

GSSI JOURNEY: FROM FAO GUIDELINES TO GLOBAL BENCHMARK TOOL



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1995
Adoption of FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

1997-2011
FAO Certification and Ecolabelling Guidelines following increase in seafood certification schemes:

- Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries (2005, revised 2009)
- Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries (2011)
- Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification (2011)



2010-2013
FAO Evaluation Frameworks to assess conformity with FAO Certification and Ecolabelling Guidelines

- Evaluation Framework for Marine Capture Ecolabelling Guidelines (2010)
- Evaluation Framework on Aquaculture Certification Guidelines (2013)



February 2013
GIZ, 17 global seafood companies and retailers and 3 NGOs sign a strategic alliance for 3-year Public-Private Partnership to develop a global benchmark tool for seafood certification schemes - the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)



February 2014
GSSI Expert Working Groups meet in Boston, Miami and Rome

March 2014
First draft of the Benchmark Tool is presented to GSSI Steering Board

March 2015
GSSI Steering Board approves second draft of Global Benchmark Tool. 8 seafood certification schemes sign up to be part of the GSSI Pilot Test

April – June 2015
Global Public Consultation on second draft of GSSI Global Benchmark Tool. 15+ organizations submit 500+ comments



8 October 2015
Launch of GSSI Global Benchmark Tool with FAO at 20 years' anniversary of FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Vigo, Spain

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

April 2009
OECD Round Table on Eco-Labeling and Certification in the Fisheries Sector, The Hague. Participants from seafood sector, NGOs, seafood certification schemes, FAO and governments agreed on the need for an assessment framework and benchmarking exercise to evaluate the various eco-labelling schemes on offer.

2010-2011
Ahold, MetroGroup, NFI, and New England Aquarium explore feasibility of developing a global organization for benchmarking of seafood certification schemes



2012
Ahold, MetroGroup, NFI, New England Aquarium and GIZ present to global seafood industry and FAO at the Boston Seafood Show, Brussels Seafood Show, Seafood Summit, Hong Kong



June 2013
GSSI Steering Board sets up multi-stakeholder Expert Working Groups for Aquaculture, Fisheries and Process to develop the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool. FAO provides technical assistance in using FAO Certification and Ecolabelling Guidelines

October 2013
GSSI Expert Working Groups meet for the first time in London and Boston

June-August 2014
Global Public Consultation on first draft of GSSI Global Benchmark Tool. Workshops in Australia, Thailand, Canada, Germany and Italy. 30+ organizations submit 2000+ comments

September 2014
GSSI Steering Board assess comments from First Public Consultation

October- February 2014
GSSI Expert Working Groups meet in Eschborn, London and Rome to update the Global Benchmark Tool based on First Public Consultation

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July 2015
GSSI Expert Working Groups meet to discuss results from the Pilot Test in Rome and finalize the Global Benchmark Tool



August 2015
End of GSSI Pilot Test

September 2015
GSSI Steering Board approves finalized GSSI Global Benchmark Tool



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