



Annex - Fish and Seafood certification process for different standards

Certification Standard	Marine Stewardship Council
1. Do you have standards for specific species or is there a generic standard that covers multiple species?	The MSC sets one standard for sustainable fishing. Certification to the MSC Fisheries Standard is voluntary. It's open to all fisheries who catch marine or freshwater organisms in the wild. This includes most types of fish and shellfish. For enhanced bivalve and salmon fisheries there are a few specific modifications that also apply. Together with the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC, focused on fish farming), MSC has recently launched a standard for sustainable seaweed and algae as well.
2. Do you have standards for other actors in the value chain? i.e. feed mills or processors.	MSC also sets a Chain of Custody Standard, for the traceability of certified sustainable fish and seafood. The ASC makes use of this Standard as well. For products to carry the blue MSC or green ASC label, every company in the supply chain must have a valid Chain of Custody certificate. To be certified, businesses are audited by independent certifiers.
3. What type of entity applies for your certification? i.e. Vessels, fisheries, farmer, farmer group etc.	The MSC program is open to any business that wants to work with sustainable seafood. A fishery certification can be held by a single fishing company with one or several vessels, a group of companies working together, or international collaborations led by industry organizations. A Chain of Custody certification is usually held by a single company, where it can cover multiple sites and activities. The type of companies getting CoC-certified range from fish auctions and processors to fishmongers and restaurants.
4. Is there a tool that potential applicants can use to do a gap-analysis before deciding to apply for certification?	For fisheries, there are various benchmarking and improvement tools available on the MSC website. For supply chain companies, the MSC Chain of Custody - Get Certified Guide give a good indication of what is needed in order to go through an audit.
5. What are the types of costs associated with applying for certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	Use of the MSC Standards is free, but there are audit costs as charged by independent certifiers. The MSC does not perform audits itself. Anecdotal information from certified fisheries suggests the cost can vary from USD \$15,000 - \$120,000. Costs for Chain of Custody certification are significantly lower. The certificate holder (a fishery or supply chain company) usually covers the costs, sometimes supported by subsidies or MSC's Ocean Stewardship Fund.
6. How do you provide assurance about product integrity throughout the supply chain? i.e. Chain of Custody certification, blockchain etc. a. If there is a CoC certification, which actors in the supply chain must have a CoC certification?	For products to carry the blue MSC (or green ASC) label, every company in the supply chain must have a valid Chain of Custody certificate. Our online, public databases (for fisheries and suppliers) show the current status and scope (species and activities) for any certificate holder.
7. What are the types of costs associated with applying for CoC certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	The certificate holder usually covers the audit costs.
8. Are there fees involved in placing and using the logo on the end-product? And if so, who pays for them i.e. producer, importer, distributor, retailer etc.	The MSC is a registered trademark and use of the label requires an ecolabel licence agreement with MSC International. Most organisations that sign a licence to use the MSC label are liable to pay annual fees and, depending on the label use, royalties. -
9. How long does it, on average, take to go from application to become certified for a producer?	Fishery assessments take on average 18 months, Chain of Custody certification can often be arranged in a matter of weeks.



