs and verify if/how this reached top governance.

Supplementary Component A.1.03.01

Scheme Governance | Operating Procedures (Governance)

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Changes of the requirement are done to highlight that the top governance body of the scheme realizes the management review of the scheme. The Scheme Owner cannot review its governance body. Therefore, it has been changed into review of the Scheme by its governance body. It is equivalent to a Management Review that also includes Governance aspects.</p> <p>Changes in the guidance are done for simplification reasons.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner carries out a regular performance review of its top decision-making body, with results that are made publicly available.</p>	<p>Scheme owner ensures continuous improvement of its operations by undertaking an annual performance review of its governance body. Results are made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - online performance review findings and defined actions, - annual report which includes summary of review, findings and actions. 	<p>The its top decision-making body, the scheme top governance body of the Scheme Owner carries out a regular performance review of its top decision-making body, the scheme with results that are made publicly available.</p>	<p>Scheme owner ensures continuous improvement of its operations by undertaking an annual performance review by its governance body. Results are made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment on the Scheme owner website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - online performance review findings and defined actions, - annual report which includes summary of review findings and actions.

Essential Component A.1.04

Scheme Governance | Transparency of Governance (Governance)

Summary of change:		Items from ownership to standards have been reordered in the component text. Redundancy about printing deleted in the guidance text.	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner makes information freely and available about the scheme’s governance structure, Scheme Ownership, standards and standard-setting procedures, and the composition, operating procedures and responsibilities of its governance bodies.	All applicable listed governance documents are easily accessible online, free or at cost of any printing and handling costs. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - applicable documents posted on website, easy to find and free to download. If printed copies are offered – charges are reasonable to cover printing and handling.	The Scheme Owner makes information freely and available about the scheme’s ownership, governance structure, the composition, operating procedures and responsibilities of its governance bodies, standard-setting procedures and standards.	All applicable listed governance documents are easily accessible online, free or at cost of any printing and handling costs. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - applicable documents posted on website, easy to find and free to download. If printed copies are offered – charges are reasonable to cover printing and handling.

Essential Component A.1.05

Scheme Governance | Governance Complaints (Governance)

Summary of change:

Deleted and merged with A.3.07, to have one only requirement about complaint handling.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner has a transparent process to assess complaints based on a publicly available procedure for resolving complaints related to governance, scheme management and executive functions.	<p>Complaints procedure is documented and clearly outlines steps, timelines and responsibilities to address and resolve complaints.</p> <p>The process for submitting a complaint – how and to whom – is public and easily understood. A process is in place to identify when and if the complaint is addressed and resolved.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easily found complaint process and submission form online. - documentation of existing complaints and their resolution. - possibly request accreditation and certification bodies for previous submissions of complaints and resolution. 	Deleted, merged with A.3.07	Deleted, merged with A.3.07

Essential Component A.1.06

Scheme Governance | Governance Participation (Governance)

Summary of change:

Deleted and included in operating procedures of the Governance (A1.03).

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner requires that stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in or provide direct input to the top governance body.	<p>The Scheme Owner provides freely accessible public information outlining how stakeholders can participate in or provide direct input to the top governance body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - online process document for submission of input, governance body selection process and stakeholder composition, review of previous stakeholder inputs and verify if/how this reached top governance.</p>	Deleted, merged with A.1.03	Deleted, merged with A.1.03

Essential Component A.1.07

Scheme Governance | Scheme Scope (Scope and Objectives)

Summary of change:	Change of "scheme" to "standard" in component text. Guidance edited for grammatical error and the addition of "standards". A scheme may have several standards. The standard is the main document that should describe the scope of application. The guidance mentions other documents, such as contracts, that may include mention of the scope, but this is complementary to the scope definition in the standard.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner has a defined scope for certification under its scheme.	<p>The Scheme Owner clearly defines scope that standard covers, for example which species, production systems/gear type, geographical locations, company structures (single units, groupings of sites/boats, smallholder groups/small-scale fisheries, subcontractors, product categories, certifiable units in the chain of custody etc.).</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explicit scope definition in certification methodology/requirements, standards, objectives. - contracts with accreditation bodies, certification bodies and/or certified operations 	The Scheme Owner has a defined scope for certification under its scheme standard.	<p>The Scheme Owner clearly defines the scope that the standard covers, for example which species, production systems/gear type, geographical locations, company structures (single units, groupings of sites/boats, smallholder groups/small-scale fisheries, subcontractors, product categories, certifiable units in the chain of custody etc.).</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explicit scope definition in standards, certification methodology/requirements, objectives. - contracts with accreditation bodies, certification bodies and/or certified operations

Supplementary Component A.1.08.01

Scheme Governance | Scheme Objectives (Scope and Objectives)

Summary of change:	Specific mention of full ISEAL members deleted so as not to make differentiation between ISEAL members and others. Grammatical change in guidance text.		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner has a documented monitoring and evaluation system through which it collects data on its performance indicators and uses this to inform the revision of its standard.	<p>The Scheme Owner has a documented system to monitor and assess its defined performance indicators. Monitoring information is shared with standards committee.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring system including data collected - previous monitoring information has been assessed and documented inputs developed for the next standard revision process, - requirement for full ISEAL members. 	The Scheme Owner has a documented monitoring and evaluation system through which it collects data on its performance indicators and uses this to inform the revision of its standard.	<p>The Scheme Owner has a documented system to monitor and assess its defined performance indicators. Monitoring information is shared with the standards committee.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring system including data collected - previous monitoring information has been assessed and documented inputs developed for the next standard revision process, - requirement for full ISEAL members.

Essential Component A.2.01

Scheme Management | Claims Policy (Logo Use and Claims)

Summary of change:	Integration of A.2.03 and A.2.04 into the component A.2.01 Enquiry about what is meant by "facility" – and whether a change to "certificate holder" would be more appropriate. The EWG has decided to keep "facility", defined as the physical location of the certified entity being audited
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner has a publicly available policy governing use of symbols, logos and claims.</p>	<p>Scheme Owner has a policy that covers use of symbols, logos and claims if applicable to its system. The policy is public, easily accessible and available in languages appropriate to geographic scope.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a publicly available policy governing use of symbols, logos and claims. This policy includes the provision of written authorizations or licenses to use the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and products have been certified to the relevant standard.</p> <p>Any misleading use or statement by the certified entity regarding the status or scope of its certification, shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>Scheme Owner has a policy that covers use of symbols, logos and claims if applicable to its system. The policy is public, easily accessible and available in languages appropriate to geographic scope.</p> <p>Contracts or formal agreements with the certified entity specify legal responsibility for the use of the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and/or product are certified.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - publicly available Logo Use and Claim statement which is explicitly referenced in formal arrangement with certified entity. - other examples include: direct logo agreements, licensing or membership agreements with the Scheme Owner or its commercial partner or indirect contracts/agreements through the certification body. - in the latter case the requirements to include this in contracts/ agreements should be outlined in certification requirements/ methodologies or similar contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body.

Essential Component A.2.03

Scheme Management | Claims-making Requirements (Logo Use and Claims)

Summary of change:

Deleted, integrated in A.2.01

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner requires that the certified organization does not make or permit any misleading statement or use regarding the status or scope of its certification.	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contract, MoU or other formal arrangement with certified entity.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - publicly available Logo Use and Claim document which is explicitly referenced in formal arrangement with certified entity. - other examples include direct logo agreements, licensing or membership agreements with the Scheme Owner or its commercial partner or indirect contracts/agreements through the certification body. - in the latter case the requirements to include this in contracts/ agreements should be outlined in certification requirements/ methodologies or similar contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body. 	Deleted, integrated in A.2.01	Deleted, integrated in A.2.01

Essential Component A.2.04

Scheme Management | Logo Management (Logo Use and Claims)

Summary of change:

Deleted, integrated in A.2.01

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner or its delegated authority issues written and enforceable authorizations and/or licenses to use the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and/or product has been certified as being in conformity with the relevant standard.</p>	<p>Contracts or formal agreements with the certified entity specify legal responsibility for the use of the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and/or product are certified.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct logo agreements, licensing or membership agreements with the Scheme Owner or a delegated authority. - indirect contracts/agreements through the certification body. - in the latter case the requirements should be outlined in certification requirements/methodologies or similar contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body to include this in contracts/agreements. 	<p>Deleted, integrated in A.2.01</p>	<p>Deleted, integrated in A.2.01</p>

Essential Component A.2.05

Scheme Management | Logo Use and Claims (Certificate Content Management)

Summary of change: Removed requirement for name and address of scheme owner and accreditation body, as in the practice, identification, such as logo are enough for Scheme owner and Accreditation Body.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires certificates to include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name and address of the accreditation body or Scheme Owner; - the name and address of the certification body; - the name and address of the certification holder; - the effective date of issue of the certificate; - the substance (scope of certification) of the certificate; - the term for which the certification is valid; - signature of the issuing officer. 	<p>The issuer of the certificate ensures that minimum information enables identification and contact information of assurance process parties (accreditation body, Scheme Owner and certification body), unique name and address of certified entity, date and validity, scope and signature of issuing officer.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mandatory normative documents such as certification requirements/methodologies with certification bodies that cover all points listed. - mandatory certificate template includes all points listed. - review examples of certificates. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires certificates to include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name and address identification of the accreditation body or Scheme Owner - the name and address identification of the accreditation body or Scheme Owner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name and address of the certification body; - the name and address of the certification holder; - the effective date of issue of the certificate; - the substance scope of certification of the certificate; - the term for which the certification is valid; - signature of the issuing officer. 	<p>The issuer of the certificate ensures that minimum information enables identification and contact information of assurance process parties (accreditation body, Scheme Owner and certification body), unique name and address of certified entity, date and validity, scope and signature of issuing officer.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mandatory normative documents such as certification requirements/methodologies with certification bodies that cover all points listed. - mandatory certificate template includes all points listed. - review examples of certificates.

Essential Component A.3.01

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Standard Setting Body (Standard Setting Body)

Summary of change: Clarification of the requirement
Addition of Essential component A.3.03

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>A Scheme Owner or other suitable arrangement (e.g., technical committee of independent experts, delegated standard-setting body) is assigned with the tasks of setting, reviewing, revising, assessing, verifying and approving standards.</p>	<p>The organizational chart clearly identifies the responsible person for assigning the management of the standard setting process. In addition, the organizational chart or related TORs/contracts with external bodies identifies where each of the tasks (setting, reviewing, revising, assessing, verifying and approving standards) are assigned to. This documentation clearly indicates where the overall responsibility for the standard setting process lies.</p>	<p>★ The Scheme Owner or other suitable arrangement is assigned with the tasks of shall have a process and governance structure in place for standard setting, reviewing, revising, assessing, verifying and approving standards. The process shall be carried out with the participation of technically competent persons (e.g. technical committee of independent experts, and open to suitably qualified representatives of all key stakeholders, delegated standard-setting body The information about the process and organization for standard development and revision shall be made publicly available. It is the Scheme Owners responsibility to ensure a balanced participation by stakeholders.</p>	<p>The organizational chart Scheme Owner clearly identifies the responsible person for assigning the management of the standard setting process. In addition, the procedure, organizational chart or related TORs/contracts with external bodies identifies where each of the tasks (setting, reviewing, revising, assessing, verifying and approving standards) are assigned to. This documentation clearly indicates where the overall responsibility for the standard setting process lies. Procedures defining the process of standard development and revision are easily available for the public, such as online, in appropriate languages.</p>

Essential Component A.3.02

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Central Focal Point (Standard Setting Body)

Summary of change:

Replaced "including on internet" with "its website"

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner identifies a central point of contact for standards-related enquiries and for submission of comments. The Scheme Owner makes contact information for this contact point readily available including on the internet.</p>	<p>Contact details for standard related enquiries and comments are easily available for the public, including online. This can be the same as a general contact point but should explicitly identify standard related scope.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review website and verify that point of contact responds to enquiries. - review past enquiries and submitted comments 	<p>The Scheme Owner identifies a central point of contact for standards-related enquiries and for submission of comments. The Scheme Owner makes contact information for this contact point readily available including on its website internet.</p>	<p>Contact details for standard related enquiries and comments are easily available for the public, including online. This can be the same as a general contact point but should explicitly identify standard related scope.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review website and verify that point of contact responds to enquiries. - review past enquiries and submitted comments

Essential Component A.3.03

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Standards Development and Maintenance Procedure (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:		Deleted and included in A.3.01	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner has publicly available procedures for the process under which each standard is developed and revised.	Procedures defining the process of standard development and revision are easily available for the public, such as online, in appropriate languages.	Deleted and included in A.3.01	Deleted and included in A.3.01

Essential Component A.3.04

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Work Program (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:	Deleted. The publication of an overall work program appears unnecessary when publication is done at the outset of each standard (see A.3.11)
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>A work program is prepared and made publicly available at least every six months, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheme Owner's name and address - the list of standards currently under preparation; - the list of standards currently under reviewing or revision; - the list of standards which were adopted in the preceding period. 	<p>A work program for standard setting and revision is easily available for the public, such as online. The program is updated at a minimum every 6 months. The work program contains all listed items.</p>	Deleted	Deleted

Essential Component A.3.05

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Terms of Reference (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:

Deleted. Requirements for terms of references are included in A.3.11

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>At the outset of a new standard development or revision process, the Scheme Owner develops or updates terms of reference (ToRs), which includes at least the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed scope of the standard and intended geographic application; - Clear objectives that the standard seeks to achieve and how those are linked to the organization’s intended change. 	<p>The Scheme Owner has mechanism in place to develop or update ToR at the outset of standard development or revision process that includes proposed scope, geographical application and objectives.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - outlined in an internal procedure and part of the quality handbook for standard setting. <p>For Scheme Owners that have standard development or a revision process going on, check online availability of this information.</p>	Deleted	Deleted

Supplementary Component A.3.06.01

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Decision Making Process (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:

Deleted and included in A.3.01

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner ensures participation in standards decision-making bodies is open to all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Standard owner process and procedures for participation in standard's decision-making bodies ensures open participation of all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.01</p>	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.01</p>

Essential Component A.3.07

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Complaints (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:

Combination of A.1.05 and A.3.07 to avoid that the requirements on complaint management are split between 2 elements.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner, or delegated authority makes impartial and documented efforts to resolve procedural complaints related to standard-setting, based on a publicly documented complaints resolution mechanism. Decisions taken on complaints are disclosed at least to the affected parties.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner or delegated authority has a publicly available complaint resolution mechanism related to standard setting. A general contact may be used but must explicitly note standard setting complaints. Resolutions are documented and free of bias. Decisions on complaints are disclosed, at a minimum, to affected parties.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal quality assurance manual. - previous complaints have been resolved according to this policy. - decisions taken on previous complaints have been disclosed to the affected party. <p>Possibly request and cross-check with any previous procedural complaints from stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a transparent process to assess and handle complaints based on a publicly available procedure for resolving complaints related to governance, scheme management, executive functions and standard setting. Decisions taken on complaints are disclosed at least to the affected parties.</p>	<p>Complaints procedure is documented and clearly outlines steps, timelines and responsibilities to address and resolve complaints. The process for submitting a complaint - how and to whom - is public and easily understood. A process is in place to identify when and if the complaint is addressed and resolved.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easily found complaint process and submission form online. - documentation of existing complaints and their resolution. - possibly request accreditation and certification bodies for previous submissions of complaints and resolution. - request and cross check with any complaints from stakeholders.

Essential Component A.3.08

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Standard Review and Revision (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:	Added timeline in relation with publication of current version.		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner reviews standards at least every five years for continued relevance and for effectiveness in meeting their stated objectives and, if necessary, revises them in a timely manner.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a process in place for reviewing all standards to ensure continued relevance and meeting stated objectives. Relevance can include market uptake, stakeholder scope and support. Outcome and assessment reports can identify progress towards objectives. Review should be at least every five years.</p> <p>Example of evidence of alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure, quality handbook, public work program. - monitoring and evaluation system. - public comments and consideration of reports for standard revisions. 	<p>The Scheme Owner reviews standards at least every five years for continued relevance and for effectiveness in meeting their stated objectives and, if necessary, revises them in a timely manner.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a process in place for reviewing all standards to ensure continued relevance and meeting stated objectives. Relevance can include market uptake, stakeholder scope and support. Outcome and assessment reports can identify progress towards objectives. Review should be at least every five years after the publication of the current version.</p> <p>Example of evidence of alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure, quality handbook, public work program. - monitoring and evaluation system. - public comments and consideration of reports for standard revisions.

Supplementary Component A.3.11.01

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Terms of Reference (Standard Setting Procedures)

Summary of change:

Changed numbering (formerly 3.05.01). Otherwise unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The terms of reference also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A justification of the need for the standard, including an assessment of the most important environmental issues falling within the scope of the standard; whether the proposed standard will meet an expressed need; and documentation of what other standards exist or are in the process of development which meet all or part of the expressed need; - An assessment of risks in implementing the standard and how to mitigate for these. 	<p>The terms of reference for standard development and revision includes justification of need, issues and risks and how the standard addresses these.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documented due diligence process, - preamble of terms of reference covering these aspects. 	Moved to new supplementary A.3.11.01	Moved to new supplementary A.3.11.01

Essential Component A.3.12

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Balanced Participation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change: Replaced "encourages" with "enables". Fixed typos.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner or delegated authority ensures participation by independent technical experts and encourages balanced participation by stakeholders in the standard development, revision and approval process.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner, or delegated authority, has mechanism to ensure participation of necessary technical experts and balance of different stakeholder perspectives in standard development and maintenance. A balanced participation of stakeholders would include: fisheries/aquaculture management authorities, the fishing/aquaculture industry, fish workers organizations, fishing/aquaculture communities, the scientific community, environmental interest groups, fish processors/traders/retailers, aquaculture input providers such as feed providers, hatcheries/nurseries and possibly treatment providers, as well as consumer associations.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook for standard development - revision and approval processes that describe how balance is achieved, such as through stakeholder mapping, announcements and invitation. <p>Draft documents and meeting minutes/email correspondence indicate that during standard development, revision and approval processes of the past, independent technical experts participated, and a balanced participation by stakeholders was encouraged.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner or delegated authority ensures participation by independent technical experts and encourages enables balanced participation by stakeholders in the standard development, revision and approval process.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner, or delegated authority, has mechanism to ensure participation of necessary technical experts and balance of different stakeholder perspectives in standard development and maintenance. A balanced participation of stakeholders would include: fisheries/aquaculture management authorities, the fishing/aquaculture industry, fish workers organizations, fishing/aquaculture communities, the scientific community, environmental interest groups, fish processors/traders/retailers, aquaculture input providers such as feed providers, hatcheries/nurseries and possibly treatment providers, as well as consumer associations.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook for standard development - revision and approval processes that describe how balance is achieved, such as through stakeholder mapping, announcements and invitation. <p>Draft documents and meeting minutes/email correspondence indicate that during standard development, revision and approval processes of the past, independent technical experts participated, and a balanced participation by stakeholders was encouraged.</p>

Essential Component A.3.13

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Public Consultation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:	Guidance: added clarification about what is considered a standard and needs to be submitted to public consultation. Scheme Owner decides what constitutes a major change and must therefore be submitted to public consultation.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner allows a period of at least 60 days for the submission of comments on the draft standard.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism is in place to assure a minimum of 60 days for comments on the draft standard.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public comment period. - ToR <p>Review previous comments and dates for submission on draft standards.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner allows a period of at least 60 days for the submission of comments on the draft standard.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism is in place to assure a minimum of 60 days for comments on major changes of the draft standard.</p> <p>A Standard is considered to be a set of documents that provide rules and guidelines to achieve results and that include all normative documents used for the certification process. The Scheme owner shall define which documents are part of the standard. This may include standard governance and setting procedures, requirements for certification bodies and certified entities</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public comment period, what are considered major changes and what constitutes the standard - ToR <p>Review previous comments and dates for submission on draft standards.</p>

Supplementary Component A.3.13.01

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Public Consultation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "interested parties" with "stakeholders"

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires at least two rounds for comment submissions on the draft standard by interested parties, with one round of at least 60 days and the other of at least 30 days.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to ensure comment periods as per Supplementary Component.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public comment periods in line with Supplementary Component. - terms of reference review previous comments and dates for submission on draft standards. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires at least two rounds for comment submissions on the draft standard by interested parties stakeholders, with one round of at least 60 days and the other of at least 30 days.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to ensure comment periods as per Supplementary Component.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public comment periods in line with Supplementary Component. - terms of reference review previous comments and dates for submission on draft standards.

