



Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification Program Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Fact Sheet

RFM Certification Once Again Achieved Recognition Under GSSI's New Version 2.0 of their Global Benchmark Tool

After being the first sustainable seafood certification program to achieve Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Recognition in 2016, **on June 30, 2023, RFM is once again the first certification program to achieve recognition under the new Version 2.0 of GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool.** Read GSSI's news release [here](#).

This recognition demonstrates that **RFM is in alignment with all 142 applicable GSSI Essential Components** and that the RFM program and Fishery Standard (version 2.1, 2020), are in alignment with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries. Download the RFM GSSI Benchmark Report [here](#).

In 2019, GSSI conducted their Monitoring of Continued Alignment (MOCA) of the RFM Certification Standard and found it to have continued alignment with all GSSI Essential Components and therefore awarded continued recognition of the Standard.

Why GSSI Recognition is Important

One way that businesses provide assurances to their customers is the use of seafood certification schemes for both aquaculture production and wild capture fisheries. However, the increase in the number of programs and ecolabels has led to confusion among producers, retailers and consumers over how to recognize a rigorous seafood certification scheme.

The GSSI Benchmark Tool is an attempt to streamline procurement decisions by making it easy for buyers to see which certification programs have met the rigorous bar set forth by FAO's internationally agreed guidelines.

Members of the seafood supply chain, NGOs, governmental and intergovernmental organizations and a number of independent scientists have come up with a collective, non-competitive approach to provide clarity on seafood certification and ensure confidence in certified seafood.

This shared solution will make information available across the seafood supply chain to drive change and lower costs:

- For producers, it means more options to choose the scheme that is right for them and reduce the need for multiple audits.
- For seafood buyers, it means simpler, more consistent data to guide their purchasing decisions.
- For NGOs, it means more open and verified information to help promote environmental sustainability.
- For RFM, it means being publicly recognized for meeting all applicable GSSI Essential Components, a globally agreed benchmark building confidence in seafood certification.

What GSSI Is

In October 2015 GSSI launched the Global Benchmark Tool for seafood certification schemes. The Tool is the first collective and non-competitive approach to provide clarity on seafood certification worldwide.

GSSI publicly recognizes seafood certification schemes that meet GSSI Components grounded in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the FAO Guidelines for Seafood Certification and Ecolabelling.

GSSI is modeled on a successful global retail-driven benchmark program called the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). Like the previously adopted GFSI, which resulted in interoperability among the world's food safety certifications, the GSSI provides a common benchmark that makes it easier for seafood buyers to identify which of the various third-party certification programs are credible.

GSSI Partners

GSSI continues to increase its funding partners and participation in its benchmark program. They now have nine certification programs that have successfully been benchmarked, and over 95 stakeholder partners from 24 countries, which is a 70+% growth in partnerships since it began. Funding partners from across the industry include harvesting, aquaculture, farming, processing, foodservice, retail, and brand manufacturing. GSSI also counts on the support of FAO and non-profit Affiliated Partners.

9 GSSI Recognized Certification Schemes

These 9 schemes have successfully completed the full GSSI Benchmark Process. Once a scheme completes the process, it is formally and publicly announced as 'GSSI recognized'. All Information and reporting about our recognized schemes can be found using the overview link.

18 Affiliated Partners



82 Funding Partners



Global Benchmark Tool

EXAMPLES OF REFERENCE IN SOURCING POLICIES GLOBALLY

					
					
					
					
					

For more information on GSSI go to <https://www.ourgssi.org/>
For more information on RFM go to <https://rfmcertification.org/>

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