Certification Standard	Best Aquaculture Practises
<p>1. Do you have standards for specific species or is there a generic standard that covers multiple species?</p>	<p>BAP has standards for each part of the aquaculture supply chain, some of these are species specific, other cover a range of species. The list is as follows: A-Processing plant standard The Seafood Processing Standard covers all species, but has some species specific content. B-Farm standards i-The Farm standard covers farming of finfish, crustaceans, and other aquatic invertebrates. All production methods are covered, including flow-through, partial exchange, and closed or recirculating aquaculture systems operated in ponds, cages, net pens, tanks, raceways, or closed-containment vessels. ii-The Salmon standard applies to the cage and net pen production in marine waters of Atlantic salmon, <i>Salmo salar</i>; chinook salmon, <i>Onchorynchus tshawytscha</i>; coho salmon, <i>Onchorynchus kisutch</i>; and rainbow trout, <i>Onchorynchus mykiss</i>. Marine waters are defined as waters with average salinity greater than 25 ppt. iii-The Mollusk standard applies to the culture of molluscan shellfish, including all species of bivalves, such as clams, cockles, geoducks, oysters, scallops, and mussels, but excluding grazing gastropods (whelks, abalone) for which the BAP Farm standard applies instead. C-The Hatchery & Nursery standard applies to all aquaculture facilities that produce eggs and/or juvenile aquatic animals for live transfer to other aquaculture facilities and to all species for which BAP farm standards are available. Production facilities can be ponds or tanks on land with directed inflows and outflows of water, trays located intertidally on the foreshore, or rafts or cages (net pens) floating in a body of water. For the purposes of these BAP standards, the generic term used to describe them is hatchery. D-The Feed Mill standard applies to facilities that process and manufacture finished feeds for the culture of fish, crustaceans and other aquatic and terrestrial animals. E- The Biosecurity Area Management standard apply to groups of cooperating farms that nurture a collective, risk-mitigating model of good governance across a defined aquaculture area. The standards are not species-specific in their general content, and cover all production methods, including flow-through, partial exchange, and closed or recirculating water systems operated in ponds, cages, net pens, tanks, raceways or closed-containment vessels. Applicants are typically comprised of a group of producers or a farmer association, although governmentdefined groups can also apply.</p>
<p>2. Do you have standards for other actors in the value chain? i.e. feed mills or processors.</p>	<p>Yes as above. We believe in order to ensure responsible production, each part of the supply chain must be certified to a best practice standard and that the essential pillars of environment, food safety, social and animal welfare are covered. With BAP this can be achieved under one scheme, as opposed to a mix of different schemes. The standards are reviewed on a regular basis by a system of technical committees and oversight committees with a balance of industry, academic and NGO participation. The relevant standards are also either currently benchmarked or undergoing benchmarking against the Consumer Goods Forum and GSSI benchmarks for food safety, social and environmental sustainability.</p>
<p>3. What type of entity applies for your certification? i.e. Vessels, fisheries, farmer, farmer group etc.</p>	<p>For the processing, hatchery and feed standard, individual facilities must apply. For the farm standards, individual facilities can apply on their own or group together to reduce audit costs (qualifying rules apply). For the Area Management standard, there are special grouping requirements, which normally results in a producer association being the applicant.</p>
<p>4. Is there a tool that potential applicants can use to do a gap-analysis before deciding to apply for certification?</p>	<p>Yes, we have an online application system which has a self-assessment process, see https://www.bapcertification.org and follow 'sign in' to create an account to begin the process. We also have a list of approved 3rd party consultants should an 'in person' gap analysis be required.</p>
<p>5. What are the types of costs associated with applying for certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?</p>	<p>There is an application fee, an audit fee and a program fee specific to each type of standard. The cost is usually invoiced directly to the facility.</p>



Certification Standard	Best Aquaculture Practises
<p>6. How do you provide assurance about product integrity throughout the supply chain? i.e. Chain of Custody certification, blockchain etc.</p> <p>a. If there is a CoC certification, which actors in the supply chain must have a CoC certification?</p>	<p>We have a star system, where a star represents each part of the supply chain:</p> <p>1* Processing plant (though there is very little 1* represented in the market place as certified farm production has grown so strongly. The 1* will be phased out).</p> <p>2* Processing plant and farm</p> <p>3* Processing plant, farm and hatchery</p> <p>4* Processing plant, farm, hatchery and feed</p> <p>All facilities within a star system must link to each other and meet the traceability and chain of custody requirements that are embedded in the standards. There are strict logo rules that apply to each actor in the supply chain that packs product under logo.</p>
<p>7. What are the types of costs associated with applying for CoC certification?</p> <p>a. Who usually covers these costs?</p>	<p>There are no extra costs for CoC certification. The CoC is embedded in the relevant standard and hence the cost is included in the audit. The costs are usually paid by the relevant facility.</p>
<p>8. Are there fees involved in placing and using the logo on the end-product? And if so, who pays for them i.e. producer, importer, distributor, retailer etc.</p>	<p>There are no extra logo licensing fees for use of relevant logo on pack as these are included in the program fees paid by each relevant facility.</p> <p>There are no logo licensing fees charged to retailers or catering establishments for use of logo on pack.</p>
<p>9. How long does it, on average, take to go from application to become certified for a producer?</p>	<p>From completing an application to receiving the certificate usually takes anywhere from 5-9 months, depending on auditor availability, readiness of facility, audit performance and conclusion.</p>



Certification Standard	Best Seafood Practises
1. Do you have standards for specific species or is there a generic standard that covers multiple species?	Best Seafood Practices is a program that provides a more comprehensive approach to the assurance of wild seafood, it is not species specific, though one of the standards does have some species specific requirements.