Essential Component A.3.14

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Public Announcement (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:	Replaced "or" with "and/or". Evidence addition: newsletter, publication on website
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
No later than the start of the comment period, the Scheme Owner publishes a notice announcing the period for commenting in a national or, as may be, regional or international publication of standardization activities and/or on the internet.	<p>Timely announcements are made regarding the public comment period in appropriate channels so that they are easily available to relevant stakeholders. This can be online or in an appropriate publication. Dates should be clearly stated.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure defining process. - previous announcements are dated and were published before the beginning of the comment period. 	No later than the start of the comment period, the Scheme Owner publishes a notice announcing the period for commenting in a national or, as may be, regional or international publication of standardization activities and/or on the internet.	<p>Timely announcements are made regarding the public comment period in appropriate channels so that they are easily available to relevant stakeholders. This can be online and/or in an appropriate publication. Dates should be clearly stated.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure defining process. - previous announcements are dated and were published before the beginning of the comment period. - newsletters - record of publication on SO's website

Essential Component A.3.15

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Stakeholder Consultation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:	Component: replaced "interested parties" with "stakeholders". Included A.3.15.01 and A.3.15.02
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that interested parties can participate in the standard-setting process through a consultation forum or are made aware of alternative mechanisms by which they can participate.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to ensure all interested stakeholders can participate in standard setting process through a forum or alternative mechanisms or tools.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public consultation process. - ToR. Review participation, communication and mechanisms/tools of past or current consultation. 	<p>The Scheme Owner identifies all impacted stakeholders and ensures proactively that all can participate in the standard-setting process through a consultation forum or are made aware of alternative mechanisms by which they can participate.</p> <p>This includes stakeholders that are not well represented in consultations and disadvantaged stakeholders (small-scale operations and vulnerable groups).</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to identify all impacted stakeholders. It makes sure that, when needed, alternative tools are in place to leverage potential barriers to participate.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder mapping including past participation - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public consultation process. - ToR. Review participation, communication and mechanisms/tools of past or current consultation. - meeting minutes, announcements, publications and or email communication indicate that the Scheme Owner is proactively seeking the input of specific stakeholder groups.

Supplementary Component A.3.15.01

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Stakeholder Consultation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:

Deleted, included in A.3.15

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner identifies stakeholders who will be directly affected by the standard and those that are not well-represented in consultations and proactively seeks their contributions.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner documents directly affected stakeholders and identifies those not as represented in past consultations or have potential barriers to participate to proactively seek their input through alternative mechanisms and tools that are that are accessible and culturally appropriate for the stakeholder groups in question such online or in in-person workshops.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stakeholder mapping including participation in past consultations - meeting minutes, announcements, publications and or email communication indicate that the Scheme Owner is proactively seeking the input of specific stakeholder groups. 	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.15</p>	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.15</p>

Supplementary Component A.3.15.02

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Stakeholder Consultation (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:		Deleted, included in A.3.15	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner makes efforts to address constraints to participation in standard-setting faced by disadvantaged stakeholders such as small-scale operations and vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines disadvantaged stakeholders and addresses potential barriers to participation such as language, culture, access to internet, costs, technical accessibility, etc. through alternative mechanisms and tools that are that are accessible and culturally appropriate for the stakeholder groups in question.</p>	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.15</p>	<p>Deleted, included in A.3.15</p>

Essential Component A.3.16

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Transparency Comments Received (Participation and Consultation)

Summary of change:	Component: replaced "non attributable way" with "respecting personal data protection". Enquiry about the meaning of "personal data protection" and how it differs from non-attributable. Personal Data Protection seems a more understandable vocabulary than "non attributable" and aligned with recent regulations evolution.		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner makes publicly available all comments received in the consultation in a non-attributable way.	All comments received during the public comment period are made publicly available without attribution or identifier. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure/quality handbook describing policy, current or past public comment comments posted online.	The Scheme Owner makes publicly available all comments received in the consultation in a non-attributable way respecting personal data protection.	All comments received during the public comment period are made publicly available without attribution or identifier. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure/quality handbook describing policy, current or past public comment comments posted online.

Essential Component A.3.22

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Standards Availability (Standard Accessibility)

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Component clarifications: replaced "internet" with "its website", replaced "interested party" with "anyone expressing interest".</p>		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner promptly publishes adopted standards, and makes them available for free on the internet, and on request, to any interested party.</p>	<p>Standards are published in a timely fashion and are freely available online and on request. Validity dates coincide with publication dates of standards (taking transition periods into account) and the public work program on standard setting and maintenance.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner promptly publishes adopted standards and makes them available for free on the internet its website, and on request, to any interested party anyone expressing interest.</p>	<p>Standards are published in a timely fashion and are freely available online and on request. Validity dates coincide with publication dates of standards (taking transition periods into account) and the public work program on standard setting and maintenance.</p>

Essential Component A.3.23

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Translations (Standard Accessibility)

Summary of change: Integration of A.1.01.02
Replacement of "English, French or Spanish" with "English and most relevant/appropriate languages."

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
Where a scheme is globally applicable, the Scheme Owner makes translations of the standard into English, French or Spanish freely available and authorizes translations into other languages where necessary for credible implementation of the standard.	The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to identify the applicability and need for translations based on geographical scope of certification, as well as the geographical range of certified entities and products. For global schemes, the Scheme Owner should translate and make available the standard in English, French and Spanish and authorize into other languages to positively affect transparency and effective implementation. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure, quality handbook, current language availability, work plan of translations	Where a scheme is globally applicable, The Scheme Owner shall make translations of the standard into English, French or Spanish and in the most relevant/appropriate languages, to ensure access and transparency, freely available and authorizes translations into other languages where necessary for credible implementation of the standard.	The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to identify the applicability and need for translations based on geographical scope of certification, as well as the geographical range of certified entities and products. For global schemes, the Scheme Owner should translate and make available the standard in English, French and or Spanish and authorize into other languages to positively affect transparency and effective implementation. The process includes an assessment in order to ensure accurate translation. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure, quality handbook, current language availability, work plan of translations, process for ensuring accuracy of translations.

Essential Component A.3.24

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Informing Certified Entities of Transition (Transition Period)

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities".

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner ensures that certified enterprises are informed of the revised standard and transition period, either directly or through their certification bodies.	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place assuring that certified entities are informed of standard revision and transition periods. This can be done directly or through other assurance bodies.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedures, quality handbook, contracts/agreements or formal arrangements with certification bodies. - review process of previous revisions if applicable. 	The Scheme Owner ensures that certified enterprises entities are informed of the revised standard and transition period, either directly or through their certification bodies.	<p>The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place assuring that certified entities are informed of standard revision and transition periods. This can be done directly or through other assurance bodies.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal procedures, quality handbook, contracts/agreements or formal arrangements with certification bodies. - review process of previous revisions if applicable.

Essential Component A.3.25

Standard Setting and Maintenance | Transition Period for Compliance (Transition Period)

Summary of change:

Component was originally changed but it was decided to keep the requirement as it was in original version as no consensus was reached on change. Proposal to stay close to FAO guidelines.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner requires that the unit of certification is given a period of at least three years to come into compliance with revised fishery standards and at least one year for revised aquaculture standards.	Certified entities are given sufficient time to come into compliance with revised standards, for fisheries – minimum 3 years and at least one year for revised aquaculture standards. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - standards, certification requirements/methodologies which state minimum transition period for revised standards	The Scheme Owner requires that the certified entities are given a period of at least three years to come into compliance with revised fishery standards and at least one year for revised aquaculture standards	Certified entities are given sufficient time to come into compliance with revised standards, for fisheries – minimum 3 years and at least one year for revised aquaculture standards. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - standards, certification requirements/methodologies which state minimum transition period for revised standards

Essential and Supplementary Component numbering change

The revision of the Global Benchmark Tool resulted in changes to the numbering used throughout the Framework. The table below details what the Component numbers under version 1 of the Global Benchmark Tool (V1.0) have changed to after the revision (V2.0). Where a change in number has occurred, the table has been shaded for easier identification of the changes.

V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0
A.1.01	A.1.01	A.2.01	A.2.01	A.3.06	A.3.03	A.3.17	A.3.14	A.1.01.02	A.3.20	A.3.06.05	A.3.03.04
A.1.02	A.1.02	A.2.02	A.2.02	A.3.07	A.3.04	A.3.18	A.3.15	A.1.03.01	A.1.03.01	A.3.07.01	A.3.04.01
A.1.03	A.1.03	A.2.03	A.2.01	A.3.08	A.3.05	A.3.19	A.3.16	A.1.08.01	A.1.06.01	A.3.13.01	A.3.10.01
A.1.04	A.1.04	A.2.04	A.2.01	A.3.09	A.3.06	A.3.20	A.3.17	A.1.08.02	A.1.06.02	A.3.15.01	A.3.15
A.1.05	A.3.07	A.2.05	A.2.03	A.3.10	A.3.07	A.3.21	A.3.18	A.1.09.01	A.1.07.01	A.3.15.02	A.3.15
A.1.06	A.1.03	A.2.06	A.2.04	A.3.11	A.3.08	A.3.22	A.3.19	A.2.02.01	A.2.02.01	A.3.17.01	A.3.14.01
A.1.07	A.1.05	A.3.01	A.3.01	A.3.12	A.3.09	A.3.23	A.3.20	A.3.05.01	A.3.11.01		
A.1.08	A.1.06	A.3.02	A.3.02	A.3.13	A.3.10	A.3.24	A.3.21	A.3.06.01	A.3.01		
A.1.09	A.1.07	A.3.03	A.3.01	A.3.14	A.3.11	A.3.25	A.3.22	A.3.06.02	A.3.03.01		
A.1.10	A.1.08	A.3.04	A.3.11	A.3.15	A.3.12	A.3.26	A.3.23	A.3.06.03	A.3.03.02		
A.1.11	A.1.09	A.3.05	A.3.11	A.3.16	A.3.13	A.1.01.01	A.1.01.01	A.3.06.04	A.3.03.03		



B
Section

Global Benchmark Tool Framework

Summary of changes

Improved consistency in terminology

The EWG has chosen one term that can be used in all Components to improve the consistency in terminology throughout the Framework.

Improved consistency in expectations per performance area

It was considered that under certain performance areas, there should be more consistency between the expectations set in each Component. Especially consistency between the Supplementary Component and the corresponding Essential Component.

Change in language to clarify the intent of the component

Different comments indicated that the intent of a Component was unclear. Comments could include stakeholder questions, request for clarification by users (IEs or Scheme Owners) or complaints of inconsistent application during previous benchmarking processes. For these Components, the EWG has proposed different Component and/or Guidance language, leaving less room for interpretation on the intent but maintaining the same robustness and flexibility of the Component.

Essential Component B.1.01

Accreditation | ISO-17011 Compliance

Summary of change:	Component: remove date of ISO norm to avoid update need. Guidance: Added rules for accreditation bodies (AB) in standard as example of enforceable arrangement as most European AB refuse to have MOU or signed contracts.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner has a contractual, enforceable arrangement or formal understanding that requires accreditation bodies to be compliant with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2004.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with a certification body or accreditation body that require the accreditation bodies to be accredited to ISO/ IEC 17011:2004.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contracts, - memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify accreditation bodies to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17011:2004. - accreditation bodies' certificate of accreditation (on website). 	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contractual, enforceable arrangement or formal understanding that requires accreditation bodies to be compliant with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 in its applicable version:2004.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with a certification body or accreditation body that require the accreditation bodies to be compliant to ISO/ IEC 17011:2004.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contracts, - memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify accreditation bodies to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17011:2004. - accreditation bodies' certificate of accreditation (on website). - rules for accreditation bodies in standard.

Essential Component B.1.03

Accreditation | Specified Requirements

Summary of change:

Including mention about the coherence between scope of accreditation and the scope of the scheme.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner specifies the requirements for certification bodies that the accreditation body is required to verify.	<p>The Scheme Owner defines requirements for certification bodies to ensure accurate and consistent implementation. These are verified as part of the accreditation process by the accreditation body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requirements are specified in certification requirements/ methodologies or a separate certification body and/or accreditation manual. - reference to requirements in contracts or formal agreements with certification bodies or accreditation bodies. 	<p>The Scheme Owner specifies the requirements for certification bodies that the accreditation body is required to verify, including the respect of the scope of the scheme</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines requirements for certification bodies to ensure accurate and consistent implementation. These are verified as part of the accreditation process by the accreditation body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requirements are specified in certification requirements/ methodologies or a separate certification body and/or accreditation manual. - reference to requirements in contracts or formal agreements with certification bodies or accreditation bodies.

Essential Component B.1.04

Accreditation | Transition Period

Summary of change:

Component: clarification by replacing "accredited bodies" with "certification bodies".

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>Subsequent to any changes in the requirements for assessing certification bodies, the Scheme Owner ensures certification bodies are given a defined time period within which to conform to the changes. Special considerations should be given to accredited bodies in developing countries and countries in transition.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner specifies transition periods for any changes to certification requirements (B.1.03) for certification bodies to come into compliance with changes. For certification bodies in developing countries consideration is given that may include a longer transition period, capacity building or other measures.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - see B.1.03 reference to transition period and/or special consideration for developing country certification bodies.</p>	<p>Subsequent to any changes in the requirements for assessing certification bodies, the Scheme Owner ensures certification bodies are given a defined time period within which to conform to the changes. Special considerations should be given to accredited certification bodies in developing countries and countries in transition.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner specifies transition periods for any changes to certification requirements (B.1.03) for certification bodies to come into compliance with changes. For certification bodies in developing countries consideration is given that may include a longer transition period, capacity building or other measures.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - see B.1.03 reference to transition period and/or special consideration for developing country certification bodies.</p>

Essential Component B.1.05

Accreditation | Accreditation Body – Competencies

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Comment received about challenges in how GSSI evaluates these components (from B.01.03–05) when schemes do not have agreement with accreditation bodies for their scope of certification. Following this comment EWG has decided to revise the guidance text. Added as objective evidence, the inclusion in the standard of requirements for Accreditation Bodies. The fact that an accreditation body offers accreditation for a standard implies that it accepts all what is written in it.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner only works with accreditation bodies that have personnel with the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience for performing accreditation functions in fisheries and aquaculture operations.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures personnel competency through contracts or enforceable arrangements with accreditation bodies. Personnel competency includes education, training on the standard, technical knowledge and experience and can be defined by the Scheme Owner.</p> <p>Examples of objective evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreement/contract between the Scheme Owner and certification body to use national accreditation bodies which are IAF members and signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for ISO 17065. - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body if applicable, certification/accreditation manuals. - review of CVs of accreditation body staff. 	<p>The Scheme Owner only works with accreditation bodies that have personnel with the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience for performing accreditation functions in fisheries and aquaculture operations.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures personnel competency through contracts or enforceable arrangements with accreditation bodies. Personnel competency includes education, training on the standard, technical knowledge and experience and can be defined by the Scheme Owner.</p> <p>Examples of objective evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement/contract between the Scheme Owner and certification body to use national accreditation bodies which are IAF members and signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for ISO 17065. - Contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body if applicable, certification/accreditation manuals. - Requirements for Accreditation Bodies and personnel mentioned in the standard review of CVs of accreditation body staff.

Essential Component B.1.09

Accreditation | Field Audit

Summary of change:	Component: examples of performance review have been added to the guidance text. Witness Audits is one of the tools that can be used for performance review
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that the accreditation process includes a review of the performance of certification bodies and auditors in the field.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner specifies that accreditation includes a performance review of certification bodies and auditors.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accreditation/ certification requirements/methodologies, accreditation body audit reports, audit schedule, specified in accreditation body or certification body contracts/agreements. - agreement/contract between the Scheme Owner and certification body to use national accreditation bodies which are IAF members and signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for ISO 17065. 	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that the accreditation process includes a review of the performance of certification bodies and auditors, using witness audits.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner specifies that accreditation includes a performance review of certification bodies and auditors, that may include desktop reviews, office visits, witness audits.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accreditation/ certification requirements/methodologies, accreditation body audit reports, audit schedule, specified in accreditation body or certification body contracts/agreements. - agreement/contract between the Scheme Owner and certification body to use national accreditation bodies which are IAF members and signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for ISO 17065.

Essential Component B.2.01

Certification | 17065 Compliance (Certification Process)

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Component: added "in conformance with" ISO/IEC 17065 to allow use of private, public, or autonomous accreditation bodies. In alignment with paragraph 39 of the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries and paragraphs 63 of the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.</p> <p>Component / guidance: removed date of standard to avoid unnecessary updates</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies operating in the scheme are accredited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the scheme.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with certification body that require ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the scheme.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contracts, memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between Scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify certification bodies be accredited with ISO 17065:2012; - accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies; certification bodies certificate of accreditation. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies operating in the scheme are accredited to conduct certifications for the scope of their respective standards in conformance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in its applicable version.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with certification body that require to follow the principles of ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the scheme.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contracts, memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between Scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify certification bodies be accredited with ISO 17065 - accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies; certification bodies certificate of accreditation.

Essential Component B.2.03

Certification | Certification Cycle (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component: change to clarify that the requirement is about the certification cycle prescribed by the Scheme Owner.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that the validity of a certification cycle does not exceed 5 years in the case of fishery or 3 years in the case of aquaculture certification and 3 years in the case of chain of custody certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement in the contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement with the accreditation body and/or certification body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - accreditation manual/certification requirements/methodologies. Issued certificates with validity (online database or on request)</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines that the validity of a certification cycle does not exceed 5 years in the case of fishery or 3 years in the case of aquaculture certification and 3 years in the case of chain of custody certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement in the contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement with the accreditation body and/or certification body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - accreditation manual/certification requirements/methodologies. Issued certificates with validity (online database or on request)</p>

Essential Component B.2.04

Certification | Surveillance (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Rephrasing for clarity.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies carry out periodic surveillance and monitoring at sufficiently close intervals to verify that certified operations continue to comply with the certification requirements. For aquaculture operations, this should be on an annual basis.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement in the contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement with accreditation body and/or certification body. Scheme owner risk assessment system should identify “sufficient close intervals”.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accreditation manual/certification requirements/methodologies. - Scheme Owner internal risk assessment system with assessment reports. - Audit reports, schedules and issued certificates. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies carry out periodic surveillance and monitoring at sufficiently close intervals to verify that certified operations continue to comply with the certification requirements. For aquaculture operations, this shall be on an annual basis.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement in the contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement with accreditation body and/or certification body. Scheme owner risk assessment system should identify “sufficient close intervals”.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accreditation manual/certification requirements/methodologies. - Scheme Owner internal risk assessment system with assessment reports. - Audit reports, schedules and issued certificates.

Essential Component B.2.06

Certification | Termination, Suspension, Withdrawal (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component: Deleted "accredited" for harmonization purposes.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that accredited certification bodies have consistent documented procedure(s) that specify the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn, partially or in total, for all or part of the scope of certification.</p>	<p>For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies have documented procedures that specify the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn, partially or in total, for all or part of the scope of certification.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body; accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies, - audit reports, - guidance documents specifying the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn. 	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that accredited certification bodies have consistent documented procedure(s) that specify the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn, partially or in total, for all or part of the scope of certification.</p>	<p>For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies have documented procedures that specify the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn, partially or in total, for all or part of the scope of certification.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body; accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies, - audit reports, - guidance documents specifying the conditions under which certification may be suspended or withdrawn.

Essential Component B.2.07

Certification | Multi-site Certification (Certification Process)

Summary of change:	Component/guidance: Changes to indicate that the Scheme Owner shall specify conditions under which certification bodies operate for multi-site certification. Deleted "accredited" for harmonization purposes. Guidance: simplification.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that accredited certification bodies have certification procedures and guidance for multi-site certifications, if allowed under the scheme.</p>	<p>If the Scheme Owner explicitly does not allow multi-site certification (prohibits, not that it is not yet developed or exists) requirement is "Not applicable". Otherwise, the Scheme Owner requires certification body to have documented certification procedures and guidance for multi-site certification.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body; - certification requirements/methodologies specifying multi-site procedures; - guidance specifying certification procedures for multi-site certifications, in order to support consistency between certification bodies; - audit reports. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that accredited certification bodies have certification follow procedures and guidance for multi-site certifications as written in the standard or other scheme documents, if allowed under the scheme.</p>	<p>If the Scheme Owner explicitly does not allow multi-site certification (prohibits, not that it is not yet developed or exists) requirement is "Not applicable". Otherwise, the Scheme Owner requires certification body to follow have documented procedures and guidance for multi-site certification, detailed in the agreement or in the standards</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body; - requirements and guidance for multi-site certification requirements/methodologies specifying multi-site procedures; - guidance specifying certification procedures for multi-site certifications, in order to support consistency between certification bodies; - audit reports.

Essential Component B.2.08

Certification | Audit Reports (Certification Process)

Summary of change: Component: harmonization in references to certification. "Certification Bodies (CB)" and not "accredited certification bodies".

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner requires CBs to ensure consistency in audit report formats and in how the reports are completed.	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies and has some system for quality control.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, certification requirements/methodologies; - guidance specifying formats for audit reports and reporting, mandatory audit templates; - review online audit reports for consistency of report format and reporting, Scheme Owner quality management system for review of audit reports. 	The Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to ensure consistency in audit report formats and in how the reports are completed.	<p>The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies and has some system for quality control.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, certification requirements/methodologies; - guidance specifying formats for audit reports and reporting, mandatory audit templates; - review online audit reports for consistency of report format and reporting, Scheme Owner quality management system for review of audit reports.

Essential Component B.2.10

Certification | Non-compliances (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component/ Guidance: added "follow..." to indicate that the certification bodies should follow requirements from scheme owner, not only have procedures.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies use a consistent procedure for determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.</p>	<p>For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies have documented procedures determining all of the following: non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances, and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body. - accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies. - guidance documents, determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances, in order to support consistency between certification bodies. - audit reports. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies use a consistent procedure for follow its requirements for determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.</p>	<p>For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies have documented procedures determining all of the following: follow non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances, and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body. - accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies. - guidance documents, determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances, in order to support consistency between certification bodies. - audit reports. - standards.

