



GBT 2022
**Benchmark Integrity
Committee
Mandate**

Benchmark Integrity Committee

Mandate (1/2)

1. Overview

- a) The GSSI Steering Board approved the installation of the Benchmark Integrity Committee (BIC) in June 2021.
- b) This mandate outlines the purpose, scope, composition and responsibilities of the Benchmark Integrity Committee.
- c) The BIC is subject to the rules of the GSSI Charter.
- d) This document will be publicly available on the GSSI website and reviewed annually.

2. Purpose

- a) The BIC provides advice and recommendations to ensure the continued integrity of the implementation and development of the Global Benchmark Tool (GBT)

3. Scope

- a) The GSSI Global Benchmark Tool, including its Framework, Process and Quality Management System

4. Membership

- a) The BIC members shall be appointed by the GSSI Steering Board.
- b) BIC members shall be technical experts in quality management, fisheries or aquaculture.
- c) The BIC shall consist a maximum of 15 members. The BIC aims to include a balanced representation from the GSSI Advisory Board, Funding and Affiliated Partners.
- d) The BIC may propose new members to join the Committee on either a permanent or temporary basis. These new members may include external experts. Proposals by the BIC are subject to Steering Board approval.
- e) The GSSI Steering Board has the right to terminate membership to the BIC.

5. Deliverables

- a) The BIC will provide recommendations to the Steering Board for the revisions of the GBT

Framework

- b) The BIC will provide recommendations to the GSSI Secretariat to strengthen the Benchmark Quality Management System.
- c) The BIC appoints two members to the Benchmark Committee of each Benchmark Process (Recognition and Monitoring of Continued Alignment Processes)

6. Powers & Responsibilities

- a) The BIC act in an advisory capacity to the GSSI Steering Board with regards to undertaking revisions or expansions in the scope of the Global Benchmark Tool Framework.
- b) The BIC act in an advisory capacity to the GSSI Secretariat when updating policies and procedures for the Benchmark Process.
- c) The Steering Board may mandate the BIC to make decisions related to the Global Benchmark Tool on a case-by-case basis.
- d) The BIC is responsible for addressing

any objections from Scheme Owners as part of the Benchmark Process, as outlined in the Benchmark Procedures document (Version 2.0, 2022). The BIC members who act as Benchmark Committee members during any applicable process shall recuse themselves from the Objection Procedure.

Benchmark Integrity Committee

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7. Timescale

- a) The BIC will serve until the Steering Board dissolves it.

8. Operation

- a) BIC and the GSSI Steering Board
 - i. The GSSI Steering Board shall appoint a Steering Board Ambassador who shall act as liaison between the BIC and the Steering Board.
 - ii. The role of the Ambassador is to ensure the BIC understand the objectives and intent of the Steering Board.
 - iii. The Ambassador will also act as a rapporteur to the Steering Board on the proceeding of the BIC.
 - iv. The Ambassador shall not partake in any activities related to Benchmark Processes that require BIC participation.
 - v. In order to ensure the objectives of the Steering Board are clear, and to keep discussions in line with the intent of the Steering Board, the Ambassador will participate in BIC meetings related to improvements for the Global Benchmark Tool.
- b) BIC Meetings

- i. **Format:** BIC meetings will be conducted online.
- ii. **Frequency:** Meetings will be scheduled as needed, at a minimum twice per year.
- iii. **Quorum:** Two thirds (2/3) of the members of the BIC should be present at any BIC meetings. The members of the BIC who are not able to attend the meeting shall always be provided with the opportunity to provide input on agenda items before and after the meeting to ensure all opinions can be voiced.
- iv. **Meeting Minutes:** For each meeting, the GSSI Secretariat will take and circulate the minutes. All opinions voiced during the meeting will be captured in the minutes. The Secretariat will distribute the notes within two weeks following a meeting. The members of the BIC will review the notes and provide any comments within one week of receipt of the draft.
- v. **Antitrust:** All the meetings of the BIC will open with an antitrust statement.
- vi. **Chair:** The BIC shall appoint a member to act as the BIC Chair. The BIC Chair shall serve for a maximum term of two years, after which a new Chair will be appointed, or the current Chair reappointed. The Secretariat will work

with the Chair to prepare the agenda for all meetings, as well as any related meeting materials.

- vii. **Logistics:** The Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating the BIC and arranging any meetings.

9. Remuneration

- a) The BIC members are not entitled to receive any compensation from GSSI for the activities performed under this mandate.