2. Do you have standards for other actors in the value chain? i.e. feed mills or processors.	Best Seafood Practices works alongside GSSI recognised fishery standards and adds standards for fishing vessels (the Responsible Fishing vessel Standard) and processing plants (the Seafood Processing Standard). In doing so, the program brings best practice to manage a) Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) risks with strong controls on catch traceability and vessel licensing b) health, safety and welfare of crew at sea and employees in processing on land.
3. What type of entity applies for your certification? i.e. Vessels, fisheries, farmer, farmer group etc.	Processing plants apply for the Seafood Processing Standard , fishing vessels or fleets apply for the Responsible Fishing vessel Standard which together with a GSSI recognised fishery scheme, make up Best Seafood Practices. All certificates carry a BSP certification number, see https://bspcertification.org/Home#producerslink
4. Is there a tool that potential applicants can use to do a gap-analysis before deciding to apply for certification?	Yes, we have both online and excel based self assessments for facilities to conduct gap analysis. We also have available a program of independent consultant trainers to assist if required.
5. What are the types of costs associated with applying for certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	There is an application and audit fee for both standards, the Seafood Processing Plant also has a program fee. The cost is usually invoiced directly to the facility, vessel or group of vessels.
6. How do you provide assurance about product integrity throughout the supply chain? i.e. Chain of Custody certification, blockchain etc. a. If there is a CoC certification, which actors in the supply chain must have a CoC certification?	There are traceability and chain of custody requirements that are embedded in the standards. There are strict logo rules that apply to each actor in the supply chain that packs product under logo.
7. What are the types of costs associated with applying for CoC certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	There are no extra costs for CoC certification. The CoC is embedded in the relevant standard and hence the cost is included in the audit. The costs are usually paid by the relevant facility.
8. Are there fees involved in placing and using the logo on the end-product? And if so, who pays for them i.e. producer, importer, distributor, retailer etc.	There are strict rules for logo use, but no extra logo licensing fees for use of relevant logo as these are included in the fees paid by each relevant facility or vessel. There are no logo licensing fees charged to retailers or catering establishments for use of logo on pack.
9. How long does it, on average, take to go from application to become certified for a producer?	From completing an application to receiving the certificate usually takes anywhere from 3-6 months, depending on auditor availability, readiness of facility, audit performance and conclusion.



Certification Standard	GlobalGAP
1. Do you have standards for specific species or is there a generic standard that covers multiple species?	Since version 4 we have gathered all species specific standards and trailed for all systems in order to harmonize criteria and facilitate the market to have one single document that is applicable for finfish, crustaceans, molluscs and seaweed. Certificate is linked to the specific scientific name.