Essential Component B.2.11

Certification | Site Audit (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Guidance: edited for grammar

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that the scope of the (re-)certification audit includes a visit to locations pertinent to the scope of the certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that the scope of the audit (initial, annual or re-assessment) includes on-site assessment of premises covered by the scope of the standards and which one or more key activities are performed.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, - accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies, - guidance documents specifying procedures for determining site visits including sampling, - review audit reports. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that the scope of the (re-)certification audit includes a visit to locations pertinent to the scope of the certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that the scope of the audit (initial, annual or re-assessment) includes on-site assessment of premises covered by the scope of the standards and within which one or more key activities are performed.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, - accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies, - guidance documents specifying procedures for determining site visits including sampling, - review audit reports.

Essential Component B.2.12

Certification | Transparency on Certified Entities (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component/guidance: replaced "enterprises" with "entities".

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that a list of certified enterprises is made publicly available.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner makes publicly available a list of certified entities either directly or requires of certification bodies/accreditation bodies.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - system to show the certification status of enterprises is publicly available online (e.g., database or online certificate list). If this system is outsourced to the accreditation bodies or certification bodies, this is required and the system described in the contract/ agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body/certification body, in a separate accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that a list of certified enterprises entities is made publicly available.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner makes publicly available a list of certified entities either directly or requires of certification bodies/accreditation bodies.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - system to show the certification status of enterprises entities is publicly available online (e.g., database or online certificate list). If this system is outsourced to the accreditation bodies or certification bodies, this is required and the system described in the contract/ agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body/certification body, in a separate accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies.</p>

Essential Component B.2.14

Certification | Transparency on Audit Reports (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "material" with "information". Fixed typo.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to make summary audit reports publicly available (excluding commercially sensitive material) after certification has been granted.</p>	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries "Not Applicable". The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make summary audit reports, after certification has been granted, publicly available. Commercially sensitive information is excluded. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with certification body and certified entity with this requirement. - certification requirements/methodologies specifying requirement. - guidance specifying that making reports available to stakeholders happens in a timely manner. - certification body website for posted reports. 	<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to make summary audit reports publicly available (excluding commercially sensitive material information) after certification has been granted.</p>	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries "Not Applicable". The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make summary audit reports, after certification has been granted, publicly available. Commercially sensitive information is excluded. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with certification body and certified entity with this requirement. - certification requirements/methodologies specifying requirement. - guidance specifying that making reports available to stakeholders happens in a timely manner. - certification body website for posted reports.

Supplementary Component B.2.14.01

Certification | Transparency on Audit Reports (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component: Added "excluding commercially sensitive information" for consistency

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires Certification Bodies to make summary audit reports available on request after certification has been granted, that include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of the inspection/audit; - the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for the audit and report; - the names and addresses of the sites inspected/audited; - the scope of the inspection/audit; - the non-conformities identified; - the result of at least one mass balance assessment for each product covered by the Chain of Custody audit; and - a conclusion on the conformity of the client with the chain of custody requirements. 	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries "Not Applicable". The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make summary audit reports, after certification has been granted, available upon request that include all of the information defined in the Supplementary Component. If the scheme does not allow mass balance, then that information requirement is considered aligned. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with the certification body and certified entity with this requirement, - certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement - guidance specifying the information to be included in summary audit reports - certification body website for posted reports. 	<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires Certification Bodies to make summary audit reports available (excluding commercially sensitive information) on request after certification has been granted, that include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of the inspection/audit; - the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for the audit and report; - the names and addresses of the sites inspected/audited; - the scope of the inspection/audit; - the non-conformities identified; - the result of at least one mass balance assessment for each product covered by the Chain of Custody audit; and - a conclusion on the conformity of the client with the chain of custody requirements. 	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries "Not Applicable". The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make summary audit reports, after certification has been granted, available upon request that include all of the information defined in the Supplementary Component. If the scheme does not allow mass balance, then that information requirement is considered aligned. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with the certification body and certified entity with this requirement, - certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement - guidance specifying the information to be included in summary audit reports - certification body website for posted reports.

Supplementary Component B.2.14.02

Certification | Transparency on Audit Reports (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Inclusion of missing words

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to make full audit reports on request after certification has been granted, while excluding commercially sensitive information.</p>	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries “Not Applicable”. The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make full audit reports, certification has been granted, publicly available or upon request. Commercially sensitive information is excluded. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with the certification body and certified entity with this requirement, - certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement - guidance specifying that making reports available to stakeholders happens in a timely manner - certification body website for posted reports. 	<p>For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to make full audit reports publicly available on request after certification has been granted, while excluding commercially sensitive information.</p>	<p>Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries “Not Applicable”. The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make full audit reports, after certification has been granted, publicly available or upon request. Commercially sensitive information is excluded. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with the certification body and certified entity with this requirement, - certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement - guidance specifying that making reports available to stakeholders happens in a timely manner - certification body website for posted reports.

Essential Component B.2.15

Certification | Notification of Changes (Certification Process)

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities" for vocabulary consistency

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner notifies accreditation bodies, certification bodies and certified enterprises of any change in management procedures which affects scheme rules and procedures for accreditation or certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a system to ensure that accreditation bodies, certification bodies and certified entities are notified in a timely manner of any substantive change in management procedures. This is defined as changes which affect scheme rules and procedures for accreditation and/or certification. Where the scheme outsources responsibility of notification to accreditation bodies or certification bodies, there is a requirement for certification bodies to have a procedure for this notification and guidance on how this should take place (timeframe, manner, channel, etc.).</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contracts/agreements with accreditation bodies and certification bodies regarding notification of changes, internal procedure/quality handbook for change management, ring information flow.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner notifies accreditation bodies, certification bodies and certified enterprises entities of any change in management procedures which affects scheme rules and procedures for accreditation or certification.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner has a system to ensure that accreditation bodies, certification bodies and certified entities are notified in a timely manner of any substantive change in management procedures. This is defined as changes which affect scheme rules and procedures for accreditation and/or certification. Where the scheme outsources responsibility of notification to accreditation bodies or certification bodies, there is a requirement for certification bodies to have a procedure for this notification and guidance on how this should take place (timeframe, manner, channel, etc.).</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contracts/agreements with accreditation bodies and certification bodies regarding notification of changes, internal procedure/quality handbook for change management, ring information flow.</p>

Essential Component B.2.20

Certification | Scheme Specific Knowledge Assessment (Auditor Competence)

Summary of change:

Guidance: Edited for more clarity (changed place of “all the elements... component”)

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies include the following in their competence assessment of auditors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of knowledge and skills for each fundamental area the auditor will be expected to be working, - an assessment of knowledge of pertinent fishery and /or aquaculture Programs and the ability to access and be able to apply relevant laws and regulations, - an assessment of the personal attributes of the auditor, to ensure they conduct themselves in a professional manner, - a period of supervision to cover the assessment fishery and/or aquaculture principles, specific audit techniques and specific category knowledge, - a documented sign off by the certification body of the satisfactory completion of assessment requirements. 	<p>The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies to include in the management of personnel competence (ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2) all of the elements in the Essential Component.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, - accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement, - guidance outlining the system and criteria for competencies, training, etc. (see B.2.17–B2.19, 21–22), - auditor assessment and training records, - auditor CVs, - accreditation body reports. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies include the following in their competence assessment of auditors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of knowledge and skills for each fundamental area the auditor will be expected to be working, - an assessment of knowledge of pertinent fishery and /or aquaculture Programs and the ability to access and be able to apply relevant laws and regulations, - an assessment of the personal attributes of the auditor, to ensure they conduct themselves in a professional manner, - a period of supervision to cover the assessment fishery and/or aquaculture principles, specific audit techniques and specific category knowledge, - a documented sign off by the certification body of the satisfactory completion of assessment requirements. 	<p>The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies to include all of the elements in the Essential Component in the management of personnel competence (ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2) all of the elements in the Essential Component.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, - accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement, - guidance outlining the system and criteria for competencies, training, etc. (see B.2.17–B2.19, 21–22), - auditor assessment and training records, - auditor CVs, - accreditation body reports.

Essential Component B.3.02

Chain of Custody | Entities to be Audited

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities" for vocabulary consistency. Fixed typo

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires all enterprises that are physically handling the certified product to undergo a Chain of Custody audit by an accredited certification body if the product can be destined for retail sale as a certified, labelled product. Exceptions: No audit is required for storage and distribution of tamper-proof, packaged products.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires all entities in a supply chain that physically handle the product and where there is the possibility of mixing undergo a Chain of Custody audit if the product will be claimed as certified or carry a label. Entities in the supply chain which do not take physical control r only handle storage and distribution in tamper proof packaging need to be identified, but do not require a Chain of Custody audit.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body/certification body, certified entity, certification requirements/methodologies defining types of operations and activities that require auditing according to these requirements, - Chain of Custody reports.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires all enterprises entities that are physically handling the certified product to undergo a Chain of Custody audit by an accredited certification body if the product can be destined for retail sale as a certified, labelled product. Exceptions: No audit is required for storage and distribution of tamper-proof, packaged products.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner requires all entities in a supply chain that physically handle the product and where there is the possibility of mixing undergo a Chain of Custody audit if the product will be claimed as certified or carry a label. Entities in the supply chain which do not take physical control or only handle storage and distribution in tamper proof packaging need to be identified, but do not require a Chain of Custody audit.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the accreditation body/certification body, certified entity, certification requirements/methodologies defining types of operations and activities that require auditing according to these requirements, - Chain of Custody reports.</p>

Essential Component B.3.03

Chain of Custody | Records for Traceability

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities" for vocabulary consistency. Fixed typo

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to verify that all enterprises within the chain maintain accurate and accessible records that allow any certified product or batch of products to be traceable from the point of sale to the buyer.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies that all entities within the supply chain, including those which may not undergo a Chain of Custody audit (see B.3.02), maintain up to date, complete and accessible records that allow for full traceability of the product long the entire supply chain.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chain of Custody standard. - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying criteria for document control and maintenance. - auditor checklists. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires certification bodies to verify that all enterprises entities within the chain maintain accurate and accessible records that allow any certified product or batch of products to be traceable from the point of sale to the buyer.</p>	<p>The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies that all entities within the supply chain, including those which may not undergo a Chain of Custody audit (see B.3.02), maintain up to date, complete and accessible records that allow for full traceability of the product along the entire supply chain.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chain of Custody standard. - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying criteria for document control and maintenance. - auditor checklists.

Essential Component B.3.04

Chain of Custody | Sub-contractors

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities" for vocabulary consistency.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The Scheme Owner requires that enterprises are able to demonstrate that these Chain of Custody requirements are met by the enterprise's subcontractors.	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that certified entity takes full responsibility that all subcontractors fully meet Chain of Custody requirements and has system to demonstrate this.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - sub-contract agreements, internal audits. If the Scheme Owner does not allow sub-contracting then this is aligned (as opposed to Not Applicable)</p>	The Scheme Owner requires that enterprises entities are able to demonstrate that these Chain of Custody requirements are met by the enterprise's subcontractors.	<p>The Scheme Owner ensures that certified entity takes full responsibility that all subcontractors fully meet Chain of Custody requirements and has a system to demonstrate this.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - sub-contract agreements, internal audits. If the Scheme Owner does not allow sub-contracting then this is aligned (as opposed to Not Applicable)</p>

Essential Component B.3.05

Chain of Custody | Auditing Methods and Frequency

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprises" with "entities" for vocabulary consistency.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner has or requires certification bodies to have documented procedures for auditing methods and frequency of audits that meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - certificate validity does not exceed 3 years; - periodicity depends on risk factors - changes to an enterprise's traceability system that are deemed to affect the integrity of the Chain of Custody result in a re-audit (onsite). 	<p>The Scheme Owner has or ensures certification bodies have documented Chain of Custody audit methodologies including validity of certificate cannot exceed 3 years, frequency of audits takes into consideration risk factors and an onsite audit is required when substantive changes to the certified entities traceability system take place. These are instances where the integrity of the Chain of Custody could be affected such as company mergers, major new markets.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requirements in the contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, in a separate accreditation manual or for example in certification requirements/methodologies. - guidance interpretation specifying frequency, auditing methods and risk factors, in order to support consistency between certification bodies. 	<p>The Scheme Owner has or requires certification bodies to have documented procedures for auditing methods and frequency of audits that meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - certificate validity does not exceed 3 years; - periodicity depends on risk factors - changes to an enterprise entity's traceability system that are deemed to affect the integrity of the Chain of Custody result in a re-audit (onsite). 	<p>The Scheme Owner has or ensures certification bodies have documented Chain of Custody audit methodologies including validity of certificate cannot exceed 3 years, frequency of audits takes into consideration risk factors and an onsite audit is required when substantive changes to the certified entities traceability system take place. These are instances where the integrity of the Chain of Custody could be affected such as company mergers, major new markets.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requirements in the contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, in a separate accreditation manual or for example in certification requirements/methodologies. - guidance interpretation specifying frequency, auditing methods and risk factors, in order to support consistency between certification bodies.

Essential Component B.3.09

Chain of Custody | Record Keeping

Summary of change:

Component: replaced "enterprise" with "certified entity" for vocabulary consistency.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The Scheme Owner requires that an enterprise keeps records that demonstrate conformity with the Chain of Custody requirements for a period that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exceeds the shelf life of the certified product; and - exceeds the periodicity between audits 	<p>Certified entity must keep records documenting compliance with Chain of Custody standard requirements at a minimum time that is longer than a. the shelf life of the product and b. time between audits.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chain of Custody standard, guidance interpretation and audit checklist that specify document retention policy. 	<p>The Scheme Owner requires that an enterprise certified entity keeps records that demonstrate conformity with the Chain of Custody requirements for a period that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exceeds the shelf life of the certified product; and - exceeds the periodicity between audits 	<p>Certified entity must keep records documenting compliance with Chain of Custody standard requirements at a minimum time that is longer than a. the shelf life of the product and b. time between audits.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chain of Custody standard, guidance interpretation and audit checklist that specify document retention policy.

Essential and Supplementary Component numbering change

The revision of the Global Benchmark Tool resulted in changes to the numbering used throughout the Framework. The table below details what the Component numbers under version 1 of the Global Benchmark Tool (V1.0) have changed to after the revision (V2.0). Where a change in number has occurred, the table has been shaded for easier identification of the changes.

V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0
B.1.01	B.1.01	B.2.03	B.2.03	B.2.14	B.2.14	B.3.03	B.3.03	B.2.09.01	B.2.09.01
B.1.02	B.1.02	B.2.04	B.2.04	B.2.15	B.2.15	B.3.04	B.3.04	B.2.09.02	B.2.09.02
B.1.03	B.1.03	B.2.05	B.2.05	B.2.16	B.2.16	B.3.05	B.3.05	B.2.11.01	B.2.11.01
B.1.04	B.1.04	B.2.06	B.2.06	B.2.17	B.2.17	B.3.06	B.3.06	B.2.14.01	B.2.14.01
B.1.05	B.1.05	B.2.07	B.2.07	B.2.18	B.2.18	B.3.07	B.3.07	B.2.14.02	B.2.14.02
B.1.06	B.1.06	B.2.08	B.2.08	B.2.19	B.2.19	B.3.08	B.3.08		
B.1.07	B.1.07	B.2.09	B.2.09	B.2.20	B.2.20	B.3.09	B.3.09		
B.1.08	B.1.08	B.2.10	B.2.10	B.2.21	B.2.21	B.3.10	B.3.10		
B.1.09	B.1.09	B.2.11	B.2.11	B.2.22	B.2.22	B.3.11	B.3.11		
B.2.01	B.2.01	B.2.12	B.2.12	B.3.01	B.3.01	B.2.05.01	B.2.05.01		
B.2.02	B.2.02	B.2.13	B.2.13	B.3.02	B.3.02	B.2.05.02	B.2.05.02		



Section

Global Benchmark Tool Framework

Summary of changes

Merging of Components

To reduce the number of components, several Components have been merged. Either two Essential Components have been merged into one, or Supplementary Components have been merged into an Essential Component. In the case of the latter, it was carefully considered whether this did not "raise the bar" of the existing Essential Component. In Section C, all components referring to "Legal Compliance" have been added to one new Essential Component: C.9.01. When Component numbers are mentioned in the "summary of change" in the tables that follow, they correspond to the numbering under version 1.0. Please see the table at the end of this section for the updated numbering under version 2.0.

Removal of Components

To reduce the number of components, a Supplementary Component has been deleted as it was deemed redundant.

Change in language to clarify the intent of the component

Different comments indicated that the intent of a component was unclear. Comments could include stakeholder questions, request for clarification by users (IEs or Scheme Owners) or complaints of inconsistent application during previous benchmarking processes. For these components, the EWG has proposed different Component and/or Guidance language, leaving less room for interpretation on the intent but maintaining the same robustness and flexibility of the component. For Section C specifically, elements of the guidance text have been added to the component text for C.3.01, C.4.05, C.4.09 and C.6.03 has been revised to address stakeholder concerns about inconsistencies in benchmark outcomes due to unclarity about the guidance status.

Change in requirements to better reflect practice

For certain components, certain elements of a requirement are removed because they were found to be irrelevant in practice. An example is if the bar for evidence was set so high, that it is effectively unattainable (C.1.10.01).

Essential Component C.1.01

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Anti-microbial Usage

Summary of change: Essential Component C.1.01 & C.1.02 will be combined into one Essential Component (C1.01) in order to streamline the Tool and simplify its usage.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the decision to treat with antimicrobials is made according to the guidance of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code i.e., by the aquatic animal health professional or other relevant competent authority and in response to a diagnosed disease; see Article 6.2.7 of the 2015 Aquatic Animal Health Code).</p>	<p>The standard is expected to prohibit prophylactic usage for growth promotion and require that all antimicrobials are used in response to a diagnosed disease (i.e., by the aquatic animal health professional or other relevant competent authority) and the audit is expected to include a review of suitable evidence (e.g., records of disease testing etc. prescriptions for treatments).</p>	<p>(combined with C.1.02) The standard requires that the decision to treat with antimicrobial agents, and their subsequent application, is consistent with the Principles for Responsible & Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquatic Animals and other guidance of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code i.e., by the aquatic animal health professional or other relevant competent authority and in response to a diagnosed disease; see Articles 6.2.7 and 6.2.8 of the 2015 Aquatic Animal Health Code).</p>	<p>The standard is expected to prohibit prophylactic usage for growth promotion and require that all antimicrobials are used in response to a diagnosed disease (i.e., by the aquatic animal health professional or other relevant competent authority) and the audit is expected to include a review of suitable evidence (e.g., records of disease testing etc. prescriptions for treatments).</p> <p>The audit is expected to include a review of evidence (such as written records or through interviews) to ensure consistency with OIE guidelines (2015) Article 6.2.7 "The veterinarian or other aquatic animal health professional authorized to prescribe veterinary medicines should indicate precisely to the aquatic animal producer the treatment regime, including the dose, the treatment intervals, the duration of the treatment, the withdrawal period and the amount of antimicrobial agents to be delivered, depending on the dosage and the number of aquatic animals to be treated. The use of antimicrobial agents extra-label/off-label may be permitted in appropriate circumstances in conformity with the relevant legislation" and Article 6.2.8 "Aquatic animal producers should use antimicrobial agents only on the prescription of a veterinarian or other aquatic animal health professional authorized to prescribe veterinary medicines, and follow directions on the dosage, method of application, and withdrawal period."</p>

Essential Component C.1.02

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Anti-microbial Usage

Summary of change: Essential Component C.1.01 & C.1.02 will be combined into one Essential Component (C1.01) in order to streamline the Tool and simplify its usage.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the application of antimicrobial agents is consistent with the guidelines outlined in Principles for Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquatic Animals of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (Articles 6.2.7 and 6.2.8 of the 2015 Code).</p>	<p>The audit is expected to include a review of evidence (such as written records or through interviews) to ensure consistency with OIE guidelines (2015) Article 6.2.7 “The veterinarian or other aquatic animal health professional authorized to prescribe veterinary medicines should indicate precisely to the aquatic animal producer the treatment regime, including the dose, the treatment intervals, the duration of the treatment, the withdrawal period and the amount of antimicrobial agents to be delivered, depending on the dosage and the number of aquatic animals to be treated. The use of antimicrobial agents extra-label/off-label may be permitted in appropriate circumstances in conformity with the relevant legislation” and Article 6.2.8 “Aquatic animal producers should use antimicrobial agents only on the prescription of a veterinarian or other aquatic animal health professional authorized to prescribe veterinary medicines, and follow directions on the dosage, method of application, and withdrawal period.”</p>	<p>Included in C.1.01. See C.1.01.</p>	<p>Included in C.1.01. See C.1.01.</p>

Essential Component C.1.03

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change:	VI component text can be regarded as excluding the self-employed and others involved in aquaculture who are not employees.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that workers employed in husbandry activities have been adequately trained and are aware of their responsibilities in aquatic animal health management practices.	The audit is expected to include a review of evidence that relevant workers have been appropriately trained and aware of their responsibilities. Examples of suitable evidence could include suitable training or appropriate qualifications, and interviews with staff. The training of workers may be a component in a broader management system e.g., a health management plan.	The standard requires that workers employed in husbandry activities with responsibilities in aquatic animal husbandry have been adequately trained and are aware of their responsibilities in aquatic animal health management practices.	The audit is expected to include a review of evidence that relevant workers have been appropriately trained and aware of their responsibilities. Examples of suitable evidence could include suitable training or appropriate qualifications, and interviews with staff. The training of workers may be a component in a broader management system e.g., a health management plan.

