

The GSSI Global Benchmark Tool works towards the collective objective to minimize the overall environmental impact of how we catch, grow and deliver seafood to meet a growing global demand.

Benchmark Process

Seafood certification schemes go through a 7-step Benchmark Process to be recognized by GSSI. The expert-led process involves objective assessments made against the Benchmark Framework. The process has been designed to be independent, impartial and transparent.

- 1 Application**
Schemes interested in applying for GSSI recognition contact the GSSI Secretariat.
- 2 Desktop Review**
Independent Experts review application and provided evidence.
- 3 Office Visit**
Independent Experts visit the scheme's office to review evidence and complete the interim Benchmark Report.
- 4 Benchmark Committee Meeting**
Benchmark Committee evaluates the interim Benchmark Report.
- 5 Public Consultation**
Benchmark Report and the Benchmark Committee's recommendation for recognition go to public consultation.
- 6 Recognition Decision by GSSI Steering Board**
Steering Board takes a decision on GSSI Recognition of the scheme based on the final recommendation of the Benchmark Committee.
- 7 Monitoring of Continued Alignment**
Recognized schemes annually report relevant changes to GSSI, in combination with regular reassessments through GSSI.

Benchmark Framework

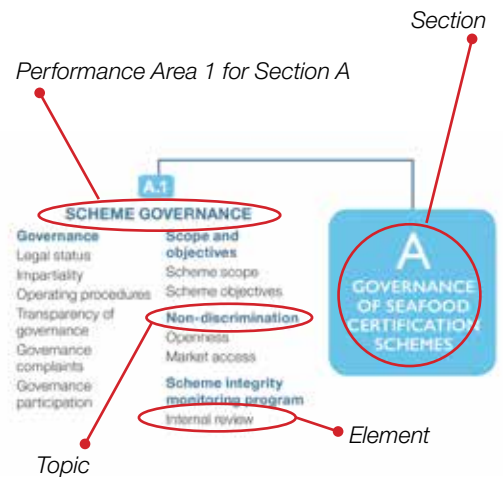
Includes *GSSI Essential Components* that are grounded in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO Guidelines and which seafood certification schemes must meet to be recognized by GSSI. The Benchmark Framework also includes *GSSI Supplementary Components* which are defined by the GSSI Expert Working Groups and grounded in the CCRF and related documents, ISO normative standards and ISEAL codes. Their purpose is to outline the status of existing practices in seafood certification and they can be built on going forward. The Benchmark Process will verify if a seafood certification scheme meets *GSSI Supplementary Components*.

- A** *GSSI Essential Components* and *GSSI Supplementary Components* for **Governance of a Seafood Certification Scheme**
- B** *GSSI Essential Components* and *GSSI Supplementary Components* for **Operational Management of a Seafood Certification Scheme**
- C** *GSSI Essential Components* and *GSSI Supplementary Components* for **Aquaculture Certification Standards**
- D** *GSSI Essential Components* and *GSSI Supplementary Components* for **Fisheries Certification Standards**

*FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine/Inland Capture Fisheries and FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

Structure of the Benchmark Framework

The Benchmark Framework has four Sections, with a number of Performance Areas, each of which includes Elements organised by Topic.



Benchmark Result

Once a seafood certification scheme has gone through the Benchmark Process and is found in alignment with all *GSSI Essential Components* it will be publically recognized by GSSI. GSSI will then publish a statement and a Benchmark Report on www.ourgssi.org. Then it's over to the seafood sector to make use of the information to help in decision-making. Industry will be able to choose schemes that are right for them. Seafood buyers will have a simpler set of data to guide what they buy. And NGOs will have more open, checked information to help promote environmental sustainability.