2. Do you have standards for other actors in the value chain? i.e. feed mills or processors.	Yes, the full production chain needs to be physically visited in order to claim GLOBAL.G.A.P. certified at point of sale. We have a separate compound feed standard and chain of custody. More details can be found here: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p./integrated-farm-assurance-ifa/aquaculture/
3. What type of entity applies for your certification? i.e. Vessels, fisheries, farmer, farmer group etc.	<p>GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture certification scope:</p> <p>The aquaculture scope includes following product categories at all stages of their life cycle and those species listed in the GLOBALG.A.P. product list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finfish • Crustaceans • Mollusks • Seaweed <p>At all stages, seedlings (ova and/or juveniles) shall originate from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. registration/certification. Broodstock shall be obtained through an aquaculture breeding program. If wild-caught broodstock are used, they shall originate from a fishery that has proven that it is ecologically managed. Passive collection of seedlings from the planktonic phase is allowed. Aquaculture certification cannot be achieved for wild fish/catch that is not farmed. Post-harvest handling of aquaculture products by the same legal entity as the farm shall also demonstrate compliance with the post-harvest/mass balance and traceability sections in order for the producer to achieve certification. The scope of certification clearly defines the scientific name of the farmed species in the electronic certificate issued in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.</p>
4. Is there a tool that potential applicants can use to do a gap-analysis before deciding to apply for certification?	Yes, all standards are free to download and are available in the relevant languages where applicants can perform a self-assessment on the checklist format to evaluate their status compared to the requirements.
5. What are the types of costs associated with applying for certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	Please find here the process of certification: https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/what-we-do/globalg.a.p.-certification/five-steps-to-get-certified/
6. How do you provide assurance about product integrity throughout the supply chain? i.e. Chain of Custody certification, blockchain etc. a. If there is a CoC certification, which actors in the supply chain must have a CoC certification?	Definitively, all changes in legal ownership of the products originated from a GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture certified farm shall have in place a Chain of Custody certification, including traders, in order to claim certified status at point of sale. Those products making part of labelled products are transparently displayed at our platform B2C: www.ggn.org
7. What are the types of costs associated with applying for CoC certification? a. Who usually covers these costs?	Same as answer under 5 above.
8. Are there fees involved in placing and using the logo on the end-product? And if so, who pays for them i.e. producer, importer, distributor, retailer etc.	Please refer to the booklet: The GGN Label and Online Portal For Certified Aquaculture Page 13. Registration fee (one-time payment) €1,000 Volume-based fee (paid on a quarterly or half-yearly basis) €10/metric ton of labeled products for the first 10,500 tons. €4/each additional metric ton.
9. How long does it, on average, take to go from application to become certified for a producer?	This will depend how far or how near they are in the implementation of the criteria. There is no answer fits all. By the moment that the producer has implemented all the criteria, there needs to be a minimum of three months of records showing GLOBALG.A.P. implementation to be ready for an audit for certification purposes.



Certification Standard	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
<p>1. Do you have standards for specific species or is there a generic standard that covers multiple species?</p>	<p>ASC has standards for specific species. There are currently eleven farm standards covering 23 species groups, as well as a joint ASC-MSC standard for seaweed. The species were chosen because of their potential impact on the environment and society, their market value and the extent to which they are traded internationally or their potential for such trade. The standards, and species groups they cover, are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon • Shrimp • Tilapia • Pangasius • Freshwater Trout • Bivalve (covering oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops) • Abalone • Seriola and Cobia • Sea Bass, Sea Bream, Meagre • Flatfish (covering flounders, turbot, and halibut) • Tropical marine finfish (covering groupers, snappers, pompano, barramundi, and croaker) • Seaweed (joint standard with the Marine Stewardship Council)
<p>2. Do you have standards for other actors in the value chain? i.e. feed mills or processors.</p>	<p>All supply chain partners that manipulate fish need to be certified against the Chain of Custody Standard to make sure no substitution is taking place. The Chain of Custody standard is shared with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), allowing one certification audit to cover both ASC and MSC products. The ASC Feed Standard is applicable to feed mills. The ASC Feed Standard was published in June 2021 and certification against this standard will be possible from Autumn 2022 onwards. It requires responsible sourcing of both marine and land-based feed ingredients and also covers social issues in the supply chain.</p>
