



## GSSI Public Consultation Marine Eco-label Japan

26 June 2023 – 26 July 2023

**HAARLEM, The Netherlands, 26 June 2023** – GSSI is holding a public consultation on the benchmarking of the Marine Eco-label Japan under version 2.0 of the Global Benchmark Tool. **The consultation will be open to the public for 30 days.**

### Marine Eco-label Japan's Public Consultation

The MEL-Japan program received its first recognition from GSSI in 2019. MEL-Japan is now undergoing benchmarking for their Aquaculture Management Standard (version 2.0, 2022) and Fisheries Management Standard (version 2.0, 2018).

GSSI is committed to a transparent benchmark process with opportunities for engagement. That is why we are welcoming comments from the public on MEL-Japan's benchmarking process. You are encouraged to submit any comments using the form linked below.

After the closing of the Public Consultation (30-days), the Independent Experts and Benchmark Committee will review all the received comments. Following careful review, a final recommendation on recognition will be provided to the GSSI Steering Board. The Public Consultation comments will be made publicly available after the final decision on continued recognition..

### About the GSSI Recognition Process

2021 marked the beginning of GSSI's Recognition Processes under Version 2.0 of the Global Benchmark Tool. As part of the revision from Version 1.0 to 2.0, the GSSI's Benchmark Procedures were updated to give a detailed outline of the content, requirements, and background of the Tool's current process. **Find the Benchmark Procedures here.**

## Submit your comments

to **GSSI Secretariat** by 26 July 2023

[Learn more about MEL Japan's GSSI Recognition](#)

[Download the Comment Form](#)



ABOUT

### The Marine Eco-label Japan program

Marine Eco-Label Japan was launched as a project operated by the Japan Fisheries Association in 2007. In December 2016, the MEL Council was established and became the scheme owner in response to the growing public interest in marine eco-labeling within and outside Japan. The scheme consists of three standards of fisheries, aquaculture and chain of custody (CoC). As of the end of May 2023, there were 221 cases certified: fisheries 22, aquaculture 61 and CoC 138. Visit <http://www.melj.jp> for more information.



### About GSSI

The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) is a public-private partnership working together on a common purpose: turn seafood into a driver for good to preserve oceans for future generations and drive forward more sustainable seafood for everyone.

Through its strong relationship with the FAO, GSSI is uniquely positioned to support its Partners in accelerating the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As one of the largest precompetitive collaborations in the world aligning businesses, NGOs, governments, and international organizations representing the full seafood value chain – the GSSI Global Partnership invites seafood sustainability leaders to join and become part of the solution.

For more information, visit [www.ourgssi.org](http://www.ourgssi.org).

### About GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool

With many kinds of labels, claims, and logos in the market, it is important for producers, retailers, and consumers to understand which certification programs they can trust. GSSI created a unique solution for this – **the Global Benchmark Tool**. Underpinned by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine/Inland Capture Fisheries, and the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification the Global Benchmark Tool offers a transparent and objective way for certification programs to demonstrate their credibility and robustness. It provides clarity and choice to producers and markets around to world on which programs align with the relevant international codes and guidelines for seafood certification.

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