

## Global Salmon Initiative Statement of Support to The Shanghai Declaration

On behalf of the Global Salmon Initiative (GSI), it is my honor to share our members' full support for the Shanghai Declaration. GSI is a leadership effort established by global farmed salmon CEOs committed to helping feed the world in a healthier, more sustainable way through advancements in responsible salmon farming.

As salmon farmers, we recognize our responsibility to drive positive change for the aquaculture sector at speed and scale. This heeds the call to action put forward in the Shanghai Declaration for all stakeholders – including private sector – to ensure aquaculture makes meaningful contributions to food security and nutrition-sensitive, affordable, equitable and climate-friendly diets. GSI supports collaborative efforts to continually improve sustainability performance, transparency and innovation. Several of our focus areas – such as improving feed efficiencies, reducing antibiotic use, lowering carbon emissions and promoting blue foods' contributions to healthy, sustainable diets and food systems – align closely with the Shanghai Declaration's priorities.

We recognize the diversity of aquatic foods and the contributions they make to sustainable food systems, and work to uncover best practices in responsible production that can move the whole sector forward. Efforts like the Shanghai Declaration enable us to do just that. This effort will help empower all aquaculture stakeholders to align on priorities for the sector, identify approaches that work and approaches that must be improved, and collaborate to help advance aquaculture's contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In support of the Shanghai Declaration, GSI is committed to the following actions.

### **1. Applying our model of pre-competitive collaboration to accelerate the identification and incorporation of resource-efficient and responsible practices for the aquaculture industry**

We recognize private sector's leadership role in sustainable aquaculture and seek to continually improve it by using a pre-competitive model. Our model unites 21 member companies across seven operating regions, representing 40% of the farmed salmon industry by volume. All members are committed to environmental and social improvement by identifying challenges, sharing knowledge and accelerating the adoption of farming approaches that result in more responsibly raised farmed salmon.

This approach enables us to address and scale up solutions to some of salmon farming's most critical environmental challenges, such as improving feed efficiencies, biosecurity, fish welfare and more. These priorities are championed at all levels of member companies, starting with the CEOs, and work is carried out by task forces with technical experts across the supply chain.

We believe learnings from our model could be applied to others within the private aquaculture sector. For this reason, we commit to applying our knowledge-sharing platform and innovations to achieve a more sustainable future for aquaculture. We also commit to sharing our learnings in forums like COP26 and the United Nations Food Systems Summit to mobilize private sector leadership and publicly report on our progress.

### **2. Working with partners across the supply chain to promote resource-efficient and responsible aquaculture production practices**

GSI's network spans the supply chain – including with farms, feed and pharma companies – and provides an unmatched ability to mobilize industry-wide innovations.



One example of this pertains to feed. By issuing a tender for novel feed ingredients and working directly with both farms and feed companies, our members collectively encouraged more rapid innovation and a shift to non-marine fish sources (e.g., algae oils). Our members have, on average, decreased marine ingredients in fish oil of 11% and fish meal of 40% (recognized as strategic priority C in Declaration). Innovations like these could have learnings for other aquaculture stakeholders. We are committed to being a resource for others, sharing what we have learned through our knowledge-sharing platform and improving the supply chain holistically.

**3. Improving and upholding industry transparency by annually reporting on 14 indicators (at minimum) through our industry-leading Sustainability Report**

Recognizing the critical importance of transparency, GSI launched the farmed salmon sector's first-ever industry-wide Sustainability Report in 2013. For the past eight years, our members have publicly reported on indicators that align closely with the priorities and commitments set forward in the Declaration and align with the call to consider multiple domains of sustainability simultaneously (economic, social and environmental). The Sustainability Report holds us accountable to transparent and third-party audited reporting. It has helped us make a significant impact in driving industry-wide progress, while also indicating where we must work harder to make the necessary improvements. We commit to maintaining this rigorous reporting framework and each year, we identify ways to make it stronger.

**4. Ensuring responsible environmental and social practices through Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification**

Working with an independent, third-party certification board heeds the Declaration's call for "adequate monitoring mechanisms" and promotes strong aquaculture governance. Currently, 40% of GSI production is ASC-certified. We are committed to achieving 100% certification to ensure the salmon farming sector is aligned with best-in-class fish welfare standards that improve productivity and sustainability performance, as well as promote positive social contributions to the local communities where GSI members operate.

**5. Supporting industry-wide improvements in reducing our carbon footprint by launching a first-of-its-kind reporting framework for the farmed salmon sector**

GSI and World Wildlife Fund are developing a greenhouse gas emissions reporting framework, including life cycle analyses for farmed salmon and aquaculture more generally. This will be comparable to other protein sectors and enable us to provide real time data and be more farm specific. This new reporting framework, coupled with GSI's annual Sustainability Report, will empower members to transparently measure and report on their environmental footprint and socioeconomic contributions, and continually improve progress across multiple dimensions of sustainable food systems.

**6. Increasing awareness and understanding of the aquaculture sector's role in healthy, sustainable diets by engaging actively with blue foods partners**

To help realize aquaculture's potential and achieve zero hunger by 2030, GSI members innovate to deliver nutrient-rich, responsibly farmed salmon. GSI regularly uses its communications platforms to educate on farmed salmon's contributions to healthy diets, as recommended by dietary guidelines, and partner with groups like the Seafood Nutrition Partnership and ASC to promote seafood and sustainable nutrition.

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