Essential Component C.1.08

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>(1) Clear statements in the component are required to ensure an auditor is directed to look for these specific sections of the AAHMP (2) Required components of operational fish health management practices should be bulleted as "must" elements, this includes the use of effective vaccines. This needs to be a stated requirement in the standard to ensure the auditor reviews it, not a general statement.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to have operational fish health management practices, specifically favoring effective biosecurity and available vaccines, including introductions and transfers of farmed animals where relevant, which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional.</p>	<p>It is expected that the standard will contain sufficient elements and/ or audit of culture practices for an operational program relative to the scale, species, and production systems covered by the standard's scope, including a focus on disease prevention (e.g., the use of vaccines). The content of the measures are expected to be overseen (but not necessarily full-time employment) of an aquatic animal health professional.</p>	<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to have operational fish health management practices. Evidence must be shown that these address the following elements (where relevant to the species, scale, and production system covered by the Standard's scope): 1. Effective biosecurity 2. Identification and use of suitable available vaccines 3. Introductions and transfers of farmed animals (where relevant, which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional.</p>	<p>It is expected that the standard will contain sufficient elements and/ or audit of culture practices for an operational program relative to the scale, species, and production systems covered by the standard's scope, including a focus on disease prevention (e.g., the use of vaccines). The content of the measures are expected to be overseen (but not necessarily full-time employment) of an aquatic animal health professional.</p>

Supplementary Component C.1.08.02

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires the aquaculture facility to determine the cause of death when losses are significantly greater than expected and the cause is unclear, and to use laboratory analysis where feasible.	Verification that policies or other systems are in place to respond to these situations is expected.	The standard requires the aquaculture facility to determine the cause of death when losses are significantly greater than expected and the cause is unclear, and to use laboratory analysis where feasible.	Verification that policies or other systems are in place to respond to these situations is expected.

Supplementary Component C.1.08.03

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to establish, implement, and maintain a written Aquatic Animal Health Management Plan (AAHMP) which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional, and at a minimum, is compliant with the following GSSI Components; C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.03, C.1.04, C.1.05, C.1.06, C.1.07, C.1.08, C.1.09, C.1.10, C.1.11.</p>	<p>Verification that the farm has a written AAHMP, and that the content covers the necessary content and that it is fully in operation and frequently reviewed is expected. Evidence of oversight could include an interview with the health professional or a signature on the documents.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.03, C.1.04, C.1.05, C.1.06, C.1.07, C.1.08, C.1.09, and C.1.10.</p>	<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to establish, implement, and maintain a written Aquatic Animal Health Management Plan (AAHMP) which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional, and at a minimum, is compliant with the following GSSI Components; C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.03, C.1.04, C.1.05, C.1.06, C.1.07, C.1.08, C.1.09, C.1.10, C.1.11.</p>	<p>Verification that the farm has a written AAHMP, and that the content covers the necessary content and that it is fully in operation and frequently reviewed is expected. Evidence of oversight could include an interview with the health professional or a signature on the documents.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.03, C.1.04, C.1.05, C.1.06, C.1.07, C.1.08, C.1.09, and C.1.10.</p>

Supplementary Component C.1.08.04

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change:

Change in numbering. Component was wrongly referred.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>In addition to the written health plan from GSSI Supplementary Component C.1.08.2 the standard also requires the plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An emergency response protocol in the event of an invasive disease, which includes depopulation where appropriate. - A written list of all diseases that the aquatic animals are likely to face during production. - Annual/end of production review and failure analysis. - Where multiple effective chemical treatments are available, while maintaining the compliance with the OIE Prudent Use guidance, there is a rotation to reduce the risk of resistance. 	<p>Verification that the farm has these elements in its written AAHMP is expected.</p>	<p>In addition to the written health plan from GSSI Supplementary Component C.1.08.3 the standard also requires the plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An emergency response protocol in the event of an invasive disease, which includes depopulation where appropriate. - A written list of all diseases that the aquatic animals are likely to face during production. - Annual/end of production review and failure analysis. - Where multiple effective chemical treatments are available, while maintaining the compliance with the OIE Prudent Use guidance, there is a rotation to reduce the risk of resistance. 	<p>Verification that the farm has these elements in its written AAHMP is expected.</p>

Supplementary Component C.1.08.05

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change:	"all" is added to the language. This is about a comprehensive vaccination approach. Reason for change - clarity & rigor.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that the aquatic animals are vaccinated against all relevant/important diseases for which vaccines are both available and effective.	Relevant/important pathogens could include those identified by the aquatic animal health professional and sources such as the OIE/ transboundary disease lists. Verification, such as a review of justification by the aquatic animal health professional as to which vaccines could be used and records/receipts for vaccinations is expected.	The standard requires that the aquatic animals are vaccinated against all relevant/important diseases for which vaccines are both available and effective.	Relevant/important pathogens could include those identified by the aquatic animal health professional and sources such as the OIE/ transboundary disease lists. Verification, such as a review of justification by the aquatic animal health professional as to which vaccines could be used and records/receipts for vaccinations is expected.

Supplementary Component C.1.08.06

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Biosecurity

Summary of change:

Deleted. Redundant component as logically any farm that does not comply with this requirement would be unsustainable.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to establish, implement, and maintain a written plan for improving survival rate (or similar system that incorporates survival rates (e.g., recovery), including defined annual targets.</p>	<p>Verification that a written plan exists that includes actions directed at increasing the survival rate (such as increasing vaccination, biosecurity, water quality etc.) and that suitable records are kept on survival rate and the factors being considered in the plan, and that the plan is operational (e.g., by interview) is expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.1.08.01.</p>	<p>Deleted</p>	<p>Deleted</p>

Essential Component C.1.10

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Off-Farm Disease Transmission

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to establish, implement and maintain appropriate procedures and/or systems to reduce the likelihood of disease and parasite transmission within the aquaculture facility and between it and natural aquatic fauna.</p>	<p>Appropriate procedures or systems are expected to address both on farm disease and parasite transfer (such as the ability to quarantine diseased stocks, separating equipment) as well as between the facility and natural fauna (such as disinfection of effluents for diseased stocks, fallowing). The approach taken would be expected to be relevant to the species, production system, scale of production, and legal requirements. Can be “not applicable” with suitable justification provided by the scheme.</p> <p>Where pathogens or parasites are a known concern (for example, sea lice on farmed salmon); Appropriate procedures or systems are expected to include specific requirements or actions defined in the standard or specified by the aquaculture facility through a suitable risk assessment or other evidence such as local or national regulations. Appropriate management measures in these cases could include treatment trigger levels of parasite numbers on the farm-facility or siting requirements that require that the aquaculture facility is located at suitable distances from wild populations.</p> <p>Verification that the management measures are suitable and employed is expected.</p>	<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to establish, implement and maintain appropriate procedures and/or systems to reduce the likelihood of disease and parasite transmission within and between the aquaculture facility and between it and natural aquatic fauna.</p>	<p>Appropriate procedures or systems are expected to address both on farm disease and parasite transfer (such as the ability to quarantine diseased stocks, separating equipment) as well as between the facility and natural fauna (such as disinfection of effluents for diseased stocks, fallowing). The approach taken would be expected to be relevant to the species, production system, scale of production, and legal requirements. Can be “not applicable” with suitable justification provided by the scheme.</p> <p>Where pathogens or parasites are a known concern (for example, sea lice on farmed salmon); Appropriate procedures or systems are expected to include specific requirements or actions defined in the standard or specified by the aquaculture facility through a suitable risk assessment or other evidence such as local or national regulations. Appropriate management measures in these cases could include treatment trigger levels of parasite numbers on the farm-facility or siting requirements that require that the aquaculture facility is located at suitable distances from wild populations.</p> <p>Verification that the management measures are suitable and employed is expected.</p>

Supplementary Component C.1.10.01

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Off-Farm Disease Transmission

Summary of change:	Recording released parasites with meaningful accuracy amongst the wild stock is probably impossible. An Independent Expert commented that this sets the bar so high as to be effectively unattainable. Consequently visible evidence of problematic infection e.g., rising levels of lice on wild salmon & sea trout stocks adjacent to salmonid farms is the preferred measure here.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>Where the production system allows the discharge of parasites that are a known concern to local wildlife, the standard requires monitoring and adapting farming practices based on trigger limits of relevant parasite numbers on wild fish where this is feasible.</p>	<p>Examples of pathogens or parasites that are a known concern include sea lice on farmed salmon; appropriate practices could be specified in the standard or a suitable risk assessment or other justification could be given to determine whether or not this Supplementary Component is applicable.</p> <p>The certification scheme or standard is expected to address the monitoring of pathogen or parasite numbers on wild fish or a similar system that is likely to be effective at finding evidence of impact if it's occurring (possibly performed by third parties or government), and that appropriate trigger limits (e.g., expert opinions, scientific literature) and adaptive management plans exist and are employed to reduce the pressure on wild populations (such as by treating fish, fallowing, etc.).</p> <p>Verification that the system is operational is also expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.1.10</p>	<p>Where the production system allows the discharge of parasites that are a known concern to local wildlife, the standard requires monitoring and adapting farming practices based on parasite prevalence on wild fish.</p>	<p>Examples of pathogens or parasites that are a known concern include sea lice on farmed salmon; appropriate practices could be specified in the standard or a suitable risk assessment or other justification could be given to determine whether or not this Supplementary Component is applicable.</p> <p>The certification scheme or standard is expected to address the monitoring of pathogen or parasite numbers on wild fish or a similar system that is likely to be effective at finding evidence of impact if it's occurring (possibly performed by third parties or government), and that appropriate trigger limits (e.g., expert opinions, scientific literature) and adaptive management plans exist and are employed to reduce the pressure on wild populations (such as by treating fish, fallowing, etc.).</p> <p>Verification that the system is operational is also expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.1.10</p>

Essential Component C.1.11

Aquatic Animal Health Management | Record Keeping

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires the aquaculture facility to maintain records on veterinary drug and chemical usage and the rationale for their use.	Verification that suitable records are maintained is expected. Suitable records are expected to include type, concentration, and dosage, method of administration and withdrawal times of chemicals and veterinary drugs and the rationale for their use.	The standard requires the aquaculture facility to maintain records on veterinary drug and chemical usage and the rationale for their use.	Verification that suitable records are maintained is expected. Suitable records are expected to include type, concentration, and dosage, method of administration and withdrawal times of chemicals and veterinary drugs and the rationale for their use.

Essential Component C.2.02

Chemical and Veterinary Drug Use | Chemical Usage

Summary of change: The intention is to ensure that the benchmark's credibility is maintained by ensuring that schemes that should not be "in alignment" are certified accordingly.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires appropriate controls for all chemicals, incl. veterinary drugs, that enter the environment (whether already covered by GSSI Essential Components or not) in order to minimize adverse impacts on environmental quality.</p>	<p>It is expected that the standard will require all chemicals used by the aquaculture facility and that will enter the environment are at least used according to the manufacturer's guidance (such as on label requirements or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or, in the case of veterinary drugs, the guidance of the aquatic animal health professional.</p> <p>In addition, for chemicals that pose a high risk of adverse impacts to environmental quality -- these could be specifically defined by the standard (e.g., copper-based anti-foulant treatments in marine cage aquaculture) or identified through a risk based self-assessment by the farmer (e.g., an environmental risk assessment)-- it is expected that the standard or the risk-assessment will define any necessary additional requirements to minimize the impacts (e.g., EQS limits for copper residues in the benthic environment).</p>	<p>The standard requires appropriate controls for all chemicals, incl. veterinary drugs, that enter the environment during or after use (whether already covered by GSSI Essential Components or not) in order to minimize adverse impacts on environmental quality. Manufacturer's guidance or equivalent directions should be followed, and where appropriate, relevant examples of chemicals that pose a high risk of adverse impacts to environmental quality should be specifically defined by the standard</p>	<p>It is expected that the standard will require all chemicals used by the aquaculture facility and that will enter the environment are at least used according to the manufacturer's guidance (such as on label requirements or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or, in the case of veterinary drugs, the guidance of the aquatic animal health professional to prevent adverse impacts upon the environment.</p> <p>Chemicals that pose a high risk of adverse impacts to environmental quality, examples of which should be specifically defined by the standard (e.g., copper-based anti-foulant treatments in marine cage aquaculture or anti-parasite or anti-microbe bath treatments), accepting that perceptions regarding high risk and the chemicals involved are subject to rapid change, or identified through a risk based self-assessment by the farmer (e.g., an environmental risk assessment)--or through reference to a recognized relevant classification system (e.g. the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)). It is expected that the standard or the risk-assessment will define any necessary additional requirements to minimize the impacts (e.g., EQS limits for copper residues in the benthic environment).</p>

Supplementary Component C.2.02.01

Chemical and Veterinary Drug Use | Chemical Usage

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Component - for clarity and ease of understanding. Guidance - The Stockholm Convention requires signatories to 'prohibit and/or eliminate production, use and import and export of the intentionally produced, listed POPs & gives advice on (rare) exclusions. The Rotterdam Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by the parties involved.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard prohibits chemical used on the aquaculture facility and that may enter the local environment due to farming practices that are listed as highly polluting by relevant organizations or other justification.</p>	<p>Relevant organizations could include the World Health Organization listed 1a and 1b pesticides (see www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard_2009.pdf?ua=1) and the Rotterdam Convention Annex III listed chemicals (see www.pic.int/TheConvention/Chemicals/AnnexIIIChemicals/tabid/1132/language/en-US/Default.aspx).</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence supporting the claim of no use, such as inspection of the chemical storage, interviews etc.</p>	<p>The standard prohibits use of chemicals used on within the aquaculture facility and that may enter the local environment due to farming practices that are listed as highly polluting by relevant organizations or other justification.</p>	<p>Relevant organizations could include the World Health Organization listed 1a and 1b pesticides (see www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard_2009.pdf?ua=1) and the Rotterdam Convention Annex III listed chemicals (see www.pic.int/TheConvention/Chemicals/AnnexIIIChemicals/tabid/1132/language/en-US/Default.aspx). The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001) and the Rotterdam Convention are also relevant organizations alongside WHO.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence supporting the claim of no use, such as inspection of the chemical storage, interviews etc.</p>

Essential Component C.2.03

Chemical and Veterinary Drug Use | Legal Compliance

Summary of change:

Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the Tool.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires the aquaculture facility operates in compliance with relevant national and local laws with regard to the application of chemicals and veterinary drugs.	Verification is expected to include a review evidence to support compliance with relevant laws.	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Essential Component C.3.01

Environmentally Responsible Infrastructure, Construction, Waste Disposal and General Storage | Maintaining Good Culture and Hygienic Conditions

Summary of change: The underlying concern was if this essential component exhibits insufficient rigor and specificity. However, EWG reiterates that this component is designed to ensure applicability across a wide range of diverse species and technologies.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility and its daily operations ensure that good culture and hygienic conditions are maintained.</p>	<p>This is a general Essential Component that covers a range of potential issues depending on the type of production system, species being cultured, and the local environment, and as such there is a need for flexibility in how consistency is achieved. It is expected that the following issues would be addressed and the systems verified to be operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate storage of chemicals and fuel (e.g., stored in a lockable, labeled facility, limited access by personnel, leakage prevention - all based on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (see figure 4.14 of the A Guide to The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), available at: www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghsguideoct05.pdf) - Appropriate storage of feed (e.g., stored separately from sources of contamination, accurately labeled, keeping medicated and nonmedicated feed separated.) - Appropriate pest control (e.g., prevent contamination of feed, chemicals by rodents or insects etc.) - Domestic sewage control/disposal to avoid local contamination - General farm waste (e.g., empty feed bags, household rubbish, food containers etc.). 	<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility and its daily operations ensure that good culture and hygienic conditions are maintained. Relevant aspects include proper management of all chemicals, fuels and feeds including their safe storage</p>	<p>This is a general Essential Component that covers a range of potential issues depending on the type of production system, species being cultured, and the local environment, and as such there is a need for flexibility in how consistency is achieved. It is expected that the following issues would be addressed and the systems verified to be operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate storage of chemicals and fuel (e.g., stored in a lockable, labeled facility, limited access by personnel, leakage prevention - all based on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (see figure 4.14 of the A Guide to The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), available at: www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghsguideoct05.pdf) - Appropriate storage of feed (e.g., stored separately from sources of contamination, accurately labeled, keeping medicated and nonmedicated feed separated.) - Appropriate pest control (e.g., prevent contamination of feed, chemicals by rodents or insects etc.) - Domestic sewage control/disposal to avoid local contamination - General farm waste (e.g., empty feed bags, household rubbish, food containers etc.).

Essential Component C.3.02

Environmentally Responsible Infrastructure, Construction, Waste Disposal and General Storage | Maintaining Good Culture and Hygienic Conditions

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>(1) The term pollution was too specific and was therefore replaced with broader, more encompassing terminology. (2) Similarly use of more generic term: replace "damaged gear" with "derelict equipment and materials" to ensure that this component covers all relevant aquaculture equipment in current and possible future use. Guidance already provides specific examples</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that aquaculture facility infrastructure is appropriately maintained in order to prevent pollution, whether from construction, operation or decommissioning (e.g., including the following requirement: A requirement for derelict or damaged gear to be collected and disposed of responsibly.)</p>	<p>Given the wide variety of production systems in aquaculture specific guidance cannot be provided and flexibility by the evaluator is required using a risk-based approach. Examples could include the requirement for derelict or damaged gear in shellfish or cage aquaculture to be collected and disposed of responsibly, or for that waste from pond construction is not placed in mangrove forests in shrimp farming. It is expected that specific requirements or risk-based management systems would be required where appropriate, along with suitable verification. These requirements may also be included in other Standards, such as sensitive habitat protection or escape prevention.</p>	<p>The standard requires that aquaculture facility infrastructure is appropriately maintained in order to prevent pollution-negative environmental impacts, whether from construction, operation or decommissioning (e.g., including the following requirement: →A requirement for derelict equipment and materials or damaged gear to be collected and disposed of responsibly.)</p>	<p>Given the wide variety of production systems in aquaculture specific guidance cannot be provided and flexibility by the evaluator is required using a risk-based approach. Examples could include the requirement for derelict or damaged gear in shellfish or cage aquaculture to be collected and disposed of responsibly, or for that waste from pond construction is not placed in mangrove forests in shrimp farming. It is expected that specific requirements or risk-based management systems would be required where appropriate, along with suitable verification. These requirements may also be included in other Standards, such as sensitive habitat protection or escape prevention.</p>

Essential Component C.4.01

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer that can trace fish meal and fish oil (>1% inclusion) to the species and, at least, to the country of origin.	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.	The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer that can trace aquatic feed ingredients including fish meal and fish oil (>1% inclusion) to the species and, at least, to the country of origin.	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.

Essential Component C.4.02

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Distinguishing between the feed manufacturer and the feed itself had caused confusion. The responsibility is that of the farm to source from a feed supplier who does not use products from endangered species. The onus is clearly on the farm not the feed supplier then. It has implications for the feed supplier in that they can only supply to a certified farm if they comply with this requirement - but it doesn't have any other impact upon the feed supplier.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacture that prohibits fishmeal and fish oil from endangered species.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the Standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam's Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p>	<p>The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer who produces feed that excludes prohibits fishmeal and fish oil from endangered species and is validated as such.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the Standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam's Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p>

Essential Component C.4.03

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacture that prohibits the use of fishmeal and fish oil from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (I.U.U.).	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.	The standard requires the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer that prohibits the use of fishmeal and fish oil from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (I.U.U.).	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.

