

CSI Fishery Management Standard

Version 3.0

Public Comment Draft

October 15, 2026



Responsibility for these Requirements

The Board of Certified Seafood International (CSI) is responsible for the *CSI Fishery Management Standard*. The CSI Board will review the contents of this document on an ongoing basis.

Contents

Responsibility for these Requirements.....	2
Purpose	5
Background	5
Scope.....	6
A. Within Scope.....	6
B. Out of Scope	6
C. Disqualifying Activities.....	6
D. Unit of Certification	6
Normative References	7
Terms and Definitions.....	7
I. STANDARD STRUCTURE AND MINIMUM PERFORMANCE LEVEL	8
A. Structure	8
B. Minimum Performance Level	9
H. Data-Limited Fishery Tool	9
II. CSI FISHERY MANAGEMENT STANDARD REQUIREMENTS	10
Core Tenet 1. Management operates an effective fishery management system.....	10
Management Theme 1.1. Fishery Management System	10
Management Theme 1.2. Fishery Management Plan	11
Management Theme 1.3. Fishery Statistics.....	12
Management Theme 1.4. Fisheries Research	13
Core Tenet 2. Management assesses and responds to the state of the target stock.....	14
Management Theme 2.1. Stock Assessment.....	14
Management Theme 2.2. Reference Points	15
Core Tenet 3. Management effectively regulates, enforces, and monitors fishing operations.	16
Management Theme 3.1. Harvest Control	16
Management Theme 3.2. Conservation and Management Measures	17
Management Theme 3.3. Monitoring and Enforcement	18
Management Theme 3.4. Sanctions	19
Core Tenet 4. Management assesses and responds to fishery impacts on the ecosystem.	20
Management Theme 4.1. Non-Target Species	20
Management Theme 4.2. Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species	21
Management Theme 4.3. Habitat	22

Management Theme 4.4. Ecosystem Structure and Function	23
III. ENHANCED FISHERY MODULE	24
EF Management Theme E1 – Management and Transboundary Considerations.....	26
EF Management Theme E2 – Target Stock.....	27
EF Management Theme E3 – Environmental Impacts	28
Appendices	29
Appendix 1. List of Acronyms	29

Purpose

To develop a fishery management standard that:

- Is global in scope
- Aligns with the FAO CCRF/Ecolabelling Guidelines and the GSSI Benchmark
- Expands on the work of existing Responsible Fishery Management (RFM) programs
- Is voluntary in nature and non-discriminatory in its application
- Is suitable for independent assessment by third-party, accredited Certification Bodies (CBs)
- Lends itself to local or regional implementation

Background

Certified Seafood International (CSI) delivers a competitive new third-party certification program with global reach, and chain of custody (CoC) with the ability to identify harvest origin on the eco-label. Benchmarked by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI), CSI audits fisheries management against a clear and rigorous Fishery Management Standard grounded in the globally recognized guidance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Credibility: CSI is a rigorous program benchmarked by GSSI. Our fisheries are certified against a standard grounded in the internationally recognized principles of the UN FAO. These FAO criteria were developed in partnership with the world's leading fishery biologists, environmental organizations, and fishery managers from 70 countries.

Affordability: Credible certification should not impose steep cost burdens on the seafood sector. The clarity of our standard, together with a commitment to minimizing program overhead, is delivering value for money and removing cost burdens from seafood supply chains. As we work to finalize a long-term funding model for our new program, affordability will remain an overriding objective and any program fees will be kept to a minimum.

Transparency: CSI believes deeply in the fishing communities that harvest wild-capture seafood, and we want to share their stories with the world. Our program provides more than a generic stamp of approval. We offer a choice to identify harvest origin on the CSI label; and we provide an online platform to communicate a wider range of information about certified fisheries. Through these and other innovations, we work every day to enhance transparency and trust.

Improvement: By recognizing fisheries that meet a clear set of established management requirements, CSI encourages more fisheries to engage and improve. We believe that a stable standard, focused on fisheries management and based on internationally recognized UN principles, provides clarity and consistency that is vital for fisheries striving for certification.

Global Reach: CSI has been developed in partnership with existing regional certification programs and builds upon their successes. Most significantly, the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program has rolled into CSI, allowing us to launch with existing certified fisheries that land approximately three million metric tonnes.

More information about CSI is available on our website: www.CSI.Fisheries.org

Contact CSI at: info@csicertified.org

Scope

A. Within Scope

This standard may be used to assess the management of marine and freshwater capture fisheries including those employing limited enhancement activities.

B. Out of Scope

Species from the following taxonomic groups are expressly excluded from scope: amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Such taxa are referred to as “out of scope” species, and they are ineligible for use of the ecolabel.

Fisheries targeting introduced species are out of scope unless the species was historically introduced and has subsequently become established as a self-sustaining part of the natural ecosystem¹.

Full-cycle aquaculture is out of scope. However, fisheries which are managed with some level of enhancement activity² may be within scope if they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the Enhanced Fisheries Module (EFM).

C. Disqualifying Activities

The CSI Board reserves the right to disqualify fishing operations that may bring the CSI Certification Program into disrepute. Fishing operations may be disqualified from participation in a Unit of Certification (UOC) if credible allegations, corroborated by substantial evidence, indicate that a fishing operation has engaged in any of the following activities within the last three years:

- the use of explosives, poisons, or comparable destructive fishing practices;
- forced labor or other abusive labor practices;
- knowing or willful engagement in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; or
- illegal shark finning.

