

An Introductory Guide to Best Seafood Practices Certification



Why Choose Best Seafood Practices?

The Best Seafood Practices (BSP) program is an international third-party certification program that certifies operational best practices aboard fishing vessels and at processing plants through its Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) and Seafood Processing Standard (SPS).

- Benchmarked by international third-party organizations
- Founded by members of the seafood industry
- No logo licensing fees, ever
- While primarily a social audit, RFVS includes validation of catch permitting and procedures that help mitigate risks of IUU fishery products entering supply chains while enhancing product traceability
- SPS is the only seafood-specific processing plant standard in the world, which means you'll spend less time on tasks that are not relevant to your business
- Audits are conducted by third parties and certification not in-hand until all variances are remedied
- Upon attaining certification, producers also become members of the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) and get access to a variety of membership benefits



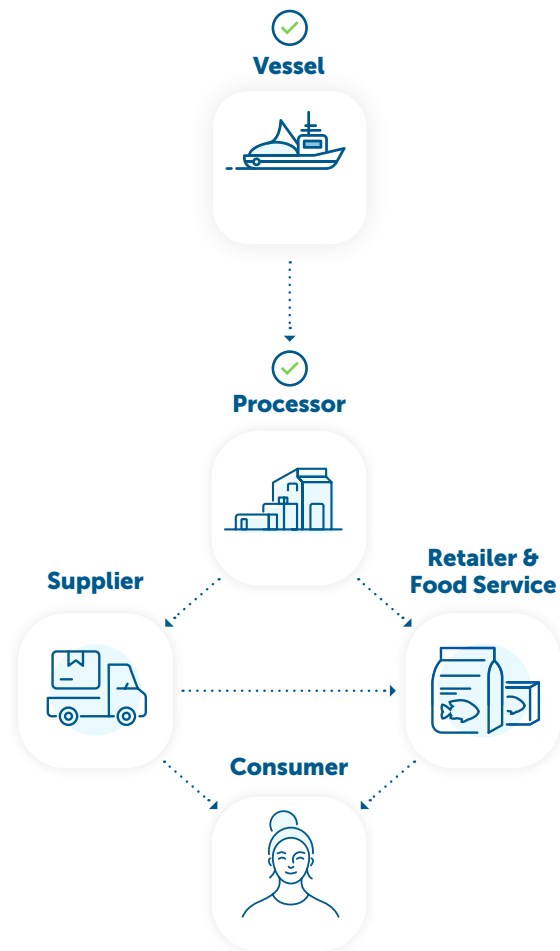
The Seafood Supply Chain

Who can get certified?

Processing plants and fishing vessels are able to attain BSP certification.

[View BSP Standards](#)

Both wild-caught and farm-raised species being processed in a processing plant are included in a SPS audit.



The Pillars of Responsibility

BSP standards address three pillars of responsible seafood: social responsibility, environmental responsibility and food safety. More specifically, RFVS focuses primarily on social responsibility and SPS addresses all three of these pillars.



Environmental Responsibility

Compliance with standards that address issues such as habitat conservation, water quality and effluents.



Food Safety

Ensure proper procedures are in place at the plant to assure safe consumption, including sanitation practices, use of safety equipment and ready to eat processing procedures.



Social Responsibility

Ensuring producers are following best practices in human rights, labor laws, and employee health and safety.



Benchmarks

BSP standards are benchmarked by internationally-recognized third party organizations.



Certification Bodies

These certification bodies (CBs) are active and recognized by BSP. To be recognized, CBs must be accredited under ISO/IEC Guide 17065. For the most up to date list, [visit the BSP website](#).

Marketing

Once your facility or vessel attains certification, you can use the BSP label without having to pay additional logo licensing fees. To learn more about how you can use the label, click below.

[View Logo Use Requirements](#)



Certification Timeline & Checklist

This timeline is specific to processing plants attaining certification to SPS only. A third-party audit is required to attain BSP certification. The entire process takes 3-5 months on average from the time the application is submitted to receiving your certification. Vessels attaining certification to RFVS have a different certification timeline and steps. If you would like to learn more, please send us an email at RFVS@globalseafood.org

[Learn More](#)

Step One: **Prepare**

- Review the set of BSP Standards that applies to your facility at [BSPcertification.org/standards](https://bspcertification.org/standards).
- Complete a free self-assessment form to ensure you're ready for an audit. Contact certification@globalseafood.org for more information

Step Two: **Apply**

- Complete the electronic application and agreement.
- BSP sends audit invoice
- Send Payment

Step Three: **Audit is Arranged**

- Certification body assigned by BSP
- Certification body contacts facility to schedule audit
- Auditor assigned to facility and audit dates are confirmed

Step Four: **Audit Process is Completed** *Process takes approximately 60 days*

- On-site audit complete
- Non-conformities presented to facility
- If required, facility submits corrective actions to auditor to address non-conformities
- Auditor reviews and closes out non-conformities
- Audit undergoes technical review by the certification body
- Certification body makes determination of compliance or non-compliance to BSP standard

Step Five: **Receive Your BSP Certificate**

Program Fee Payment

- BSP sends program fee invoice
- Facility pays invoice
- Once paid, BSP releases CB certification certificate to facility with validation letter
- Certified facility is listed on the producer page on the BSP website: [BSPcertification.org/producers](https://bspcertification.org/producers)

Step Six: **Promote Your Certification**

Once you receive your certificate, work with the GSA team to promote your facility's certification! Ask your certification specialist to connect you with the GSA marketing team to receive logo artwork and more information about marketing opportunities.