Essential Component C.4.04

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer that has a written policy which includes assessment of source fishery status and identification of improvement needs and work plan to deliver improvements. The policy must include a commitment and timeline to source aquaculture and fishery products from responsible/best practice sources, such as those certified a standard benchmarked at minimum consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling guidelines or by identified independent risk assessment.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.</p>	<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility to source feed from a manufacturer that has a written policy which includes assessment of source fishery status and identification of improvement needs and work plan to deliver improvements. The policy must include a commitment and timeline to source aquaculture and fishery products from responsible/best practice sources, such as those certified a standard benchmarked at minimum consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling guidelines or by identified independent risk assessment.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish and fishery byproducts.</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.01

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:		Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding Guidance – IFFO RS should be included in guidance as an indicative certification.	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer that sources, for whole fish ingredients are greater than 1% content;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fishmeal and fish oil that are traceable back to the species, fishery and country of origin, and - fishmeal and fish oil with less risk of detrimental environmental impacts, such as those certified to a standard benchmarked at minimum consistent with relevant FAO’s ecolabelling guidelines and that uncertified sources must be identified as low risk by independent risk assessment or must come from sources that are part of an effective Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) towards a suitable certification or that have been assessed to show limited impacts on stock status and ecosystem impacts as defined in Principle 3 of the FAO (2011). Aquaculture Development. 5. Use of Wild Fish as Feed in Aquaculture. 	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish.</p> <p>Effective FIPs could be those consistent with the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (2015). Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects. www.solutionsforseafood.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/Alliance-FIP-Guidelines-3.7.15.pdf</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.01, C.4.02, C.4.03, and C.4.04</p>	<p>The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer that sources, in cases where for whole fish ingredients are greater than 1% of content;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fishmeal and fish oil that are traceable back to the species, fishery and country of origin, and - fishmeal and fish oil with less risk of detrimental environmental impacts, such as those certified to a standard benchmarked at minimum consistent with relevant FAO’s ecolabelling guidelines and that uncertified sources must be identified as low risk by independent risk assessment or must come from sources that are part of an effective Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) towards a suitable certification or that have been assessed to show limited impacts on stock status and ecosystem impacts as defined in Principle 3 of the FAO (2011). Aquaculture Development. 5. Use of Wild Fish as Feed in Aquaculture. 	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish.</p> <p>Effective FIPs could be those consistent with the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (2015). Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects. www.solutionsforseafood.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/Alliance-FIP-Guidelines-3.7.15.pdf</p> <p>The IFFO Responsible Supply (IFFO RS) standard is expected to become a relevant standard when it has been benchmarked</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.01, C.4.02, C.4.03, and C.4.04</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.02

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:		Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding Guidance – IFFO RS should be included in guidance as an indicative certification.	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer only sources fishmeal and fish oil (greater than 1% content) from whole fish certified to a standard benchmarked to be, at minimum, consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling F41:F48+F41:F48ng guidelines.	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.01, C.4.02, C.4.03, C.4.04, and C.4.04.1</p>	The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer only sources fishmeal and fish oil (greater than 1% content) from whole fish certified to a standard benchmarked to be, at minimum, consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling guidelines.	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients (e.g., algae, krill, and squid) and to whole fish.</p> <p>The IFFO Responsible Supply (IFFO RS) standard is expected to become a relevant standard when it has been benchmarked</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.01, C.4.02, C.4.03, C.4.04, and C.4.04.1</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.03

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer only sources terrestrial feed ingredients (where greater than 1% of content) that are certified to an ecolabel or risk assessed not to present significant environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer.</p> <p>Examples of ecolabels in terrestrial feed ingredients include the Roundtable for sustainable soy and the Roundtable for sustainable palm oil. Accepted ecolabels are expected to have met credibility thresholds for content and process requirements relevant to the industry they represent (examples could include full ISEAL members, ISO Guidelines, or other FAO Guidelines).</p> <p>Risk assessment may include but is not limited to: (For plants) sensitive habitat protection, run-off (nutrients), chemicals, water use, predator/ pest controls, and legal compliance. (For Animals): Antimicrobials, disease prevention, feed efficiency and ingredients, waste.</p>	<p>The standard requires independent verification that the feed manufacturer only sources terrestrial feed ingredients (where greater than 1% of content) that are certified to an ecolabel or risk assessed not to present significant environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer.</p> <p>Examples of ecolabels in terrestrial feed ingredients include the Roundtable for sustainable soy and the Roundtable for sustainable palm oil. Accepted ecolabels are expected to have met credibility thresholds for content and process requirements relevant to the industry they represent (examples could include full ISEAL members, ISO Guidelines, or other FAO Guidelines).</p> <p>Risk assessment may include but is not limited to: (For plants) sensitive habitat protection, run-off (nutrients), chemicals, water use, predator/ pest controls, and legal compliance. (For Animals): Antimicrobials, disease prevention, feed efficiency and ingredients, waste.</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.05

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility sources feed from a manufacturer that assures the fish meal and fish oil used in production of aquaculture trimmings (if greater than 1% inclusion) can also be traceable back to the origin fishery and does not come from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (I.U.U.) and does not contain species on the IUCN red list. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as from squid and krill.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as from squid and krill.</p> <p>Verification of the use of compliant feed by the aquaculture facility is expected. Suitable evidence of compliance could include document evidence of sources supplying the feed mill, 3rd party certifications of source aquaculture facilities and/or rendering plants, legal permits, or declarations etc.</p>	<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility sources feed from a manufacturer that assures the fish meal and fish oil used in their production of from based upon aquaculture trimmings (if greater than 1% inclusion) can also be traceable back to the origin fishery and does not come from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (I.U.U.) and does not contain species on the IUCN red list. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as those from squid and krill.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as from squid and krill.</p> <p>Verification of the use of compliant feed by the aquaculture facility is expected. Suitable evidence of compliance could include document evidence of sources supplying the feed mill, 3rd party certifications of source aquaculture facilities and/or rendering plants, legal permits, or declarations etc.</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.06

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility sources feed from a manufacturer that assures that the fishmeal and fish oil from byproducts (if greater than 1% inclusion) come from fishery and aquaculture sources that were certified to a standard benchmarked to be, at minimum, consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling guidelines.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as from squid and krill.</p> <p>Verification of the use of compliant feed by the aquaculture facility is expected. Suitable evidence is expected to include document evidence of sources 3rd party certification and the independent verification that these certifications are compliant with FAO Guidelines.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.04.05</p>	<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility sources feed from a manufacturer that assures that the fishmeal and fish oil derived used from byproducts (if greater than 1% inclusion) come originally from fishery and aquaculture sources that were certified to a standard benchmarked to be, at minimum, consistent with relevant FAO's ecolabelling guidelines.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a 3rd party certification or audit of the feed manufacturer. The standard is expected to apply to other relevant marine feed ingredients, such as from squid and krill.</p> <p>Verification of the use of compliant feed by the aquaculture facility is expected. Suitable evidence is expected to include document evidence of sources 3rd party certification and the independent verification that these certifications are compliant with FAO Guidelines.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.4.04.05</p>

Supplementary Component C.4.04.07

Feed Use | Environmental Considerations of Feed Ingredients

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all relevant participant aquaculture facilities are required to, at least, meet appropriate requirements for feed.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Appropriate requirements must, at least, meet GSSI Essential Components in the Feed Use Performance Area. It is expected that the standard will define the minimum standards on feed or require participating facilities to have been certified to a standard that appropriate addresses feed.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and that the assurance system that the requirements are being met (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system being is in place that ensures that all relevant participant aquaculture facilities are required to, at least, meet appropriate requirements for feed.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Appropriate requirements must, at least, meet GSSI Essential Components in the Feed Use Performance Area. It is expected that the standard will define the minimum standards on feed or require participating facilities to have been certified to a standard that appropriate addresses feed.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and that the assurance system that the requirements are being met (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>

Essential Component C.4.05

Feed Use | Feed Biosecurity

Summary of change:

Changed.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard prohibits the use of whole fish as a direct feed source in grow-out.	Verification is expected to include a suitable review of evidence, such as feed use records, visual observation, and financial records in aquaculture industries where this is common practice.	The standard prohibits the use of raw fish as a direct feed source in grow-out.	<p>0% of feed at any time during production (under the scope of certification) may contain “whole fish” or “wet fish”, which includes any form of uncooked wet fish (whole or chopped or frozen etc.), which includes direct feed, supplemental feeding, or on-farm made applications. Alternatives would be to require 100% use of commercial dry pelleted feeds.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a suitable review of evidence, such as feed use records, visual observation, and financial records in aquaculture industries where this is common practice.</p> <p>A non-applicable (N/A) designation is only acceptable where 100% of production under the scope of the standard (including species, production intensity and production systems covered) uses entirely commercial dry pelleted feeds (e.g., Atlantic salmon).</p>

Essential Component C.4.06

Feed Use | Feed Biosecurity

Summary of change:	<p>Changed for clarity and ease of understanding Need to apply the precautionary principle after experiences like that of “madcow” disease, the clear statements regarding its unacceptability in a relevant FAO publication on this issue (Principle 9, Guideline 9.1 in FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Aquaculture Development, Supplement 5. Use of Wild Fish as Feed in Aquaculture).</p>		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard prohibits aquatic feed protein from the same species and genus as the species being farmed.	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer).	The standard prohibits aquatic feed protein from the same species and genus as the species being farmed.	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer).

Essential Component C.4.07

Feed Use | Feeding Efficiency

Summary of change:	FCR is the measure typically used by farmers as a practical yardstick of efficiency of feed usage. As a critical measure of efficiency, it has a direct relationship with profitability and is thus closely monitored on-farm. FIFO is a measure widely recognized by the environmentalist community		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
Where applicable, the standard requires that the aquaculture facility has suitable measures in place to ensure that feed is used efficiently at the individual production unit level.	Suitable measures are expected to be part of a wider feed management system, such as the use of feed trays, cameras, pellet sensors, documented records of visual feed response, staff training. Verification that the measures are operational and fit for purpose is also expected.	Where applicable, the standard requires that the aquaculture facility has suitable measures in place to ensure that feed is used efficiently at the individual production unit level.	Suitable measures are expected to be part of a wider feed management system, such as the use of feed trays, cameras, pellet sensors, measurement of FCR (Feed Conversion Ratio) and FIFO (Fish-In vs Fish Out) as well as documented records of visual feed response and staff training. Verification that the measures are operational and fit for purpose is also expected.

Essential Component C.4.08

Feed Use | Legal Compliance

Summary of change:	Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the BM Tool and make it easier to use
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that feed, feed additives, feed ingredients, and fertilizers used are compliant with relevant national and local laws	Verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer).	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Essential Component C.4.09

Feed Use | Record Keeping

Summary of change:

Changed

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that appropriate records are kept on all feed use.	Appropriate records are expected to include feed source, feed Batch/Lot/ID number, date of purchase, feed conversion ratio (FCR), and, where appropriate, feed inclusion percentages of fishmeal and fish oil or a fish in fish out ratio. Appropriate records are expected to be kept for each individual production unit. Verification of appropriate record keeping and suitable documentation from feed manufacturers is also expected.	The standard requires that appropriate records are kept on all feed use. At a minimum this must include feed source, feed Batch/Lot/ID number, date of purchase, and feed conversion ratio (FCR) MT	Appropriate records are expected to include those stated in the component feed source, feed Batch/Lot/ID number, date of purchase, feed conversion ratio (FCR) , and, where appropriate, feed inclusion percentages of fishmeal and fish oil or a fish in fish out ratio. Appropriate records are expected to be kept for each individual production unit. Verification of appropriate record keeping and suitable documentation from feed manufacturers is also expected.

Essential Component C.5.01

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Benthic Habitats

Summary of change:	The specific concern here relates to the GSSI's approach in deliberately employing the term "measures" rather than "systems" to demonstrate that solidly defined standards rather than mere plans are required to achieve "alignment".
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>For cage production systems, the standard requires appropriate management measures for preventing excessive impacts of aquaculture facility waste on benthic environments.</p>	<p>Appropriate measures for marine cage production systems are expected to consider biological, chemical, and physical impacts and additional chemical residues resulting from culture practices. Where relevant, they should conform to ISO 16665. The use of systems combining suitable allowable zones of effect and environmental quality standards of effect are expected. Verification that the measures are operational and fit for purpose is expected. Evidence of the prevention of adverse impacts could include comparisons with baseline conditions, reference locations, or standardized limits with a suitable justification for their use. Where adverse impacts are detected, it is expected that appropriate mitigation measures/ remedial action for the identified adverse impacts on the surrounding natural ecosystem are applied.</p> <p>While generally recognized as a marine cage issue, benthic impacts can also occur in freshwater cage systems. The degree of management measures should reflect the degree of potential impacts relative to the environment, production system, species, and size of production.</p>	<p>For cage production systems, the standard requires appropriate management measures for preventing excessive impacts of aquaculture facility waste on benthic environments, including impacts of a biological, chemical, or physical nature. Where acceptable levels of impact are exceeded, there should be provision for sanctions</p>	<p>Appropriate measures for marine cage production systems are expected to consider biological, chemical, and physical impacts and additional chemical residues resulting from culture practices and should use appropriate sampling methods. Where relevant, they should conform to ISO 16665. The use of systems combining suitable allowable zones of effect and environmental quality standards (EQS) of effect are expected. Verification that the measures are operational and fit for purpose is expected. Evidence of the prevention of adverse impacts could include comparisons with baseline conditions, reference locations, or standardized limits with a suitable justification for their use. Where adverse impacts are detected, it is expected that appropriate mitigation measures/ remedial action for the identified adverse impacts on the surrounding natural ecosystem are applied. Sanctions that address situations where EQS' are exceeded and there is no effective remediation within a suitable timeframe could include withholding certification</p> <p>While generally recognized as a marine cage issue, benthic impacts can also occur in freshwater cage systems. The degree of management measures should reflect the degree of potential impacts relative to the environment, production system, species, and size of production.</p>

Supplementary Component C.5.02.01

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Predator Control

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that the aquaculture facility uses non-lethal predator control measures on birds, mammals, and where relevant, reptiles.	<p>Verification of the predator controls used is expected. Examples of supporting evidence could include interview, visual inspection, and appropriate signage. Exceptions for human health and welfare and where euthanization is an act of mercy are acceptable and expected. Exclusions for accidental mortalities are also acceptable. This does not apply to pests (e.g., rats).</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.02</p>	The standard requires that the aquaculture facility uses non-lethal predator control measures on birds, mammals, and where relevant, reptiles.	<p>Verification of the predator controls used is expected. Examples of supporting evidence could include interview, visual inspection, and appropriate signage. Exceptions for human health and welfare and where euthanization is an act of mercy are acceptable and expected. Exclusions for accidental mortalities are also acceptable. This does not apply to pests (e.g., rats).</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.02</p>

Supplementary Component C.5.02.02

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Predator Control

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard excludes aquaculture facilities with a history of repeated accidental or deliberate mortality of endangered species has occurred.</p>	<p>Accidental mortality can include those as a result of entanglement etc. Repeated mortality means on more than one occasion over a suitable period of time (expected to be over one production cycle). Verification is expected and examples of supporting evidence include employee and local community interviews, appropriate signage, and interaction records.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam’s Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.02 and C.5.02.1</p>	<p>The standard excludes aquaculture facilities with where a history of repeated accidental or deliberate mortality of endangered species has occurred.</p>	<p>Accidental mortality can include those as a result of entanglement etc. Repeated mortality means on more than one occasion over a suitable period of time (expected to be over one production cycle). Verification is expected and examples of supporting evidence include employee and local community interviews, appropriate signage, and interaction records.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam’s Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.02 and C.5.02.1</p>

Essential Component C.5.03

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Preventing Habitat Impacts

Summary of change:	Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the BM Tool and make it easier and less cumbersome to use
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires compliance with national and local laws on habitat and biodiversity, including the providing of? Or compliance with the recommendations of? an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where required.	Verification is expected to include review evidence provided by the aquaculture facility to demonstrate legal compliance.	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Supplementary Component C.5.03.01

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Preventing Habitat Impacts

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a suitable process was put in place to protect sensitive habitat and endangered species prior to expansions to the aquaculture facility that occur post initial certification.</p>	<p>A suitable process could include an EIA that be required to show evidence of negligible impacts to sensitive habitats.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the Standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam’s Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p> <p>Verification is also expected.</p>	<p>The standard requires that a suitable process has been was put in place to protect sensitive habitat and endangered species prior to expansions to the aquaculture facility that occur after post initial certification.</p>	<p>A suitable process could include an EIA that be required to show evidence of negligible impacts to sensitive habitats.</p> <p>Endangered species are expected to be defined in the Standard, with reference to relevant national listings (e.g., Vietnam’s Red Data Book) and/or global listing organizations such as CITES (Appendix 1), IUCN Red List (Categories Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)). See www.iucnredlist.org and www.cities.org for more information.</p> <p>Verification is also expected.</p>

Supplementary Component C.5.04.01

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Sensitive Habitat and Biodiversity

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard ensures no net loss of sensitive habitats on an area basis as a result of aquaculture facility construction, and conversion and culture practices.</p>	<p>It is expected that the Standard will define (with supporting evidence) sensitive habitat in context with its scope, the basis for a “no net loss” claim, and an appropriate date to be used prior to which legal impacts can be “grandfathered in” (the date must be before major period of significant historical habitat loss for the production system that the certification covers). Verification at the aquaculture facility is expected to include whether restoration is necessary to what degree (evidence could include maps, aerial photos, satellite images, government certification etc.) and whether the active restoration is or is likely to be successful at restoring the sensitive habitat. Offsetting is allowed.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.04</p>	<p>The standard ensures that no net loss of sensitive habitats on an area basis has occurred as a result of aquaculture facility construction, and conversion and culture practices.</p>	<p>It is expected that the Standard will define (with supporting evidence) sensitive habitat in context with its scope, the basis for a “no net loss” claim, and an appropriate date to be used prior to which legal impacts can be “grandfathered in” (the date must be before major period of significant historical habitat loss for the production system that the certification covers). Verification at the aquaculture facility is expected to include whether restoration is necessary to what degree (evidence could include maps, aerial photos, satellite images, government certification etc.) and whether the active restoration is or is likely to be successful at restoring the sensitive habitat. Offsetting is allowed.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.04</p>

Supplementary Component C.5.04.02

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Sensitive Habitat and Biodiversity

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard ensures no loss of sensitive habitats as a result of aquaculture facility construction, conversion, expansion, and culture practices at the site. No grandfathering or offsetting is allowed.	<p>It is expected that the Standard will define (with supporting evidence) sensitive habitat in context with its scope, the basis for a “no loss” claim. Verification at the aquaculture facility is expected (evidence could include maps, aerial photos, satellite images, government certification etc.)</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.04 and C.5.04.1</p>	<p>The standard ensures that no loss of sensitive habitats has occurred as a result of aquaculture facility construction, conversion, expansion, and culture practices at the site. No grandfathering or offsetting is allowed.</p>	<p>It is expected that the Standard will define (with supporting evidence) sensitive habitat in context with its scope, the basis for a “no loss” claim. Verification at the aquaculture facility is expected (evidence could include maps, aerial photos, satellite images, government certification etc.)</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.5.04 and C.5.04.1</p>

Supplementary Component C.5.04.03

Impacts on Habitat and Biodiversity | Sensitive Habitat and Biodiversity

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for the shared protection of sensitive habitats and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that cumulative impact is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Common practices for shared protection include the examples in C.5.01, and C.5.02, and C.5.05. Coordinated practices could include the development of buffer zones and the restoration of impacted habitat within the area where necessary.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence including the area management agreement, and other exemplary evidence such as written records and monitoring results, meeting notes, financial records, and visual inspection.</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system being in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for the shared protection of sensitive habitats and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that cumulative impact is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Common practices for shared protection include the examples in C.5.01, and C.5.02, and C.5.05. Coordinated practices could include the development of buffer zones and the restoration of impacted habitat within the area where necessary.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence including the area management agreement, and other exemplary evidence such as written records and monitoring results, meeting notes, financial records, and visual inspection.</p>

Essential Component C.6.01

Seed | Legal Compliance

Summary of change:

Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the Tool.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that all seed is sourced and used in compliance with relevant national and local legal requirements for both the source and destination legal systems.	Verification is expected to include review evidence provided by the aquaculture facility to support compliance with relevant laws. This could include international laws (e.g., CITES) and laws governing introductions and transfers of live aquatic animals.	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Supplementary Component C.6.02.01

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that all intentionally stocked seed come from a source hatchery that has been independently verified to be legally compliant and has an Aquatic Animal Health Management Plan (AAHMP) which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional and is, at a minimum, consistent with the following GSSI Essential Components; C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.06, C.1.08. Verification that an established, implemented and maintained appropriate system for recording the source, stocking and health status of broodstock (either by the hatchery or through a traceability system back to the broodstock facility) is required.</p>	<p>Legal alignment is expected to include applicable local/international/ national laws/CITES laws and cover species introductions and transfers of live aquatic animals requirements (where relevant), including legal brood stock sourcing. Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of the independence and suitability of the hatchery source (e.g., audit report, certificate, benchmarking result). An appropriate records system is expected to include source of the seed, date of purchase, results of disease/health status tests, vaccination record of the seed, stocking density, and stocked brood stock batch identification. Verification that the system is operational and fit for purpose is expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.6.04, while C.6.03 will not be applicable.</p>	<p>The standard requires that all intentionally stocked seed come from a source hatchery that has been independently verified to be legally compliant and has an Aquatic Animal Health Management Plan (AAHMP) which is overseen by an aquatic animal health professional and is, at a minimum, consistent with the following GSSI Essential Components; C.1.01, C.1.02, C.1.06, C.1.08. Verification that an established, implemented and maintained appropriate system for recording the source, stocking and health status of broodstock (done either by the hatchery or through a traceability system back to the broodstock facility) is required.</p>	<p>Legal alignment is expected to include applicable local/international/ national laws/CITES laws and cover species introductions and transfers of live aquatic animals requirements (where relevant), including legal brood stock sourcing. Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of the independence and suitability of the hatchery source (e.g., audit report, certificate, benchmarking result). An appropriate records system is expected to include source of the seed, date of purchase, results of disease/health status tests, vaccination record of the seed, stocking density, and stocked brood stock batch identification. Verification that the system is operational and fit for purpose is expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.6.04, while C.6.03 will not be applicable.</p>

Essential Component C.6.03

Seed | Wild Seed

Summary of change: The component concerns wild seed and is therefore linked to Section D of the Framework, Fisheries. Component and especially guidance text is therefore changed to harmonize the language between the relevant sections. Following Public Consultation comments, this component was merged with C.6.04.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that where the deliberate use of wild seed is justifiable, it is collected in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures controls are in place so that the collection of seed is not detrimental to the status of the wild target and non-target populations, nor the wider ecosystem. - Avoids the use of environmentally damaging collection practices - source fishery is regulated by an appropriate authority 	<p>Expected examples of “justifiable use” include where there is a lack of commercially available hatchery-raised seed, inability/lack of technology to hatchery-raised the farmed species, or passive collection of mollusks. Justification could be offered at the standard or aquaculture facility level.</p> <p>i) Suitable controls are expected to include aspects such as a fishery management plan that limits take to maintain the wild populations (i.e., there is no measurable impact on recruitment levels or the stocks ability to increases (examples include stocks that are under or fully exploited) with appropriate safeguards against excessive bycatch, and prevention of damaging gear types.</p> <p>ii) Examples of environmentally damaging collection practice are expected to include dynamite or poison fishing, habitat impacts.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include the need to provide suitable evidence by the aquaculture facility (e.g., a summary report written by a credible 3rd party on the source fishery, a self-certification by the appropriate management authority, a 3rd party fishery certification that verifies suitable compliance).</p>	<p>The standard requires that where the deliberate use of wild seed is justifiable, it is collected in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures controls are in place so that the collection of seed is not detrimental to the status of the wild target and non-target populations, nor that of the wider ecosystem. This requires a documented management approach that ensures those wild populations are not overfished and not subject to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible, and avoids, minimizes or mitigates fishing impacts on essential habitats and on habitats that are highly vulnerable to damage by the fishing gear; - Avoids the use of environmentally damaging collection practices; And ensures that the source fishery is regulated by an appropriate authority. 	<p>Expected examples of “justifiable use” include where there is a lack of commercially available hatchery-raised seed, inability/lack of technology to hatchery-raised the farmed species, or passive collection of mollusks. Justification could be offered at the standard or aquaculture facility level. Verification is expected to include the need to provide suitable evidence by the aquaculture facility (e.g., a summary report written by a credible 3rd party on the source fishery, a self-certification by the appropriate management authority, a 3rd party fishery certification that verifies suitable compliance).</p> <p>A documented management approach is expected to follow</p> <p>Component D.3.01 where the standard requires the existence of documented management approaches or other management framework covering the unit of certification and the stock under consideration, including management measures consistent with achieving management objectives for the stock under consideration. Expected outcomes of the management approach are described in the Guidance of D.6.01 Target Stock Status, D.6.05 Non-Target Catches, D.6.06 Endangered Species, and D.6.07 Habitat, respectively. Definitions of terms related to wild fisheries can be found in Section D terms of the Glossary.</p> <p>Examples of environmentally damaging collection practices include blast, poison, and Muro-ami fishing practices.</p>

Essential Component C.6.04

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change:	Deleted. Following Public Consultation comments, this component was merged with C.6.03.		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that the aquaculture facility intentionally stocks hatchery-raised seed unless justification exists otherwise.	Examples of suitable justifiable exclusions are provided in C.6.03. Standards are expected to encourage the use of hatchery raised seed as they become available (e.g., by including a deadline for use to become required in the standard, or a certain percentage of seed needing to come from hatcheries to be met for certification, etc.). Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of the source of seed stocked at the aquaculture facility. In case of production systems and species where only hatchery seed is used (e.g., Atlantic salmon) this GSSI Essential Component can be not applicable.	See C.6.03 for merged component text.	See C.6.03 for merged guidance text.

