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:

- 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
- Competent auditors
- Transparency
- Aquaculture and/or fisheries standards, ensuring sustainable farming or fishing practices

How the GSSI Benchmark Tool works to deliver more sustainable seafood

Governmental Organizations can showcase their commitment and alignment with internationally recognized codes and guidelines.

NGOs are provided with a multi-stakeholder platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Retail & Food Service are provided an added level of assurance in their certified seafood sourcing, creating more credible choice in the market.

Harvesters & Producers can choose a certification scheme best suited for them, while still being recognized as robust in the global market.

Processors, Wholesalers & Distributors have more credible choice in certified seafood, resulting in greater affordability and flexibility in the supply chain.

Why

GSSI’s Global Benchmark Tool offers formal recognition for seafood certification schemes that successfully complete a rigorous and transparent benchmarking process. The tool provides confidence in certified seafood and promotes improvement in 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.

How

Once seafood certification schemes apply to be benchmarked against GSSI’s 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.

What it is

GSSI’s Global Benchmark Tool offers formal recognition for seafood certification schemes that successfully complete a rigorous and transparent benchmarking 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.