

Funding GSSI Partners

1. American Seafoods
2. Anova
3. Aqua Star
4. Bumblebee
5. Darden
6. Delhaize
7. Espersen
8. GIZ GmbH
9. Gorton's
10. Grobest
11. High Liner Foods
12. Iglo Foods Group Ltd
13. Kroger
14. Loblaw
15. Lyons Seafood
16. Marine Harvest US
17. Marks & Spencer
18. Metro AG
19. NFI
20. Pacific Seafood
21. Regal Springs
22. Royal Ahold
23. Rubicon Resources
24. Sainsbury's
25. Sea-Delight
26. Seafish Authority
27. Slade-Gortons
28. Sodexo
29. Trans-Ocean
30. Trident Seafoods
31. WM Morrisons Ltd

Affiliated GSSI Partners

1. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
2. Marine Conservation Society
3. New England Aquarium
4. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

GSSI Update January 2014

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) has made significant progress over the last 10 months since its official launch in February 2013:

The GSSI has installed three Expert Working Groups on Aquaculture, Fishery and Processes, each of which has started their work with regular meetings starting in October 2013.

The GSSI website www.ourGSSI.org is now live as a central communication channel to provide interested stakeholders with relevant and up-to-date information.

Finally, planning for the Annual GSSI Conference has begun, scheduled to follow the Boston Seafood Show on the 18th March 2014.

Welcome New Steering Board Members

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) joined the GSSI in November 2013. Dr. Jason Clay, WWF's Senior Vice President of Market Transformation represents the global NGO at Steering Board level. Jason Clay engages with leading companies to improve the sustainability of their supply chains. He has convened industry roundtables of retailers, producers, scientists and environmentalists to reduce the key impacts of producing commodities such as soy, cotton, sugar, salmon and shrimp. Jason Clay has run a family farm, taught at Harvard and Yale, worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and spent more than 25 years working with human rights and environmental organizations before joining WWF in 1999. He is the first National Geographic fellow for food and agriculture and winner of the 2012 James Beard Award for his global work on sustainable food.

Brandon Tidwell, Sustainability Manager at Darden Restaurants, replaced Roger Bing at Steering Board level, who retired from his role as vice president of purchasing with Darden Restaurants in October 2013. Brandon Tidwell is responsible for the implementation of the corporate sustainability strategy across Darden Restaurants and its brands, integrating environmental considerations into the operations, culture and supply chains.

GSSI Expert Working Groups

After their installation in July 2013, the three Expert Working Groups (EWGs) have appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs from their membership and hired expert consultants to facilitate the coordination of the work processes and meetings and to support the Ambassadors in tracking the work progress of the individual groups. Find the elected members and expert consultants in the table below:

	Aquaculture EWG	Fishery EWG	Process EWG
Chairs	Iain Shone, Lyons Seafood	Randy Erickson, Wild Salmon Center	Tom Pickerell, Seafish and Patrick Mallet, ISEAL Alliance
Vice-Chairs	Anton Immink, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)	Gregg Jeffers, Gorton's	Mike Kraft, Bumblebee
Expert Consultants	Matthew Thompson, New England Aquarium	Graeme Parkes, MRAG	Kevin Swoffer, KPS Solutions Michael Carroll, Vertex

Furthermore, the GSSI Steering Board appointed additional Expert Working Group members, to provide additional technical knowledge and broader stakeholder involvement, including delegated representatives of FAO. The names of the new Expert Working Group Members, their positions, and institutions are listed below.

Aquaculture EWG: Piers Hart, Aquaculture Policy Officer, WWF

Fishery EWG: Anna Child, FAO
John Dean, Professor Emeritus, Marine Science Program, University of South Carolina
Anne Doeksen, Program Officer Fisheries, North Sea Foundation

Process EWG: Alba del Rio Poza, FAO
Corey Peet, David Suzuki Foundation

And finally, Bill DiMento from High Liner Foods became the Ambassador of the Aquaculture Expert Working Group replacing Roger Bing of Darden, acting as a Steering Board liaison to the Working Group to ensure an effective communication between the two GSSI entities and support and monitor their work and progress.