Essential Component C.6.05

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change:		Changed. Edited for clarity and rigor by removing ambiguity as to what "suitable measures" are.	
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that suitable measures are in place to ensure that hatchery-raised seed are free from relevant/important pathogens before stocking for grow-out.	<p>Relevant/important pathogens are expected to include those identified by the aquatic health professional and sources such as the OIE/ transboundary disease lists (See Chapter 1.3 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code 2015 http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/).</p> <p>Verification of suitable measures is expected to include reviews of disease-testing methods, the disease tested for, and the results (including ISO 23893-1:2007), and the vaccination record of the seed. This could form part of the aquatic animal health management plan.</p>	<p>The standard requires that suitable measures are in place to ensure that hatchery-raised seed are free from relevant/important pathogens before stocking for grow-out.</p>	<p>Relevant/important pathogens are expected to include those identified by the aquatic health professional and sources such as the OIE/ transboundary disease lists (See Chapter 1.3 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code 2015 http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/).</p> <p>Verification of suitable measures is expected to include reviews of disease-testing methods, the disease tested for, and the results (including ISO 23893-1:2007), and the vaccination record of the seed. This could form part of the aquatic animal health management plan.</p>

Supplementary Component C.6.05.01

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change:

Change ddds rigor to both the component and the guidance

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that all manually stocked seed are principally from hatchery-reared (domesticated) broodstock.	<p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the source of the broodstock (e.g., hatchery certification, inspection of written/ financial records, marking techniques, legal compliance/permits). An exception for small numbers of wild broodstock is allowable if needed to avoid inbreeding depression and genetic drift.</p> <p>C.6.03 will not be applicable to aligned standards.</p>	The standard requires that all manually stocked seed are principally from hatchery-reared (domesticated) broodstock.	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of the source of the broodstock (e.g., hatchery certification, inspection of written/ financial records, marking techniques, legal compliance/permits). An exception for small numbers of wild-caught broodstock is allowable if these are introduced to avoid inbreeding depression and genetic drift and suitable biosecurity measures are applied to prevent disease introduction. C.6.03 will not be applicable to aligned standards.</p>

Supplementary Component C.6.05.02

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that all manually stocked seed are hatchery-reared from wild broodstock, the broodstock is collected in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures controls are in place so that the collection of broodstock is not detrimental to the status of the wild target and non-target populations, nor the wider ecosystem. - Avoids the use of environmentally damaging collection practices - source fishery is regulated by an appropriate authority 	<p>i) Suitable controls are expected to include aspects such as a fishery management plan that limits take to maintain the wild populations (i.e., there is no measurable impact on recruitment levels or the stock's ability to increase (examples include stocks that are under or fully exploited) with appropriate safeguards against excessive bycatch, and prevention of damaging gear types.</p> <p>ii) Examples of environmentally damaging collection practice are expected to include dynamite or poison fishing, habitat impacts.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include the need to provide suitable evidence by the aquaculture facility (e.g., a summary report written by a credible 3rd party on the source fishery, a self-certification by the appropriate management authority, a 3rd party fishery certification that verifies suitable compliance).</p> <p>Consistency with this Supplementary Component results in C.6.03 being "not applicable".</p>	<p>The standard requires that where all manually stocked seed that are hatchery-reared from wild broodstock, the broodstock is collected in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures controls are in place so that the collection of broodstock is not detrimental to the status of the wild target and non-target populations, nor the wider ecosystem. - Avoids the use of environmentally damaging collection practices - And ensures that the source fishery is regulated by an appropriate authority 	<p>i) Suitable controls are expected to include aspects such as a fishery management plan that limits take to maintain the wild populations (i.e., there is no measurable impact on recruitment levels or the stock's ability to increase (examples include stocks that are under or fully exploited) with appropriate safeguards against excessive bycatch, and prevention of damaging gear types.</p> <p>ii) Examples of environmentally damaging collection practice are expected to include dynamite or poison fishing, habitat impacts.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include the need to provide suitable evidence by the aquaculture facility (e.g., a summary report written by a credible 3rd party on the source fishery, a self-certification by the appropriate management authority, a 3rd party fishery certification that verifies suitable compliance).</p> <p>Consistency with this Supplementary Component results in C.6.03 being "not applicable".</p>

Supplementary Component C.6.05.03

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires manually stocked hatchery-reared seed is from a hatchery, or via broodstock facility, that has established, implemented, and maintained a broodstock management plan to avoid genetic drift and inbreeding depression.</p>	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of the broodstock facility having an operational and fit for purpose plan. This could include self-certification, copies of the plan itself, suitable records etc.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.6.05.1</p>	<p>The standard requires that all manually stocked hatchery-reared seed is from a hatchery, or via broodstock facility, that has established, implemented, and maintained a broodstock management plan to avoid genetic drift and inbreeding depression.</p>	<p>i) Suitable controls are expected to include aspects such as a fishery management plan that limits take to maintain the wild populations (i.e., there is no measurable impact on recruitment levels or the stock's ability to increase (examples include stocks that are under or fully exploited) with appropriate safeguards against excessive bycatch, and prevention of damaging gear types.</p> <p>ii) Examples of environmentally damaging collection practice are expected to include dynamite or poison fishing, habitat impacts.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include the need to provide suitable evidence by the aquaculture facility (e.g., a summary report written by a credible 3rd party on the source fishery, a self-certification by the appropriate management authority, a 3rd party fishery certification that verifies suitable compliance).</p> <p>Consistency with this Supplementary Component results in C.6.03 being "not applicable".</p>

Supplementary Component C.6.05.04

Seed | Hatchery Seed

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use appropriate common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for sourcing seed in order to maintain biosecurity within the AMS.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Common practices for sourcing seed are expected to include (where applicable) GSSI-Essential Components C.6.03, C.6.04, C.6.05. Where appropriate, coordinate response actions could include harmonized stocking. Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the common and coordinated practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system being in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use appropriate common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for sourcing seed in order to maintain biosecurity within the AMS.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Common practices for sourcing seed are expected to include (where applicable) GSSI-Essential Components C.6.03, C.6.04, C.6.05. Where appropriate, coordinate response actions could include harmonized stocking. Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the common and coordinated practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>

Essential Component C.7.01

Species Selection and Escapes | Escapes

Summary of change: Escapes appear to be relatively common incidences with marine cage systems and it's critical that the auditors are instructed to verify the stated components in the Guidance.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility establishes, implements, and maintains an appropriate system to minimize the unintentional release or escape of cultured species.</p>	<p>An appropriate system is expected to be based on an evaluation of the likelihood of events and the magnitude of impacts on surrounding environment (where risk assessments are used they met use a suitable scientific method and taking into consideration, siting, culture practices, local environmental conditions, including extreme events, and other relevant uncertainties) according to the precautionary approach and possible impacts on surrounding natural ecosystems, including fauna, flora, and habitat. Specific requirements stated in the standard are acceptable.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of an operational and fit for purpose system.</p> <p>The system is expected to address the following; relative to the species being farmed and the production system (individual elements can be "Not Applicable" with these considerations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Measures for escape detection ii) Monitoring for and record keeping of escapes events iii) Suitable training of employees iv) Incident management and infrastructure, including response or recapture measures. v) Regular monitoring and maintenance of the culture system vi) Regular review and failure analysis vii) containment infrastructure 	<p>The standard requires that the aquaculture facility establishes, implements, and maintains an appropriate system to minimize the unintentional release or escape of cultured species. This should include monitoring and management of the physical facilities and practices</p>	<p>An appropriate system is expected to be based on an evaluation of the likelihood of events and the magnitude of impacts on surrounding environment (where risk assessments are used they met use a suitable scientific method and taking into consideration, siting, culture practices, local environmental conditions, including extreme events, and other relevant uncertainties) according to the precautionary approach and possible impacts on surrounding natural ecosystems, including fauna, flora, and habitat. Specific requirements stated in the standard are acceptable.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence of an operational and fit for purpose system.</p> <p>The system is expected to address the following; relative to the species being farmed and the production system (individual elements can be "Not Applicable" with these considerations): The monitoring of the management practices could include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Measures for escape detection ii) Monitoring for and record keeping of escapes events iii) Suitable training of employees iv) Incident management and infrastructure, including response or recapture measures. v) Regular monitoring and maintenance of the culture system vi) Regular review and failure analysis vii) containment infrastructure <p>Relative to the species being farmed and the production system individual elements can be "Not Applicable" with these considerations).</p>

Supplementary Component C.7.01.01

Species Selection and Escapes | Escapes

Summary of change: Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard excludes (or decertifies) aquaculture facilities that have repeated escape events over a representative number of production cycles.	<p>Repeated escape events are expected to be considered in terms of the numbers of aquatic animals stocked and the length of the production cycle. Escapes due to factors outside of the aquaculture facility's control can be exempt. Examples of representative number of production cycles include 3 or more for production cycles less than 1.5 years, 2 for production cycles over 1.5 years, 1 for production cycles over 3 years.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence, such as monitoring records, interviews with employees and the local community.</p>	The standard excludes from certification (or decertifies) aquaculture facilities that have experienced repeated escape events over a representative number of production cycles.	<p>Repeated escape events are expected to be considered in terms of the numbers of aquatic animals stocked and the length of the production cycle. Escapes due to factors outside of the aquaculture facility's control can be exempt. Examples of representative number of production cycles include 3 or more for production cycles less than 1.5 years, 2 for production cycles over 1.5 years, 1 for production cycles over 3 years.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence, such as monitoring records, interviews with employees and the local community.</p>

Supplementary Component C.7.01.03

Species Selection and Escapes | Escapes

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for the shared management of aquatic animal escape risk.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Common practices for the shared management of aquatic animal escape risks are expected to include a system consistent with Essential Component C.7.01. Where appropriate, coordinate response actions could include recapture efforts. Where relevant, the AMS is expected to include monitoring impact of cumulative escapes on native wild fish population feeding back into appropriate management systems to prevent and mitigate irreversible or very slowly reversible impact on the native population. Requirements are expected to be enforced through an agreement with the regulator or legally binding agreement of the producers in the area (e.g., an MOU or similar document).</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the common and coordinated practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system being in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities use common and, where applicable, coordinated practices for the shared management of aquatic animal escape risk.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Common practices for the shared management of aquatic animal escape risks are expected to include a system consistent with Essential Component C.7.01. Where appropriate, coordinate response actions could include recapture efforts. Where relevant, the AMS is expected to include monitoring impact of cumulative escapes on native wild fish population feeding back into appropriate management systems to prevent and mitigate irreversible or very slowly reversible impact on the native population. Requirements are expected to be enforced through an agreement with the regulator or legally binding agreement of the producers in the area (e.g., an MOU or similar document).</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the common and coordinated practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p>

Essential Component C.7.03

Species Selection and Escapes | Exotic Species

Summary of change:

Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the Tool.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that all species are farmed in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.	Verification is expected to include review evidence provided by the aquaculture facility to support compliance with relevant laws.	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Essential Component C.8.01

Impacts on Water Resources | Legal Compliance

Summary of change:

Included in C.9.01, one Essential Component on Legal Compliance. In order to streamline the Tool.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires compliance with all relevant laws regarding water use, water quality, and waste discharge.	Verification is expected to include review evidence provided by the aquaculture facility to support compliance with relevant laws.	Replaced by Essential Component C9.01	Replaced by Guidance C9.01

Supplementary Component C.8.03.01

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Use

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
Where appropriate (e.g., land-based pond and flow-through systems, particularly in water resource limited regions), the standard requires metric limits placed on the freshwater consumption and prevention of aquifer drawdown.	<p>Metric limits are expected to be defined (by the facility or by the standard) and intended to prevent aquifer drawdown and minimize negative impacts on freshwater resources and the surrounding environment. Verification that these limits are not exceeded by the aquaculture facility is expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.03</p>	Where appropriate (e.g., land-based pond and flow-through systems, particularly in water resource limited regions), the standard requires metric limits to be placed on the freshwater consumption and prevention of aquifer drawdown.	<p>Metric limits are expected to be defined (by the facility or by the standard) and intended to prevent aquifer drawdown and minimize negative impacts on freshwater resources and the surrounding environment. Verification that these limits are not exceeded by the aquaculture facility is expected.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.03</p>

Supplementary Component C.8.03.02

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Use

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities adapt their practices using a planned approach to limit cumulative freshwater abstraction.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Practices could include setting water abstraction limits for each aquaculture facility based on an assessment of regional abstraction capacity and/or requiring common practices that limit abstraction (e.g., requiring pond linings). Requirements are expected to be enforced through an agreement with the regulator or legally binding agreement of the producers in the area (e.g., an MOU or similar document).</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence, such as regional water resources monitoring data and local planning and licensing policies. Please also review guidance for the Essential Components on Water Use.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.03 and C.8.03.1</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system to be in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities adapt their practices using a planned approach to limit cumulative freshwater abstraction.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Practices could include setting water abstraction limits for each aquaculture facility based on an assessment of regional abstraction capacity and/or requiring common practices that limit abstraction (e.g., requiring pond linings). Requirements are expected to be enforced through an agreement with the regulator or legally binding agreement of the producers in the area (e.g., an MOU or similar document).</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence, such as regional water resources monitoring data and local planning and licensing policies. Please also review guidance for the Essential Components on Water Use.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.03 and C.8.03.1</p>

Essential Component C.8.04

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Quality

Summary of change: The intention is to ensure that the benchmark's credibility is maintained by ensuring that schemes that should not be "in alignment" are certified accordingly

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires, where appropriate, management measures for effluents in order to reduce adverse impacts on the water quality of water bodies receiving effluents.</p>	<p>Appropriate measures are expected to include.</p> <p>1. Monitoring and recording of effluent or receiving water quality, and which may include key parameters that need to be addressed include, where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Nutrients – Nitrate/Nitrogen (impacts on seawater) ii) Nutrients – Phosphate/Phosphorous (impacts on freshwater) iii) Dissolved oxygen iv) Salinity v) Suspended Solids vi) pH <p>2. Defined, aquaculture appropriate, maximum reference points (e.g., general concentration limits or aquaculture facility-specific limits) or mandatory systems (e.g., presence of a suitable filter) are defined to prevent pollution</p> <p>3. Where reference points are exceeded, the scheme either refuses certification or that mitigation methods are employed and monitored to meet a time bound goal to come into compliance.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence that the system is operational and fit for purpose, including visual inspection of the site. Where effluent concentration limits are used for compliance, independent verification of conformance is also expected.</p> <p>“Where appropriate” is expected to include standards that cover production systems that release effluent that has the potential to impact water quality, e.g., fed/intensive aquaculture in ponds and raceways. An exception for marine cage aquaculture and on or off bottom shellfish culture is expected.</p>	<p>The standard requires, where appropriate, management measures for effluents in order to reduce adverse impacts on the water quality of water bodies receiving effluents. Monitoring of the systems effluents against appropriate criteria is required, with sanctions applied where mitigation response is inadequate</p>	<p>Appropriate measures are expected to include.</p> <p>1. Monitoring and recording of effluent or receiving water quality, and which may include key parameters that need to be addressed include, where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Nutrients – Nitrate/Nitrogen (impacts on seawater) ii) Nutrients – Phosphate/Phosphorous (impacts on freshwater) iii) Dissolved oxygen iv) Salinity v) Suspended Solids vi) pH <p>2. Defined, aquaculture appropriate, maximum reference points (e.g., general concentration limits or aquaculture facility-specific limits) or mandatory systems (e.g., presence of a suitable filter) are defined to prevent pollution</p> <p>3. Where reference points are exceeded, the scheme either refuses certification or that mitigation methods are employed and monitored to meet a time bound goal to come into compliance.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence that the system is operational and fit for purpose, including visual inspection of the site. Where effluent concentration limits are used for compliance, independent verification of conformance is also expected.</p> <p>“Where appropriate” is expected to include standards that cover production systems that release effluent that has the potential to impact water quality, e.g., fed/intensive aquaculture in ponds and raceways. An exception for marine cage aquaculture and on or off bottom shellfish culture is expected.</p>

Supplementary Component C.8.04.01

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Quality

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires suitable specific limits nutrient load released to the environment.	<p>Suitable specific limits are expected to be specific to the culture practices and designed to ensure minimal pollution. Verification is expected to include a review of evidence that the specific limits are met.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04</p>	The standard requires suitable specific limits to the nutrient load released to the environment.	<p>Suitable specific limits are expected to be specific to the culture practices and designed to ensure minimal pollution. Verification is expected to include a review of evidence that the specific limits are met.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04</p>

Supplementary Component C.8.04.02

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Quality

Summary of change:	Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding. Guidance – original guidance referred to disease transmission rather than water quality which is the subject of this component – text revised accordingly
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities adapt their practices using a planned approach to limit regional water quality impacts to avoid regional eutrophication and self-pollution.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is highly unlikely.</p> <p>Practices could include developing regional environmental quality standards based on regional water quality monitoring and feeding back to the farms when the limits are approached or exceed to reduce their impact (e.g., by improving water treatments systems or reducing production). Another possible approach would be to set regional production limits based on carrying capacity planning.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04 and C.8.04.01</p>	<p>The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system to be is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities adapt their practices using a planned approach to limit regional water quality impacts to avoid regional eutrophication and self-pollution.</p>	<p>Not applicable where the location of the aquaculture facility is physically or sufficiently isolated that disease transfer is ensures that eutrophication or self-pollution is highly unlikely. is highly unlikely.(i.e. in open fast flowing waters)</p> <p>Practices could include developing regional environmental quality standards based on regional water quality monitoring and feeding back to the farms when the limits are approached or exceed to reduce their impact (e.g., by improving water treatments systems or reducing production). Another possible approach would be to set regional production limits based on carrying capacity planning.</p> <p>An appropriately defined area is expected to have boundaries that are defined according to the ability to realistically manage aquatic disease risk within it.</p> <p>Verification is expected to include a review evidence of the presence of the system and the practices applied (e.g., such as written records, meeting notes, contractual agreements and/or interviews).</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04 and C.8.04.01</p>

Supplementary Component C.8.04.03

Impacts on Water Resources | Water Quality

Summary of change:

Changed language for clarity and ease of understanding.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system is in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities cooperate to ensure a carrying capacity-based planning system is used to minimize impact on local water quality	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of carrying capacity modeling, regional water quality monitoring results, local planning and licensing policies.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04, C.8.04.1, C.8.04.2, and C.8.04.3.</p>	The standard requires a legally binding, appropriately defined, and operational area management system to be in place that ensures that all participant aquaculture facilities cooperate to ensure a carrying capacity-based planning system is used to minimize impact on local water quality	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of carrying capacity modeling, regional water quality monitoring results, local planning and licensing policies.</p> <p>Aligned standards will also be considered in alignment with C.8.04, C.8.04.1, C.8.04.2, and C.8.04.3.</p>

