

September 7, 2021

Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative statement in support of the Shanghai Declaration

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) is a public-private partnership on seafood sustainability. With 90+ partners representing the full seafood value chain, companies, NGOs, governments and international organizations – including the FAO -, GSSI promotes sector-wide collaboration to drive forward more sustainable seafood for everyone.

GSSI acknowledges the importance of aquaculture and the crucial role it plays to achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further development of sustainable aquaculture will contribute to healthier oceans (SDG 14), global food security (SDG 2), more sustainable incomes and improved livelihoods for local communities (SDG 8) and more responsible consumption and production of seafood globally (SDG 12). Aquaculture is also an important factor to address the climate change issues the world is facing in the next decade (SDG 13).

GSSI believes that large-scale collaboration across the seafood sector, on local and on global levels, is the key to maximize the contribution of aquaculture to the SDGs. Using our multistakeholder platform, we develop industry- and supply chain-driven approaches to increase the transparency of responsible aquaculture and bolster the credibility of the sector:

- Our Global Benchmark Tool implements the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification and promotes credible certification for environmentally sustainable aquaculture.
- Our benchmark for social compliance schemes, co-developed with the Consumer Goods Forum's Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI), similarly increases the credibility of aquaculture that promotes decent work and social responsibility.
- Our new Seafood MAP program will visualize the contribution of aquaculture improvement efforts of all sizes to the SDGs and relevant FAO Guidelines on Aquaculture, and strengthen data and information to monitor progress.

By mainstreaming the Agenda 2030 and relevant international guidance documents within the sector, GSSI makes the sector more transparent and creates a common goal that the sector can collaboratively work towards.

GSSI expresses its support to the Shanghai Declaration and will proactively contribute to the Shanghai Declaration commitments as follows:

- **Promote responsible aquaculture development.**
 - Continue to ensure transparency and credibility of certified responsible aquaculture, through the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool;
 - Strengthen the development of local certification programs for responsible aquaculture, through the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool;
 - Encourage the inclusion of social criteria in auditing programs in collaboration with the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI);
 - Streamline multi-stakeholder collaboration on improvement efforts of all sizes, on environmental, social and economic aspects, through the implementation of Seafood MAP
- **Promote good aquaculture governance.**
 - Strengthen the alignment and collaboration between public and private sector actors through our public-private partnership, which includes the UN FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
 - Continue to promote good governance through credible certification in line with the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification

- **Strengthen partnerships to generate and share knowledge, information, and technology.**
 - Increase the diversity and inclusivity of GSSI's global partnership by increased engagement in geographic areas currently underrepresented in the Partnership (e.g., Asia; Africa; Central and South America);
 - Make sustainability and improvement efforts more inclusive by improving knowledge, market and finance accessibility for smallholders and local communities, through the implementation of Seafood MAP
 - Close the knowledge gap on sustainability and improvement efforts in non-certified aquaculture production systems and value chains, through the implementation of Seafood MAP
 - Promote ongoing dialogue between different stakeholders and mobilize key actors to accelerate seafood solutions for sustainable development;
- **Invest in aquaculture innovation, research and development.**
 - Develop a common language framework to align the efforts of markets, governments and investors an accelerate the investment in responsible aquaculture development, through the implementation of Seafood MAP
 - Strengthen our relations with financial institutions and align the efforts of markets, governments and investors
- **Create open and transparent communication about sustainable aquaculture.**
 - Encourage the uptake of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, as well as relevant guidance document from various UN organizations, within the sector by promoting the uptake of the Global Benchmark Tool, the SSCI benchmark on social compliance, and Seafood MAP, which are all market-driven tools anchored in relevant international instruments from e.g., FAO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO);
 - Make benchmarking-related information on seafood certification schemes more transparent and accessible, through digitalization of the Global Benchmark Tool
 - Deliver a holistic sustainability and improvement reporting platform that is accessible for currently non-certified producers, including smallholders and local communities, through the implementaton of Seafood MAP

Sincerely,



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