Current Work Status of the Expert Working Groups

The three Expert Working Groups are developing an initial draft set of criteria and indicators - further mentioned as the GSSI Benchmarking Framework - based on at a minimum the FAO Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification and the FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.

The GSSI Benchmarking Framework will include “Key Performance Areas” on Aquaculture and Fishery standards and on Governance and Procedures. Each Key Performance Area will be broken down into a set of Benchmarking Indicators to which relative performance of certification programs can be measured.

In addition, the Process Expert Working Group is developing a first draft of a GSSI Benchmarking Process. The Benchmarking Process will describe the application and benchmarking procedures for certification programs to be benchmarked by the GSSI.

The next in-person meeting of the Expert Working Groups will take place in February 2014 to finalize the first draft of the Benchmarking Framework and Process, in order to undertake consultations with Resource Members and other stakeholders. The Expert Working Groups will present a first overview of the work at the GSSI Conference 2014 this March in Boston and provide stakeholders with the first opportunity to comment.

The concrete dates and location of further stakeholder consultations will be communicated sufficiently in advance via the GSSI website www.ourGSSI.org and via the next GSSI newsletter, in order to offer the opportunity to participate in the GSSI workshops and contribute to the development process of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool.

Pilot Testing of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool

The Expert Working Groups will revise the interim working results based on feedback received from the consultations and will develop a first version of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool for pilot testing in the second half of 2014.

Certification programs interested in participating in the first pilot test of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool can contact the GSSI Secretariat for further information.

The GSSI Website

The GSSI website www.ourGSSI.org is live as a central communication channel to provide interested stakeholders with relevant information. The site:

- informs about the mission, objectives and milestones of the GSSI,
- provides an overview of the partners and how additional partners can get involved,
- offers insight into the GSSI governance structure, rules of procedures and the set-up of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool,
- shares GSSI related communications (e.g. press releases, newsletters) and up-coming events, and
- outlines frequently asked questions (FAQs) that should provide answers to the most important and urgent questions stakeholders might have concerning the GSSI.

The website is intended to provide up-to-date information on the recent progress of the initiative. Please contact the GSSI Secretariat (see contact details at the bottom of this newsletter), if you have any suggestions or comments on this website.

Upcoming events with GSSI presence

Annual GSSI Conference

The 2014 GSSI Annual Conference will take place on 18th March 2014 from noon till 5:00 pm at the Convention Center subsequent to the Boston Seafood Show. It will be a great opportunity to discuss the interim working results of the Expert Working Groups on Aquaculture, Fishery and Processes and give your input into the development process of the GSSI Benchmarking Tool.

The GSSI Partners invite all interested stakeholder to join the GSSI Conference 2014. Please contact the GSSI Secretariat for further details.

Additional upcoming international seafood events and meetings offer the possibility to inform and consult various stakeholder groups on GSSI. The GSSI will be present at the following events:

Events	Dates	Place
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Forum 2014 (Question & Answer session about GSSI)	5 th February 2014	Las Vegas, USA

Events	Dates	Place
Process Expert Working Group Meeting (closed session)	11 th - 14 th February 2014	Boston, USA
Fisheries Expert Working Group Meeting (closed session)	18 th - 21 st February 2014	Miami, USA
Aquaculture Expert Working Group Meeting (closed session)	24 th - 28 th February 2014	Rome, Italy
Annual GSSI Conference 2014 (Registration open)	18 th March 2014	Boston, USA
GSSI Partnership Dinner (Partners only)	18 th March 2014	Boston, USA
GSSI Steering Board Meeting (closed session)	19 th March 2014	Boston, USA

Contact the GSSI Secretariat

If you are searching for additional GSSI related information or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the GSSI Secretariat:

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Impressum:

Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)

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