Essential Component C.9.01

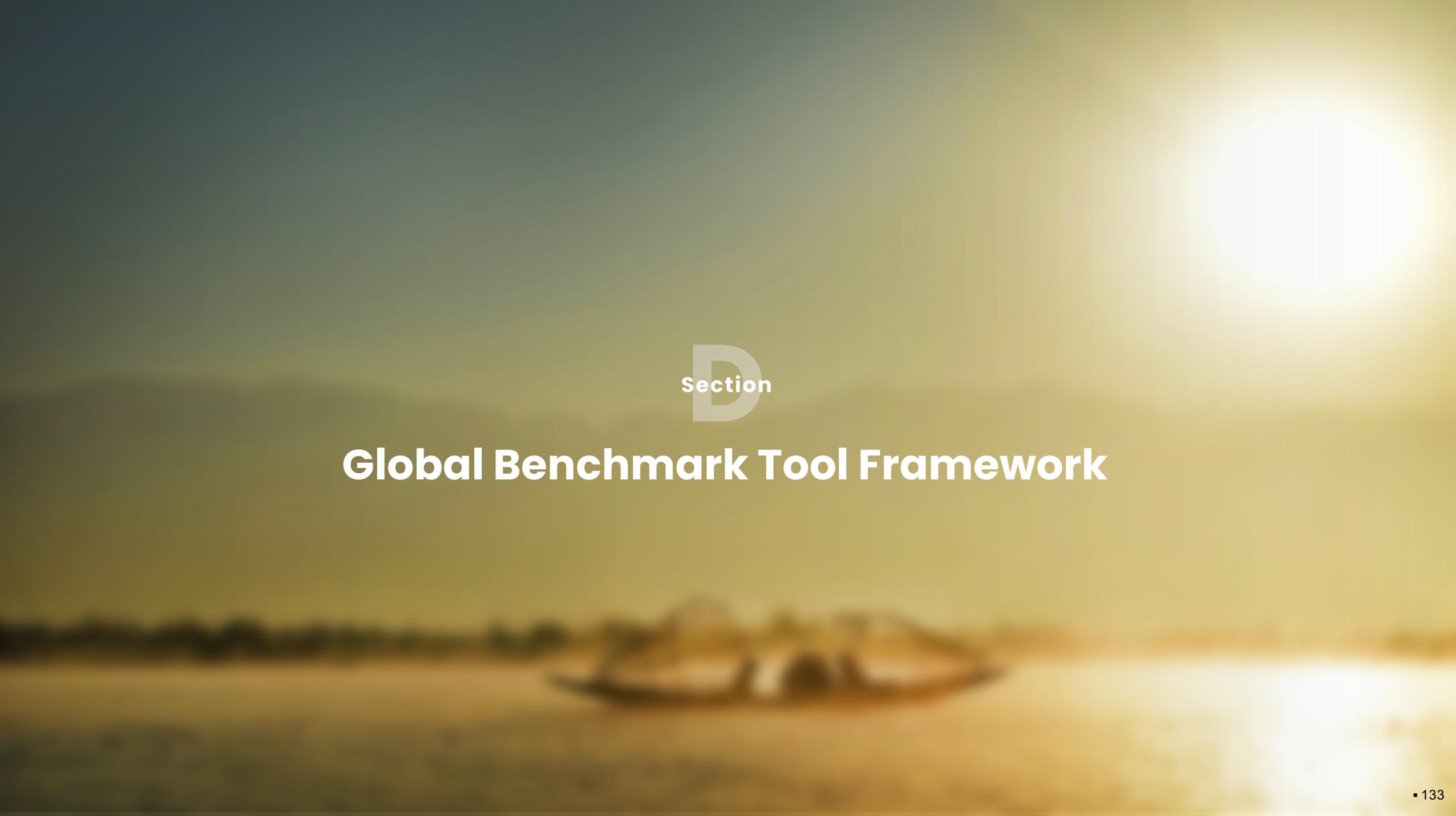
Local/National Legislation | Legal Compliance

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>In order to streamline the BM Tool and make it easier to use. This new component replaces a series of essential components that duplicate the requirement to obey national and local laws. All were linked by a critical requirement: to obey the law. This merging of related components was proposed in order to streamline the Benchmark Tool, this being one of the objectives of the revision process. Comments received that some of the listed topics are beyond the range from a farm standard. EWG response: the onus here is clearly upon the farmer/producer to procure the legally correct input, not upon the input supplier who is not directly covered by this component.</p>		
Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>New category replacing former categories</p>	<p>New category replacing former categories</p>	<p>The standard requires (evidence of) compliance with all local and national laws and regulations relevant to aquaculture, especially concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - application of chemicals and veterinary drugs - feed, feed ingredients and fertilizers - habitat and biodiversity (including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where required) - seed sourcing at both source and destination - Escapes and releases - water use, water quality and waste discharge 	<p>Verification is expected to include a review of evidence provided by the aquaculture facility to support compliance with relevant laws. For feed, its ingredients & fertilizers, verification is expected to include a review of evidence (e.g., documentation, self-declaration by the feed manufacturer). For seed sourcing this could include international laws (e.g., CITES, OIE and ICES import guidelines) and laws governing introductions and transfers of live aquatic animals.</p>

Essential and Supplementary Component numbering change

The revision of the Global Benchmark Tool resulted in changes to the numbering used throughout the Framework. The table below details what the Components numbers under version 1 of the Global Benchmark Tool (V1.0) have changed to after the revision (V2.0). Where a change in number has occurred, the table has been shaded for easier identification of the changes.

V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0	V1.0	V2.0
C.1.01	C.1.01	C.3.02	C.3.02	C.6.02	C.6.01	C.1.08.03	C.1.07.03	C.4.04.03	C.4.04.03	C.6.05.01	C.6.03.01
C.1.02	C.1.01	C.4.01	C.4.01	C.6.03	C.6.02	C.1.08.04	C.1.07.04	C.4.04.04	C.4.04.04	C.6.05.02	C.6.03.02
C.1.03	C.1.02	C.4.02	C.4.02	C.6.04	C.6.02	C.1.08.05	C.1.07.05	C.4.04.05	C.4.04.05	C.6.05.03	C.6.03.03
C.1.04	C.1.03	C.4.03	C.4.03	C.6.05	C.6.03	C.1.08.06	deleted	C.4.04.06	C.4.04.06	C.6.05.04	C.6.03.04
C.1.05	C.1.04	C.4.04	C.4.04	C.7.01	C.7.01	C.1.08.07	C.1.07.06	C.4.04.07	C.4.04.07	C.7.01.01	C.7.01.01
C.1.06	C.1.05	C.4.05	C.4.05	C.7.02	C.7.02	C.1.08.08	C.1.07.07	C.5.02.01	C.5.02.01	C.7.01.02	C.7.01.02
C.1.07	C.1.06	C.4.06	C.4.06	C.7.03	C.9.01	C.1.10.01	C.1.09.01	C.5.02.02	C.5.02.02	C.7.01.03	C.7.01.03
C.1.08	C.1.07	C.4.07	C.4.07	C.8.01	C.9.01	C.2.02.01	C.2.02.01	C.5.03.01	C.5.03.04	C.7.03.01	C.7.01.04
C.1.09	C.1.08	C.4.08	C.9.01	C.8.02	C.8.01	C.2.02.02	C.2.02.02	C.5.03.02	C.5.03.05	C.8.03.01	C.8.02.01
C.1.10	C.1.09	C.4.09	C.4.08	C.8.03	C.8.02	C.3.01.01	C.3.01.01	C.5.03.03	C.5.03.06	C.8.03.02	C.8.02.02
C.1.11	C.1.10	C.5.01	C.5.01	C.8.04	C.8.03	C.3.01.02	C.3.01.02	C.5.04.01	C.5.03.01	C.8.04.01	C.8.03.01
C.2.01	C.2.01	C.5.02	C.5.02	C.1.02.01	C.1.01.01	C.3.02.01	C.3.02.01	C.5.04.02	C.5.03.02	C.8.04.02	C.8.03.02
C.2.02	C.2.02	C.5.03	C.9.01	C.1.02.02	C.1.01.02	C.3.02.02	C.3.02.02	C.5.04.03	C.5.03.03	C.8.04.03	C.8.03.03
C.2.03	C.9.01	C.5.04	C.5.03	C.1.08.01	C.1.07.01	C.4.04.01	C.4.04.01	C.6.02.01	C.6.01.01		
C.3.01	C.3.01	C.6.01	C.9.01	C.1.08.02	C.1.07.02	C.4.04.02	C.4.04.02	C.6.03.01	C.6.02.01		



Section

Global Benchmark Tool Framework

Summary of changes

Structure change

Section D now has a two-tier structure: under the 6 Performance Areas, there will only be elements. This structure is now in line with the rest of the Framework. Additionally, it is expected to simplify the understanding of the Framework. To complete the new structure, a new Essential Component on enhanced fisheries was added under performance area "Data and Information" (D.3.08).

Additional components on small-scale fisheries

Part of the scope of this revision was to include new FAO Guidelines as Supplementary Components. Two recent guidelines are relevant for Section D of our Framework, namely Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2012).

Newly added Supplementary Components reflecting these guidelines, all concern small-scale fisheries. Under version 1, there was no Essential Component specifically covering management objectives, assessment methodologies or management measures for small-scale fisheries. To fill this gap, Essential Components on small-scale fisheries has been added under performance area "Management Objectives" (D.2.09), under "Assessment Methodologies" (D.4.11) and under "Management Measures" (D.5.10).

Change in language to clarify the intent of the component

Different comments indicated that the intent of a component was unclear. Comments could include stakeholder questions, request for clarification by users (IEs or Scheme Owners) or complaints of inconsistent application during previous benchmarking processes. For these components, the EWG has proposed different Component and/or Guidance language, leaving less room for interpretation on the intent but maintaining the same robustness and flexibility of the component.

Supplementary Component D.1.08.03

Governance and Management Approach | Participatory Management

Summary of change:	From previous experience it appeared this SC is easier to assess if the scheme under review elaborates on the scope of the consultation process beyond national jurisdiction (although specific mention of deep-sea fisheries is not deemed necessary). The guidance text is edited to this effect
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the governance and fisheries management system under which the unit of certification is managed to be both participatory and transparent, including consultation with "responsible" deep sea fishers, to the extent permitted by national laws and regulations.</p>	<p>In addition to the governance and fisheries management system being participatory and transparent (as per the parent Essential Component), this Supplemental Component requires to the Standard to include specific consultation with "responsible" deep sea fishers. The source of this Supplemental Component is the FAO Deep Sea Guidelines, which relate to fisheries on the high seas. Hence there is an international context for management of fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction which may go beyond the parent requirement. Note, however, that the wording of a Supplemental Component cannot be used as a justification for weakening the application of an Essential Component by implying that something is excluded from the Essential Component that might otherwise have been assumed to be included.</p>	<p>The standard requires the governance and fisheries management system under which the unit of certification is managed to be both participatory and transparent, including consultation with "responsible" deep sea fishers, to the extent permitted by national laws and regulations.</p>	<p>In addition to the governance and fisheries management system being participatory and transparent (as per the parent Essential Component), this Supplementary Component requires the Standard to include specific consultation with "responsible" deep sea fishers. The source of this Supplemental Component is the FAO Deep Sea Guidelines, which relate to deep sea fisheries on the high seas. Hence there is an international context for management of fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction which may go beyond the parent requirement. To assess conformance, it would be useful (for example) if the scheme elaborated on the requirement for consultation with respect to fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Note, however, that the wording of a Supplementary Component cannot be used as a justification for weakening the application of an Essential Component by implying that something is excluded from the Essential Component that might otherwise have been assumed to be included.</p>

Supplementary Component D.1.09.02

Governance and Management Approach | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

Summary of change:	This is an additional supplementary component derived from the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2012). It covers the recognition of legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, particularly in small scale fisheries, which is not addressed explicitly elsewhere in the Benchmark. Component is focused on environmental sustainability of small-scale fisheries, coming from the perspective of livelihoods and sustainable development.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
New	New	The standard requires that the Management System, in accordance with national legislation, recognizes and respects all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, particularly in small scale fishing communities, and takes reasonable measures to identify and record legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, whether formally recorded or not.	This Supplementary Component expands on its parent Essential Component by focusing specifically on the need to recognize and protect legitimate tenure rights in small scale fisheries, including the taking of reasonable steps to identify those tenure rights in small scale fishing communities where they may not already be formally recorded.

Supplementary Component D.1.09.03

Governance and Management Approach | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

Summary of change:	<p>This is an additional supplementary component derived from the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014). It covers the impacts of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change on small scale fisheries, which is not addressed explicitly elsewhere in the Benchmark.</p> <p>Component is not only focused on social considerations. It addresses the building of strategies for adaptation, mitigation and resilience in small scale fisheries in the face of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
New	New	<p>The standard requires that the Management System recognizes and takes into account the differential impact of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change on small-scale fisheries and develops policies and plans to address climate change in fisheries, in particular strategies for adaptation and mitigation, where applicable, as well as for building resilience.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component expands on its parent Essential Component by focusing specifically on the need to recognize and mitigate the impacts of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change on small scale fisheries, including the development of policies and plans.</p>

Supplementary Component D.1.09.04

Governance and Management Approach | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>This is an additional supplementary component derived from the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014). It covers the need to enhance the capacity of small-scale fishing communities to participate in decision-making processes, which is not addressed explicitly elsewhere in the Benchmark. The relevance to the GBT is the benefit of an inclusive decision-making process on the orderly and effective management of the resource. Following the comments, explanation on this relevance is added to the guidance text.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>New</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>The standard requires that the Management System enhances the capacity of small-scale fishing communities to participate in decision-making processes, where applicable.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component expands on its parent Essential Component by focusing specifically on the need to enhance the capacity of small-scale fishing communities (where applicable) to participate in decision-making processes. Activities that might demonstrate conformance with this SC include supporting the organization of groups within communities that enable them to participate in decision-making in an effective and orderly manner. The relevance of this to the Benchmark is the benefit of an inclusive decision-making process on the orderly and effective management of the resource, including responsible governance and sustainable development of small-scale fisheries.</p>

Essential Component D.1.10

Governance and Management Approach | Compliance of the Management System

Summary of change: The purpose of this edit to the guidance is to clarify that the term management system is not the same as management organization. These terms are both defined in the glossary. In essence, management organization is the institution responsible for fisheries management (the "Designated Authority"), while a management system is a framework of processes and procedures.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that the fisheries management system under which the unit of certification is managed operates in compliance with local, national, and international laws and regulations, including the requirements of any regional fisheries management organization that exercises internationally recognized management jurisdiction over the fisheries on the stock under consideration.</p>	<p>Under this Essential Component the standard requires that the fisheries management system must operate legally (locally, nationally, and internationally); the legality of the fishery (i.e., compliance with applicable fishing regulations) is covered under other requirements in this Performance Area. For the purposes of clarity, this includes compliance with the rules and regulations of any RFMO/A that exercises internationally recognized management jurisdiction over fisheries on the stock under consideration in the high seas and implementation of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105, paragraphs 76-95 concerning responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem.</p>	<p>The standard requires that the fisheries management system under which the unit of certification is managed operates in compliance with local, national, and international laws and regulations, including the requirements of any regional fisheries management organization that exercises internationally recognized management jurisdiction over the fisheries on the stock under consideration.</p>	<p>Under this Essential Component the standard requires that the fisheries management system must operate legally (locally, nationally, and internationally); the legality of the fishery (i.e., compliance with applicable fishing regulations) is covered under other requirements in this Performance Area. The term "fisheries management system" is distinct from the "fishery management organization or arrangement" Both of these terms are defined in the glossary.</p> <p>For the purposes of clarity, this Essential Component includes compliance with the rules and regulations of any RFMO/A that exercises internationally recognized management jurisdiction over fisheries on the stock under consideration in the high seas and implementation of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105, paragraphs 76-95 concerning responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem.</p>

Essential Component D.2.04

Management Objectives | Non-Certified Catches

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>Several edits were suggested for this EC to simplify the wording. This component is specifically about non-certified catches. The first two edits were acceptable because even after deleting "non-target" it still refers to catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration. "Non-target" was also deleted in the second instance. The third edit (moving culture and enhancement to the end) did not seem to help and was not made.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the existence of management objectives that seek to ensure that non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activity do not threaten those non-target stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>The term "target" in this Essential Component is used only in the context of "target stock status" in the Elements. This refers to the status of the stock under consideration only. "Non-target catches" refers to everything other than the stock under consideration.</p> <p>This Essential Component is explicitly and deliberately confined to the effects of non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification on those non-target species/stocks. Cumulative effects on non-target species/stocks are not included in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. They are not part of the Essential Components, but they are covered in the Supplemental Components. The component relating to enhancement activity may be "not applicable" to schemes that explicitly do not cover enhanced fisheries.</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary). To mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible requires those effects to be made less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>The standard requires management objectives that seek to ensure that catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activity do not threaten those stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Essential Component covers "non-certified catches" which is everything other than the stock under consideration.</p> <p>This Essential Component is explicitly and deliberately confined to the effects of non-certified catches and discards by the unit of certification on those non-certified species/stocks. Cumulative effects on non-certified species/stocks are not included in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. They are not part of the Essential Components, but they are covered in the Supplemental Components. The part of the component relating to enhancement activity may be "not applicable" to schemes that explicitly do not cover enhanced fisheries.</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary). To mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible requires those effects to be made less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>

Supplementary Component D.2.04.02

Management Objectives | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches and corrected cross references

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the existence of management objectives, including reference points, that seek to ensure non-target stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management objectives for non-target stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) that consider their overall status, similar to the objectives for the stock under consideration. This takes into account the impacts of all fishing on those stocks that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible. This Supplementary Component has a cumulative element similar to that for stock(s) under consideration in Essential Component D.2.04. To meet this Supplementary Component the standard would require the specification of reference points for non-target stocks.</p>	<p>The standard requires the existence of management objectives, including reference points, that seek to ensure non-certified catches (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management objectives for non-certified catches (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) that consider their overall status, similar to the objectives for the stock under consideration. This takes into account the impacts of all fishing on those stocks that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible. This Supplementary Component has a cumulative element similar to that for stock(s) under consideration in Essential Component D.2.03. To meet this Supplementary Component the standard would require the specification of reference points for non-certified stocks.</p>

Essential Component D.2.09

Management Objectives | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>This is a new Essential Component. Currently there is not an essential component specifically covering management objectives for small scale fisheries. Paragraph 7.2.1 of the CCRF calls for the adoption of appropriate measures (not objectives), based on the best scientific evidence available, which are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing countries. Paragraph 7.2.2 states that such measures should provide that the interests of fishers, including those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, are taken into account. While this language refers specifically to "measures", the need for objectives for those measures is implied, particularly given the text is in section 7.2 which is titled "Management Objectives".</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>New</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>The standard requires that management objectives for the unit of certification and the stock under consideration take into account the interests of fishers engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, where applicable.</p>	<p>This Essential Component derives from paragraphs 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 of the CCRF. It cuts across the other components covering management objectives and looks for the requirement to take into account the interests of fishers engaged in small scale and artisanal fisheries in the development of these objectives.</p> <p>Section 7.2 of the CCRF is titled "Management Objectives". Paragraph 7.2.1 of the CCRF calls for the adoption of appropriate measures (not objectives), based on the best scientific evidence available, which are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing countries. Paragraph 7.2.2 states that such measures should provide that the interests of fishers, including those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, are taken into account. While this language refers specifically to "measures", the need for objectives for those measures is implied, particularly given the text is in section 7.2 which is titled "Management Objectives".</p>

Supplementary Component D.2.09.01

Management Objectives | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>This component echoes one of the objectives of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014) (paragraph 1.1(d)). Comments were received that the current wording was confusing. Following this comment, the guidance text was revised (underlined) A comment was received that the social considerations of this component are not appropriate for the GBT. No change was made following this comment, and the EWG responded that the focus is still on sustainability of small-scale fisheries but considered from the perspective of livelihoods and sustainable development.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>New</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>The standard requires that management objectives for the unit of certification and the stock under consideration promote the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and its people.</p>	<p>This supplemental component builds on its parent Essential Component by focusing on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and its people. <u>While the language of the Component is very broad in scale, the standard needs to show a specific focus on the economic contribution of fishing activity on certified stocks by small scale fisheries. In practical terms, this is likely to include participatory assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable resource management for food security and poverty eradication.</u></p>

Supplementary Component D.3.02.01

Data and Information | Ecosystem Structure, Processes and Function

Summary of change:

Change to rationale for inclusion as GSSI Supplementary Component.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that the management system collects and analyses data necessary to ensure that all operational objectives, indicators, and reference points required for implementation of EAF can be assessed and monitored.	This Supplementary Component creates a blanket requirement for the data and analyses necessary to determine the extent to which operational objectives for implementing EAF have been met.	The standard requires that the management system collects and analyses data necessary to ensure that all operational objectives, indicators, and reference points required for implementation of EAF can be assessed and monitored.	This Supplementary Component creates a blanket requirement for the data and analyses necessary to determine the extent to which operational objectives for implementing EAF have been met.