For further information, please contact:
www.ourgssi.org
secretariat@ourgssi.org



On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Implemented by



Confidence in certified seafood



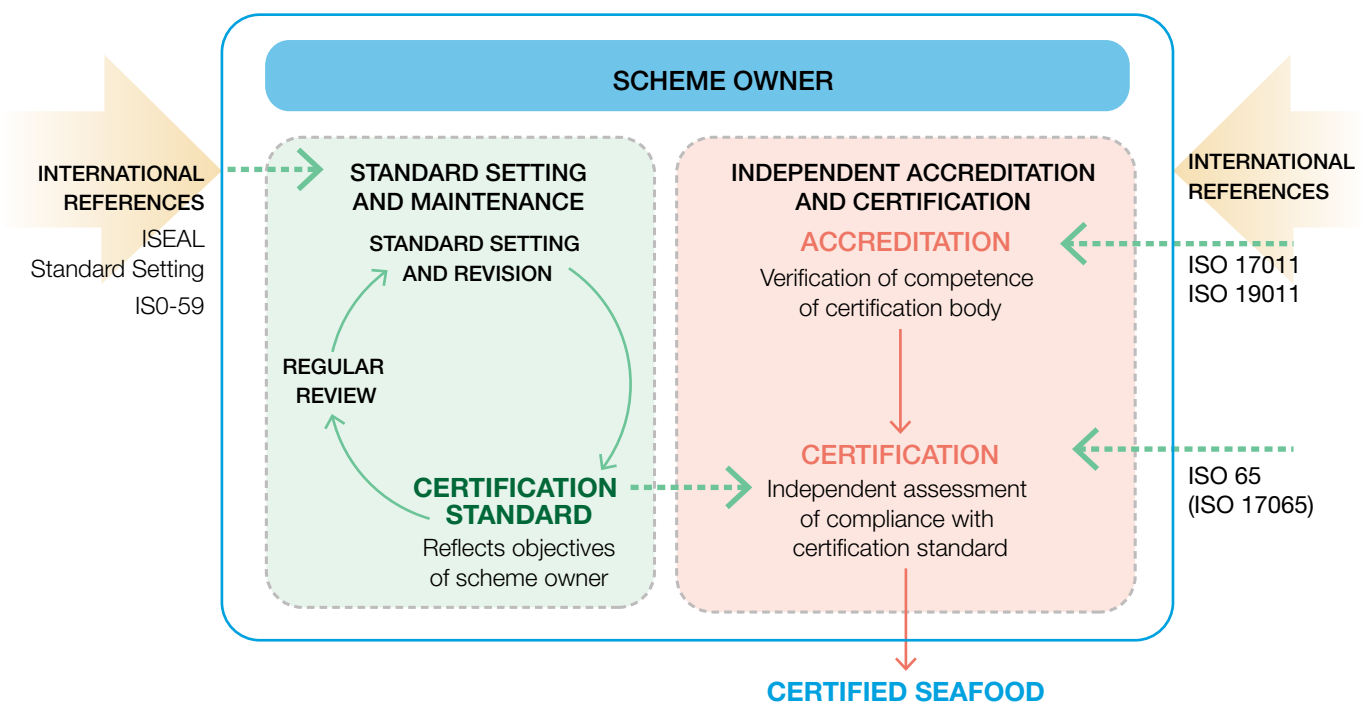
GLOBAL BENCHMARK TOOL AT A GLANCE

GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool will help to provide clarity on seafood certification and make purchasing decisions more cost efficient by providing greater choice, drive down costs, and promote environmental sustainability. It operates with the FAO Guidelines* at its core, which means that for the first time the FAO Guidelines will be used to look at what is happening on the ground as seafood certification schemes sign up to be benchmarked. When a seafood certification scheme meets *GSSI's Essential Components*, grounded in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO Guidelines, GSSI will publicly recognize the scheme.

At the same time the Tool includes *GSSI Supplementary Components*, which allow schemes to show their diverse approach and help stakeholders understand where differences exist. These are grounded in the CCRF and related FAO documents, ISO normative standards and ISEAL codes. Meeting *GSSI Supplementary Components* is not required for GSSI recognition.