<p>3. What type of entity applies for your certification? i.e. Vessels, fisheries, farmer, farmer group etc.</p>	<p>Seafood farmers and supply chain companies can apply for ASC certification. Seafood farmers can apply with a single site (single-site certification), with multiple sites at the same time (multi-site certification) or organised in a group with other companies (group certification). Group certification is targeted at smaller-scale producers, whereas single-site and multi-site certification is available to a producer of any size.</p> <p>Feed mills can apply for certification against the ASC Feed Standard from Autumn 2022.</p>
<p>4. Is there a tool that potential applicants can use to do a gap-analysis before deciding to apply for certification?</p>	<p>ASC publishes an audit preparation checklist for each Farm Standard on the ASC website. Farmers can use the checklist to identify levels of compliance against the Standards. Specifically for small-scale farmers working on group certification the ASC has published a suite of tools to help them understand and implement the requirements of Group Certification.</p> <p>Next to the tools that ASC has published for farmers to help them prepare for certification, the ASC is also developing a gap-analysis tool for its Improver Programme. This gap-analysis tool can be applied at the start of an Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP) to identify gaps against the ASC Standards. The ASC aims to develop a pool of qualified implementers and verifiers who can assist farmers on the implementation and verification of the AIP (including the gap-analysis</p>
<p>5. What are the types of costs associated with applying for certification?</p> <p>a. Who usually covers these costs?</p>	<p>The cost (and time) of the certification audit will vary depending on the complexity and size of the company as well as the certifier's rates and travel expenses. The ASC does not receive any money for any aspects of the audit or any pre-audit process a farm may choose to undertake. The cost of audit is paid by the producer to the certification body, and this payment is made regardless of the outcome of the audit or the final certification decision.</p>



Certification Standard	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
<p>6. How do you provide assurance about product integrity throughout the supply chain? i.e. Chain of Custody certification, blockchain etc.</p> <p>a. If there is a CoC certification, which actors in the supply chain must have a CoC certification?</p>	<p>Providing assurances around ASC certification and ASC certified products is a key part of the ASC programme. Each company in the supply chain handling or selling an ASC certified product must have a valid Chain of Custody certificate. To receive this certification a company must demonstrate that it is labelling and storing certified seafood clearly and keeping certified and non-certified seafood separate at all times. This assures consumers and seafood-buyers that ASC labelled products come from a certified responsible farm.</p> <p>Assurance is a big part of ASC's work, carried out by our dedicated Programme Assurance Team all around the world. As well as working with certification bodies and auditors to provide guidance and ensure consistency, this team is working on projects to develop new assurance tools and techniques across the supply chain. These ongoing projects include a supplier monitoring tool to collect antibiotic test result data, the use of Key Data Elements (KDEs) to improve the digital traceability of products, or the use of technology to identify the geographic origin of products.</p>
<p>7. What are the types of costs associated with applying for CoC certification?</p> <p>a. Who usually covers these costs?</p>	<p>The cost (and time) of the certification audit will vary depending on the complexity and size of the company as well as the certifier's rates and travel expenses. The ASC does not receive any money for any aspects of the audit or any pre-audit process a company may choose to undertake. All fees for the audit are agreed directly with the certifier and paid for by the company applying for CoC certification.</p>
<p>8. Are there fees involved in placing and using the logo on the end-product? And if so, who pays for them i.e. producer, importer, distributor, retailer etc.</p>	<p>Any company applying the ASC logo on consumer-facing products is liable to pay royalties, which start at 0.5% of the net wholesale value of the ASC labelled seafood sales. During the whole supply chain of a product, royalties are only collected once. The company liable to pay this fee is the company that is the owner of the product at the time the logo is applied to a consumer package. Any company that has signed a logo licensing agreement with ASC is liable to also pay an annual fee, which is a set fee determined by the total net value of ASC certified seafood sold in a calendar year. Only products that come from certified farms and fully certified supply chain can apply the logo, but the use of the logo by these companies is voluntary. Find more here.</p>
<p>9. How long does it, on average, take to go from application to become certified for a producer?</p>	<p>The certification process is very difficult to predict and because it involves a detailed audit as well as a round of stakeholder consultation. It is also important to note that beginning the application does not make certification a foregone conclusion. However, as a very rough average, there are around four to six months from application to a certification decision.</p>