Supplementary Component D.3.02.02

Data and Information | Ecosystem Structure, Processes and Function

Summary of change:	<p>Change to the guidance, based on the interpretation of the source text from the EAF and provides the necessary clarification.</p> <p>The application of the benchmark is to certification schemes, not specific fisheries such as those in places like Alaska and the US Pacific Northwest.</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the management system to ensure that available traditional, fisher and community knowledge about the ecosystem and the fishery of which the unit of certification is part is collected and validated to contribute to implementation and monitoring of EAF. Further, information about the local situation should be complemented by information from ecologically similar situations elsewhere.</p>	<p>Under this Supplemental Component the standard must require the collection of traditional fisher and community knowledge to support implementation of EAF. This applies particularly to countries where information is not already available in reports and statistics.</p>	<p>The standard requires the management system to ensure that available traditional, fisher and community knowledge about the ecosystem and the fishery of which the unit of certification is part is collected and validated to contribute to implementation and monitoring of EAF. Further, information about the local situation should be complemented by information from ecologically similar situations elsewhere.</p>	<p>The focus of this Supplemental Component is the broad data and information needs of EAF. In countries where these needs cannot be met through reports and statistics from various research institutes, agencies and ministries, there is often extensive traditional knowledge about the ecosystem and the fishery. The standard must require, where appropriate, the collection and validation of traditional fisher and community knowledge to support implementation of EAF.</p>

Essential Component D.3.03

Data and Information | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change: Edited language relating to non-certified catches (as for D.2.04).

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information on non-target catches and discards in the unit of certification.</p>	<p>Adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information is described in the Glossary. In general, these are data which are commensurate with the development and delivery of the best scientific evidence available. The requirements for data collection are focused on the need to assess the effects of the unit of certification on non-target stocks. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>The adequacy of data relates primarily to the quantity and type of data collected (including sampling coverage) and depends crucially on the nature of the systems being monitored and purposes to which the data are being put. Some analysis of the precision resulting from sampling coverage would normally be part of an assessment of adequacy and reliability. The currency of data is important inter alia because its capacity for supporting reliable assessment of current status and trends declines as it gets older. Adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information can include relevant traditional, fisher or community knowledge, provided its validity can be objectively verified (i.e., the knowledge has been collected and analyzed through a systematic, objective and well-designed process, and is not just hearsay).</p> <p>The requirements for data collection in this Essential Component are focused on the effects of the unit of certification on non-target species/stocks. Non-target catches/stocks are described in the Glossary. Catches of Endangered species are covered in Essential Component D.4.04.</p> <p>Applicable international standards and practices include the output of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data (1998) FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382.</p>	<p>The standard requires the collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information on non-certified catches and discards in the unit of certification.</p>	<p>Adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information is described in the Glossary. In general, these are data which are commensurate with the development and delivery of the best scientific evidence available. The requirements for data collection are focused on the need to assess the effects of the unit of certification on non-target stocks. Non-certified catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>The adequacy of data relates primarily to the quantity and type of data collected (including sampling coverage) and depends crucially on the nature of the systems being monitored and purposes to which the data are being put. Some analysis of the precision resulting from sampling coverage would normally be part of an assessment of adequacy and reliability. The currency of data is important inter alia because its capacity for supporting reliable assessment of current status and trends declines as it gets older. Adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information can include relevant traditional, fisher or community knowledge, provided its validity can be objectively verified (i.e., the knowledge has been collected and analyzed through a systematic, objective and well-designed process, and is not just hearsay).</p> <p>The requirements for data collection in this Essential Component are focused on the effects of the unit of certification on non-certified species/stocks. Non-certified catches/stocks are described in the Glossary. Catches of Endangered species are covered in Essential Component D.3.04.</p> <p>Applicable international standards and practices include the output of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data (1998) FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382.</p>

Supplementary Component D.3.07.01

Data and Information | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

Summary of change:	<p>This new Supplementary Component derives from paragraph 11.1 of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014). This states that: "States should establish systems of collecting fisheries data, including bioecological, social, cultural and economic data relevant for decision-making on sustainable management of small-scale fisheries with a view to ensuring sustainability of ecosystems, including fish stocks, in a transparent manner."</p> <p>Comment was received that the social considerations of this component are inappropriate. Following this comment, additional explanation on the relevance of this component for the GBT was added to the guidance text (underlined).</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
New	New	<p>The standard requires the establishment of fisheries data collection systems, including bioecological, social, cultural and economic data relevant for decision-making on the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries, where appropriate.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component builds on its parent Essential Component by looking for the requirement to establish data collection systems specifically for decision-making on the management of small-scale fisheries. <u>The relevance of this to the Benchmark is the benefit of a well-informed decision-making process on the orderly and effective management of the resource, including responsible governance and sustainable development of small-scale fisheries.</u></p>

Essential Component D.3.08

Data and Information | Enhanced Fisheries

Summary of change: This is a new component. The change in the classification required an Essential Component on Enhanced Fisheries under the Performance Area of "Data and Information", for the comprehensiveness of the framework.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
New	New	In the case of enhanced fisheries, the standard requires the collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information about enhanced components of the stock under consideration in accordance with applicable international standards and practices.	Collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information about enhanced components of the stock under consideration is necessary to assess whether Enhanced Fisheries meet the criteria specified in the Inland Guidelines (starting with paragraph 38) necessary for them to be within scope. Adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information are those which are commensurate with the development and delivery of the best scientific evidence available. In this case, the requirement for data collection is focused on any enhanced components of the stock under consideration. Adequate, reliable and current data and/or other information can include relevant traditional, fisher or community knowledge, provided its validity can be objectively verified. Applicable international standards and practices include the output of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data (1998) FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382.

Essential Component D.4.05

Assessment Methodologies | Enhanced Fisheries

Summary of change:

Edit to the Guidance text to explain to what "aquaculture inputs" refers.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
In the case of fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs, the standard requires that the stock assessment of the stock under consideration must consider the separate contributions from aquaculture and natural production.	This is a technical requirement applicable to stock assessments of fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs. If fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs are explicitly out of scope for the scheme, then this Essential Component is not applicable.	In the case of fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs, the standard requires that the stock assessment of the stock under consideration must consider the separate contributions from aquaculture and natural production.	<p>This is a technical requirement applicable to stock assessments of fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs. If fisheries that are enhanced through aquaculture inputs are explicitly out of scope for the scheme, then this Essential Component is not applicable.</p> <p>The glossary entry for Enhanced Fisheries explains that enhancement may entail stocking with material originating from aquaculture installations, translocations from the wild and habitat modification. Accordingly, aquaculture inputs refer to any stocking with material originating from aquaculture installations.</p>

Essential Component D.4.06

Assessment Methodologies | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires an assessment of the extent to which non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activities threaten those non-target stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This is the partner Essential Component of D.4.03 that requires the collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information on non-target catches and discards in the unit of certification. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>This Essential Component addresses the need for standards to require an assessment to support the achievement of management objectives specified in Essential Component D.2.07. This Essential Component is explicitly and deliberately confined to the effects of non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification on those non-target species/stocks. Cumulative effects on non-target species/stocks are not included in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. They are not part of the Essential Components, but they are covered in the Supplemental Components. The component relating to enhancement activity may be "not applicable" to schemes that explicitly do not cover enhanced fisheries. Non-target catches/stocks are described in the Glossary.</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary).</p>	<p>The standard requires an assessment of the extent to which catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activities threaten those stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This is the partner Essential Component of D.3.03 that requires the collection and maintenance of adequate, reliable, and current data and/or other information on non-target catches and discards in the unit of certification. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>This Essential Component addresses the need for standards to require an assessment to support the achievement of management objectives specified in Essential Component D.2.06. This Essential Component is explicitly and deliberately confined to the effects of non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification on those non-target species/stocks. Cumulative effects on non-target species/stocks are not included in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. They are not part of the Essential Components, but they are covered in the Supplemental Components. The component relating to enhancement activity may be "not applicable" to schemes that explicitly do not cover enhanced fisheries. Non-target catches/stocks are described in the Glossary.</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary).</p>

Supplementary Component D.4.06.02

Assessment Methodologies | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:	The source document for this Supplementary Component is the FAO Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. To clarify the scope of the component and its nesting under its parent Essential Component, the word fisheries was replaced with bycatch.
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
The standard requires that the management system addresses in fisheries management planning all significant sources of fishing mortality in the fishery of which the unit of certification is part and that such planning is based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries.	The parent Essential Component requires an analysis of the effects of the unit of certification, including any enhancement activities, on ecosystem structure, processes, and function. This Supplementary Component focuses on the requirement to address all significant sources of fishing mortality.	The standard requires that the management system addresses in bycatch management planning all significant sources of fishing mortality in the fishery of which the unit of certification is part and that such planning is based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries.	The parent Essential Component requires an analysis of the effects of the unit of certification, including any enhancement activities, on ecosystem structure, processes, and function. This Supplementary Component focuses on the requirement to address all significant sources of fishing mortality.

Essential Component D.4.11

Assessment Methodologies | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

Summary of change:	<p>This is a new Essential Component. Currently there is not an essential component specifically covering assessment methodologies for small scale fisheries. It derives from paragraph 32 of the Marine Ecolabelling Guidelines. Specifically, that paragraph deals with the ways in which certification standards address the use of less elaborate methods of stock assessment in small scale fisheries, noting that with higher uncertainty more precautionary approaches to managing fisheries on such resources will be required which may necessitate lower levels of utilization of the resource.</p> <p>Comments were received, indicating more clarity was required on applicability. Following the comments, the EWG has not revised</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
New	New	<p>The standard does not preclude small scale fisheries from possible certification for ecolabelling due to the use of less elaborate methods of stock assessment.</p>	<p>This Essential Component derives from paragraph 32 of the Marine Ecolabelling Guidelines. Specifically, that paragraph deals with the ways in which certification standards address the use of less elaborate methods of stock assessment in small scale fisheries, noting that with higher uncertainty more precautionary approaches to managing fisheries on such resources will be required which may necessitate lower levels of utilization of the resource.</p>

Essential Component D.5.01

Management Measures | Certified Stocks

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>There was a question asked whether this EC could specifically mention recreational fisheries. It is intended to cover all sources of fishing mortality on the certified stock, including recreational fisheries and catches taken for research purposes. In the original drafting of the EC, these were assumed to be included in "all fisheries". For the purposes of completeness these have been included in the guidance language along with other edits to make the intention clear</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that management measures for the stock under consideration consider the impacts on the stock under consideration of all the fisheries utilizing that stock under consideration over its entire area of distribution.</p>	<p>This Essential Component addresses cumulative impacts of fishing from all sources on the stock under consideration as specified in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. Management measures for the stock under consideration must be based on an assessment of that stock which takes account of all removals from the stock over its entire area of distribution, i.e., not just by the unit of certification but by all fisheries that utilize that stock, including bycatch, discards, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, unreported catches, and catches taken outside of the unit of certification. These terms are not defined here, or in the Glossary. They are used collectively in this context to cover all possible descriptions of fishery removals of the stock under consideration.</p> <p>Area of Distribution is described in the Glossary based on a CITES reference for species, but this can apply to stocks in a fisheries context.</p>	<p>The standard requires that management measures for the stock under consideration consider the impacts on the stock under consideration of all the fisheries utilizing that stock under consideration over its entire area of distribution.</p>	<p>This Essential Component addresses cumulative impacts of fishing mortality from all sources on the stock under consideration as specified in the Ecolabelling Guidelines. Management measures for the stock under consideration must be based on an assessment of that stock which takes account of all removals from the stock over its entire area of distribution, i.e. not just by the unit of certification but by all fisheries that utilize that stock and all other sources of fishing mortality, including (but not limited to) bycatch, discards, unobserved mortality, incidental mortality, unreported catches, recreational fisheries, catches taken for research purposes and catches taken outside of the unit of certification. These terms are not defined here, or in the Glossary. They are used collectively in this context to cover all possible descriptions of fishery removals of the stock under consideration.</p> <p>Area of Distribution is described in the Glossary based on a CITES reference for species, but this can apply to stocks in a fisheries context.</p>

Essential Component D.5.04

Management Measures | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.07) seeking to ensure that non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activity do not threaten those non-target stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This is the partner Essential Component of D.2.07. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary). Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include recruitment overfishing or excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms. Management measures should mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible by making those effects less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.04) seeking to ensure that catches and discards by the unit of certification of stocks other than the stock under consideration and any associated culture and enhancement activity do not threaten those stocks with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This is the partner Essential Component of D.2.04. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary). Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include recruitment overfishing or excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms. Management measures should mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible by making those effects less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>

Supplementary Component D.5.04.05

Management Measures | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.07.02) seeking to ensure that non-target stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management measures for non-target species (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) consider the impacts of all fishing on those stocks/species of all activities that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible over their entire areas of distribution.</p>	<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.04.02) seeking to ensure that non-certified stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management measures for non-target species (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) consider the impacts of all fishing on those stocks/species of all activities that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible over their entire areas of distribution.</p>

Supplementary Component D.5.04.05

Management Measures | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.07.02) seeking to ensure that non-target stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management measures for non-target species (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) consider the impacts of all fishing on those stocks/species of all activities that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible over their entire areas of distribution.</p>	<p>The standard requires that management measures are designed to achieve management objectives (see D.2.04.02) seeking to ensure that non-certified stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) are not threatened with recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>This Supplementary Component requires that management measures for non-target species (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) consider the impacts of all fishing on those stocks/species of all activities that might give rise to recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible over their entire areas of distribution.</p>

Essential Component D.5.05

Management Measures | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the existence of management measures that minimize unwanted catch and discards, where appropriate, and reduce post-released mortality where incidental catch is unavoidable.</p>	<p>This Essential Component is related to D.3.06 in that minimizing unwanted catch and discards and reducing post-released mortality can help to reduce the impact of non-target catches and discards by the unit of certification. Under the CCRF, users of aquatic ecosystems should minimize waste and catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species. Non-target catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>The words “where appropriate” give a scheme the flexibility not to require a fishery to have bycatch avoidance if there is no risk of bycatch in the fishery.</p>	<p>The standard requires the existence of management measures that minimize unwanted catch and discards, where appropriate, and reduce post-released mortality where incidental catch is unavoidable.</p>	<p>This Essential Component is related to D.5.04 in that minimizing unwanted catch and discards and reducing post-released mortality can help to reduce the impact of non-certified catches and discards by the unit of certification. Under the CCRF, users of aquatic ecosystems should minimize waste and catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species. Non-certified catches and discards refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>The words “where appropriate” give a scheme the flexibility not to require a fishery to have bycatch avoidance if there is no risk of bycatch in the fishery.</p>

Essential Component D.5.10

Management Measures | Small Scale and/or Data Limited Fisheries

<p>Summary of change:</p>	<p>This a new Essential Component. Currently there is not an essential component specifically covering management measures for small scale fisheries. It derives from paragraph 32 of the Marine Ecolabelling Guidelines. Specifically, that paragraph deals with the ways in which certification standards address the use of less elaborate methods of stock assessment. The latter half of the paragraph reads "There is a variety of management measures commonly used in small scale or low value fisheries that nonetheless can achieve quite adequate levels of protection for stocks in the face of uncertainty about the state of the resource. A past record of good management performance could be considered as supporting evidence of the adequacy of the management measures and the management system."</p>
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Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>New</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>The standard recognizes management measures commonly used in small scale fisheries can achieve adequate levels of protection for stocks in the face of uncertainty about the state of the resource and that a past record of good management performance could be considered as supporting evidence of the adequacy of the management measures and the management system.</p>	<p>This Essential Component derives from paragraph 32 of the Marine Ecolabelling Guidelines. It cuts across the other components covering management measures and seeks recognition within the certification scheme that less sophisticated management measures commonly used in small scale fisheries can still achieve adequate protection of stocks, providing uncertainty is properly addressed. The scheme could, for example, accept a past record of good outcomes under such management measures as evidence of their adequacy.</p>

Essential Component D.6.05

Stock and Ecosystem Status and Outcomes | Non-Certified Catches

Summary of change:

Edited language relating to non-certified catches. Otherwise, unchanged.

Global Benchmark Tool V1.0		Global Benchmark Tool V2.0	
Component Text	Guidance Text	Component Text	Guidance Text
<p>The standard requires the existence of outcome indicator(s) consistent with achieving management objectives for non-target stocks (D.2.05).</p>	<p>The relevant management objectives are those referred to in Performance Area 2 and are for non-target species/stocks. The outcome indicators should be consistent with demonstrating that the management objectives (D.2.07) have been effectively achieved. Non-target stocks refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary). To mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible requires those effects to be made less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>	<p>The standard requires the existence of outcome indicator(s) consistent with achieving management objectives for non-certified stocks (i.e., stocks/species in the catch that are other than the stock under consideration) (D.2.04).</p>	<p>The relevant management objectives are those referred to in Performance Area 2 and are for non-certified species/stocks. The outcome indicators should be consistent with demonstrating that the management objectives (D.2.04) have been effectively achieved. Non-certified catches refers to species/stocks that are taken by the unit of certification other than the stock for which certification is being sought (see Glossary).</p> <p>Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects on bycatch species include excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms (see Glossary). To mitigate effects that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible requires those effects to be made less severe such that they are no longer likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.</p>

Essential Component numbering change

The revision of the Global Benchmark Tool resulted in changes to the numbering used throughout the Framework. The table below details what the Essential Component numbers under version 1 of the Global Benchmark Tool (V1.0) have changed to after the revision (V2.0). Where a change in number has occurred, the table has been shaded for easier identification of the changes.

V1.0	V2.0										
D.1.01	D.1.01	D.2.01	D.2.01	D.3.02	D.1.05	D.3.12	D.1.06	D.4.07	D.3.07	D.5.10	D.4.10
D.1.02	D.1.03	D.2.02	D.1.04	D.3.03	D.5.01	D.3.13	D.1.17	D.5.01	D.4.01	D.6.01	D.6.01
D.1.03	D.1.02	D.2.03	D.2.02	D.3.04	D.5.02	D.3.14	D.1.15	D.5.02	D.4.02	D.6.02	D.6.02
D.1.04	D.1.07	D.2.04	D.2.03	D.3.05	D.5.03	D.3.15	D.1.16	D.5.03	D.4.03	D.6.03	D.6.03
D.1.05	D.1.08	D.2.05	D.2.04	D.3.06	D.5.04	D.4.01	D.3.01	D.5.04	D.4.04	D.6.04	D.6.04
D.1.06	D.1.09	D.2.06	D.2.05	D.3.07	D.5.05	D.4.02	D.3.02	D.5.05	D.4.05	D.6.05	D.6.05
D.1.07	D.1.10	D.2.07	D.2.06	D.3.08	D.5.06	D.4.03	D.3.03	D.5.06	D.4.06	D.6.06	D.6.06
D.1.08	D.1.11	D.2.08	D.2.07	D.3.09	D.5.07	D.4.04	D.3.04	D.5.07	D.4.07	D.6.07	D.6.07
D.1.09	D.1.12	D.2.09	D.2.08	D.3.10	D.5.08	D.4.05	D.3.05	D.5.08	D.4.08	D.6.08	D.6.08
D.1.10	D.1.13	D.3.01	D.1.14	D.3.11	D.5.09	D.4.06	D.3.06	D.5.09	D.4.09	D.6.09	D.6.09

Supplementary Component numbering change

The revision of the Global Benchmark Tool resulted in changes to the numbering used throughout the Framework. The table below details what the Supplementary Component numbers under version 1 of the Global Benchmark Tool (V1.0) have changed to after the revision (V2.0). Where a change in number has occurred, the table has been shaded for easier identification of the changes.

V1.0	V2.0										
D.1.01.01	D.1.01.01	D.1.05.05	D.1.08.05	D.2.06.01	D.2.05.01	D.3.06.03	D.5.04.03	D.3.11.02	D.5.09.02	D.4.05.02	D.3.05.02
D.1.01.02	D.1.01.02	D.1.06.01	D.1.09.01	D.2.07.01	D.2.06.01	D.3.06.04	D.5.04.04	D.3.13.01	D.1.17.01	D.4.05.03	D.3.05.03
D.1.01.03	D.1.01.03	D.1.07.01	D.1.10.01	D.2.09.01	D.2.08.01	D.3.06.05	D.5.04.05	D.3.13.02	D.1.17.02	D.5.01.01	D.4.01.01
D.1.01.04	D.1.01.04	D.1.07.02	D.1.10.02	D.2.09.02	D.2.08.02	D.3.06.06	D.5.04.06	D.3.13.03	D.1.17.03	D.5.06.01	D.4.06.01
D.1.02.01	D.1.03.01	D.1.08.01	D.1.11.01	D.2.09.03	D.2.08.03	D.3.06.07	D.5.04.07	D.4.01.01	D.3.01.01	D.5.06.02	D.4.06.02
D.1.02.02	D.1.09.05	D.1.09.01	D.1.12.01	D.3.01.01	D.1.14.01	D.3.07.01	D.5.05.01	D.4.02.01	D.3.02.01	D.6.07.01	D.6.07.01
D.1.04.01	D.1.07.01	D.1.09.02	D.1.12.02	D.3.01.02	D.1.14.02	D.3.07.02	D.5.05.02	D.4.02.02	D.3.02.02	D.6.09.01	D.6.09.01
D.1.05.01	D.1.08.01	D.2.03.01	D.2.02.01	D.3.01.03	D.1.14.03	D.3.07.03	D.5.05.03	D.4.03.01	D.3.03.01		
D.1.05.02	D.1.08.02	D.2.03.02	D.2.02.02	D.3.04.01	D.5.02.01	D.3.08.01	D.5.06.01	D.4.03.02	D.3.03.02		
D.1.05.03	D.1.08.03	D.2.05.01	D.2.04.01	D.3.06.01	D.5.04.01	D.3.09.01	D.5.07.01	D.4.03.03	D.3.03.03		
D.1.05.04	D.1.08.04	D.2.05.02	D.2.04.02	D.3.06.02	D.5.04.02	D.3.11.01	D.5.09.01	D.4.05.01	D.3.05.01		