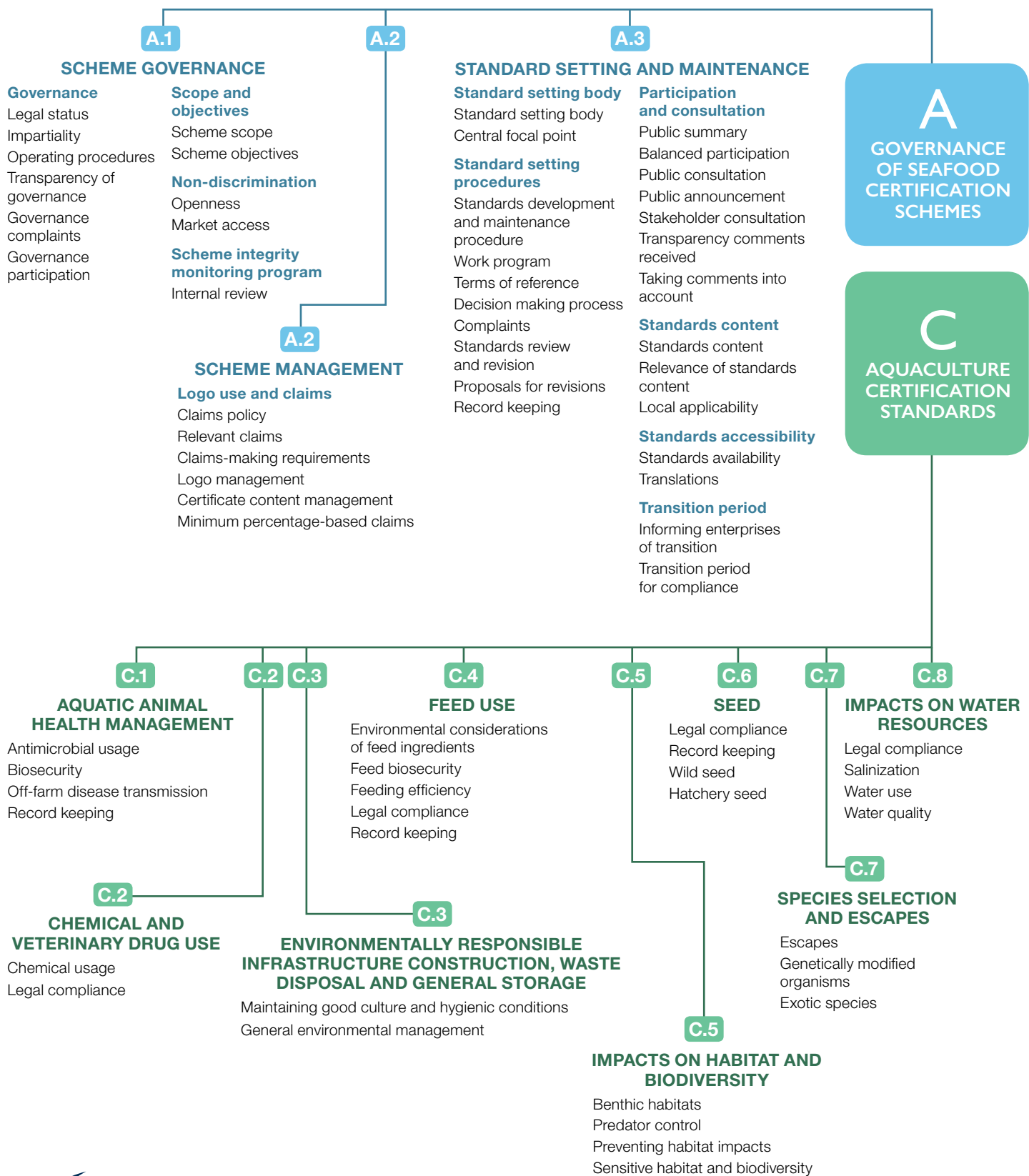


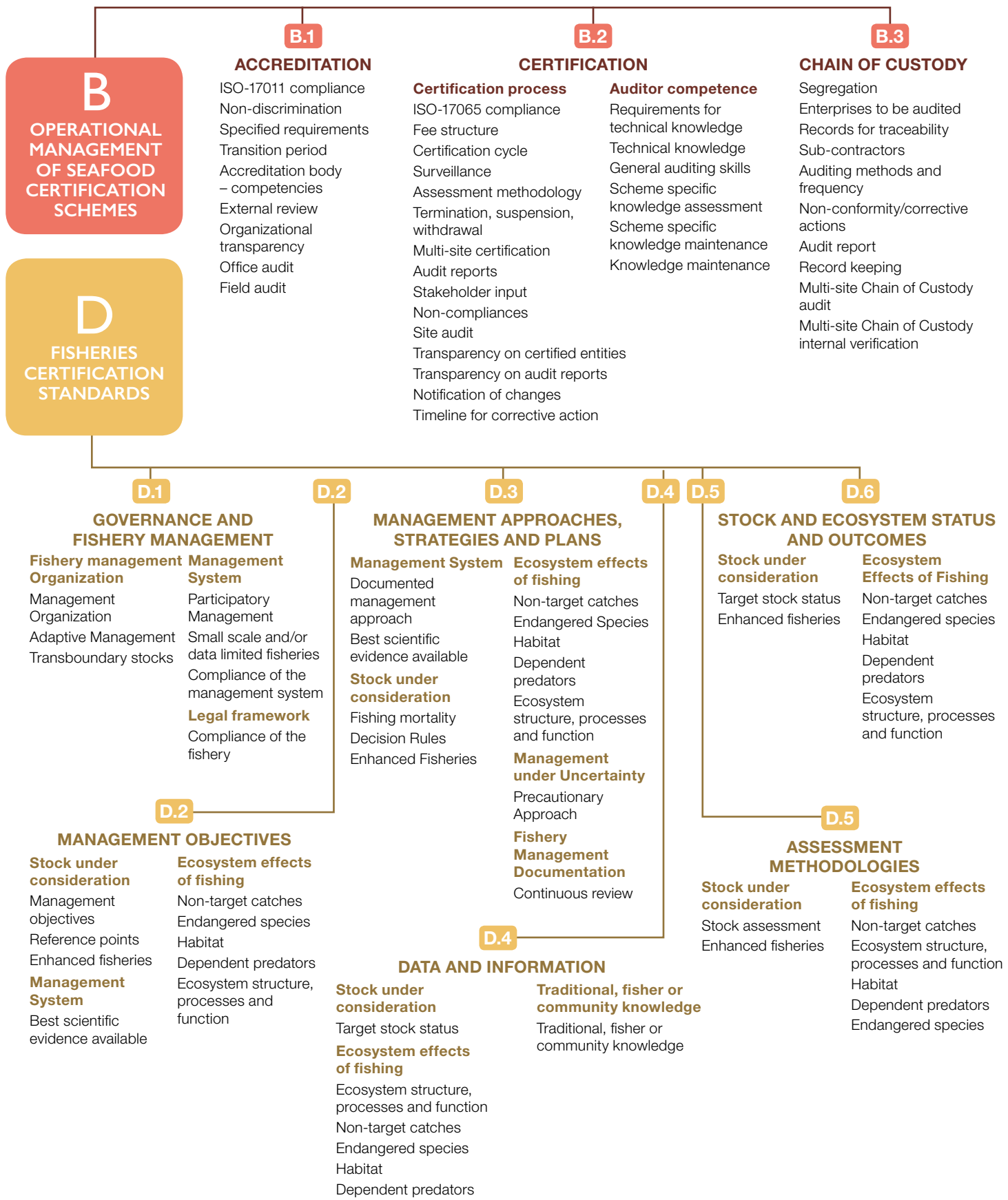
Seafood Certification Scheme according to FAO Guidelines*



*FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine/Inland Capture Fisheries and FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

GSSI Global Benchmark Tool at a Glance





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