



Why

Seafood sustainability certification has become a well-recognized assurance-based solution that helps ensure the maintenance of **healthy fish populations, minimal impact on the environment, and responsible management practices**. With many kinds of labels, claims, and logos in the market, it is important for producers, retailers, and consumers to understand which certification schemes they can **trust**.

Why it's needed

What

GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool offers formal recognition for seafood certification schemes that successfully complete a rigorous and transparent benchmark process. Underpinned by FAO Guidelines, the tool provides **confidence in certified seafood** and **promotes improvement in seafood certification schemes** by recognizing only those that are robust and credible. The tool aims to minimize the overall environmental impact of how we produce and catch seafood to meet the growing global demand.



What it is

How



Once seafood certification schemes apply to be benchmarked against the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool, they go through a rigorous, six-step recognition process. These steps ensure that the scheme is **in alignment with the Benchmark Framework through several review stages**. Following recognition, all schemes are then required by GSSI to undergo annual monitoring, verifying their credibility through continued alignment with the framework.

How it works

The Impact

How the GSSI Benchmark Tool works to deliver more sustainable seafood



What does being a GSSI-recognized scheme mean?

Being GSSI-recognized means a scheme annually demonstrates its alignment with GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool. Recognition shows that the scheme's procedures and practices meet the requirements set out in internationally agreed codes and guidelines. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the implementation of:

- A third-party management system with appropriate independence between the scheme owner, the certification body, and the accreditation body
- Active stakeholder involvement
- Appropriate complaint handling
- Transparency
- Competent auditors
- Aquaculture and/or fisheries standards, ensuring sustainable farming or fishing practices

9 GSSI-Recognized Certification Schemes

