



Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard Applies for Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative Benchmarking

Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) has submitted a benchmarking application to The Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) for its Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS), the first step in earning SSCI recognition as meeting industry expectations for third-party social compliance programs under the SSCI's At-Sea Operations scope. RFVS is the first scheme to apply under this new scope, launched in May 2021. The SSCI is committed to building trust in sustainability standards by recognizing programs that respect key sustainability criteria, as defined by leading industry stakeholders, in their evaluation methods.

[The Consumer Goods Forum made the announcement on June 10.](#)

In 2018, Global Seafood Assurances and the UK Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) announced a memorandum of understanding to work together to create the next version of the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS), committing to expand its global applicability, which resulted in the development of the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard. Now part of the Global Seafood Alliance, GSA took ownership of the standards last year. The first RFVS-certified vessel was announced in Australia in January, and the second set of RFVS-certified vessels was announced in the United Kingdom in April. The standard addresses social responsibility, including working conditions and worker voice, about fishing vessels. RFVS is now housed under the [new Best Seafood Practices \(BSP\) program](#).

"Benchmarking is a critical part of seafood certification now, helping determine which standards meet the highest quality criteria for development, governance, certification and transparency. We've encouraged the rigorous process SSCI has undertaken to create this At-Sea Operations benchmark. As such we were keen to submit our application as quickly as possible to get things underway," said Melanie Siggs, GSA's director of strategic engagement.

The SSCI Benchmark is a comprehensive process that recognizes which schemes cover key sustainability criteria and apply relevant verification practices. The process revolves around a first self-assessment undertaken by the scheme, followed by a review by an independent expert, office visits, and a public consultation. The methodology also includes opportunities for the applicant to take corrective actions if and when needed.

The SSCI Benchmark is based on the SSCI Social and Scheme Management Criteria, which cover the industry's expectations for sustainability and were defined by the SSCI Coalition member companies,



industry experts, and other stakeholders. Following the launch of the SSCI's Manufacturing and Processing scope in 2019, the SSCI opened the SSCI Benchmark to the agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood sectors with the publication of Social and Scheme Management Criteria adapted for its new Primary Production and At-Sea Operations scopes. This work was developed in collaboration with the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI).

For more information about the SSCI, please visit www.tcgfssci.com or contact the SSCI team at ssci@theconsumergoodsforum.com.

About BSP

Best Seafood Practices is a third-party certification program administered by the Global Seafood Alliance, an international, nonprofit trade association dedicated to advancing responsible seafood practices through education, advocacy and third-party assurances. BSP is the world's only third-party certification program capable of linking responsible wild fisheries to certified vessels and processing plants. BSP provides assurances to the marketplace that wild seafood has been harvested and processed in an ethical manner with respect for the wellbeing and security of all workers across the supply chain. To learn more, visit bspcertification.org.

About The Consumer Goods Forum

The Consumer Goods Forum ("CGF") is a global, parity-based industry network that is driven by its members to encourage the global adoption of practices and standards that serves the consumer goods industry worldwide. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of some 400 retailers, manufacturers, service providers, and other stakeholders across 70 countries, and it reflects the diversity of the industry in geography, size, product category and format. Its member companies have combined sales of EUR 3.5 trillion and directly employ nearly 10 million people, with a further 90 million related jobs estimated along the value chain. It is governed by its Board of Directors, which comprises more than 55 manufacturer and retailer CEOs. For more information, please visit: www.theconsumergoodsforum.com.