D. Unit of Certification

The UOC is defined by:

- The target stock of the fishery;
- The gear type(s) used in the fishery;
- The geographical area over which the fishery harvests the target stock(s); and
- Those organizations involved in management of the fishery for the target stock(s).

¹ The *CSI Fishery Assessment Methodology* elaborates on the eligibility requirements for fisheries targeting introduced species.

² Enhancement activities may involve stocking with organisms originating from aquaculture facilities, transfer or translocation of organisms from the wild, habitat modification, fertilization, removal of unwanted species, or some combination of these activities.

Normative References

CSI Glossary of Terms. Version 1.0. Certified Seafood International. Draft, October 15, 2026.

CSI Fishery Assessment Methodology. Version 1.0. Certified Seafood International. Draft, October 15, 2026.

CSI Guidance and Evaluation Parameters for Fishery Conformity Assessment. Version 3.0. Certified Seafood International. Draft, October 15, 2026.

Unified Chain of Custody Standard, Version 2.6. Certified Seafood International and Iceland RFM, September 2025. <https://csicertified.org/chain-of-custody/standard/>

Terms and Definitions

All terms are defined in the *CSI Glossary of Terms*. A list of acronyms is provided in Appendix 1.

I. STANDARD STRUCTURE AND MINIMUM PERFORMANCE LEVEL

A. Structure

The CSI Fishery Management Standard is structured around four Core Tenets with 62 individual audit requirements distributed across 14 management themes (Table 1).

Table 1. Structure of CSI Fishery Management Standard.

Core Tenet	Management Theme
Core Tenet 1. Management operates an effective fishery management system. (17 requirements)	1.1 Fishery Management System
	1.2 Fishery Management Plan
	1.3. Fishery Statistics
	1.4 Fisheries Research
Core Tenet 2. Management assesses and responds to the state of the target stock. (14 requirements)	2.1 Stock Assessment
	2.2 Reference Points
Core Tenet 3. Management effectively regulates, enforces, and monitors fishing operations. (14 requirements)	3.1 Harvest Control
	3.2 Conservation and Management Measures
	3.3 Monitoring and Enforcement
	3.4 Sanctions
Core Tenet 4. Management assesses and responds to fishery impacts on the ecosystem. (17 requirements)	4.1 Non-Target Species
	4.2 Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species
	4.3 Habitat
	4.4 Ecosystem structure and function
Enhanced Fishery Module (EFM) (17 requirements)	E1 Management and Transboundary Considerations
	E2 Target Stock
	E3 Environmental Impacts

B. Minimum Performance Level

CBs assesses conformity of the fishery with each requirement of the CSI Fishery Management Standard using three evaluation parameters (EPs): management process (EP1); adequate information (EP2); and outcome/status (EP3). Assessors evaluate EPs one-by-one to determine whether the fishery fully meets a requirement (i.e., the fishery is in conformity). If the fishery does not meet one or more of the EPs within a given requirement, then there is a non-conformity (NC). NCs are graded according to the number of EPs that are not met within a requirement: if one (1) EP is unmet it is a minor NC; if 2 EPs are unmet it is a major NC; and if 3 EPs are unmet it is a critical NC.

When an NC is raised, the fishery must take corrective action to resolve it. In addition, the fishery must meet or exceed the minimum performance level (Table 1). The fishery shall not have more than three (3) minor NCs per Core Tenet or more than one (1) major NC per Core Tenet, and the fishery shall have zero (0) critical NCs. This approach allows for a small measure of non-conformity to arise in otherwise high-performing fisheries ($\approx$ 90% conformity rate).

Table 2. Minimum fishery performance level in relation to the number and grade of NCs.

Core Tenet	Max. Number of NCs by Grade (not to be exceeded)			Or	Max. Number of NCs by Grade (not to be exceeded)		
	Minor	Major	Critical		Minor	Major	Critical
1	3	0	0	Or	0	1	0
2	3	0	0	Or	0	1	0
3	3	0	0	Or	0	1	0
4	3	0	0	Or	0	1	0
EFM	3	0	0	Or	0	1	0

More detailed information about EPs can be found in the *CSI Guidance and Evaluation Parameters for Fishery Conformity Assessment*.

C. Data-Limited Fishery Tool

For fisheries with data limitations, the assessment team may adopt a risk-based approach by applying the Data-Limited Fishery Tool (DLF Tool)³. The following CSI requirements may be evaluated using the DLF Tool: 2.2.5 (target stock); 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 (non-target species); and 4.3.2 (ETP species).

³ CSI is currently in the process of developing the DLF Tool. It will be based on the [Data Deficient Framework \(DDF\)](#).

II. CSI FISHERY MANAGEMENT STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

Core Tenet 1. Management operates an effective fishery management system.

Management Theme 1.1. Fishery Management System

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
1.1.1	A structured and legally mandated Fishery Management System (FMS) shall be in place.	-	All
1.1.2	The FMS provides an institutional framework for the conservation and management of aquatic resources.	-	All
1.1.3	Fisheries management arrangements and decision-making shall be transparent and provide for the consultation of fishers and affected stakeholders.		All
1.1.4	The precautionary approach shall be applied widely to the conservation and management of the target stock and the ecosystem.	-	All
1.1.5	A. The fishery shall be regulated in a way that avoids or minimizes conflict among fishers using different types of vessels, fishing gears, and/or fishing methods. B. There shall be a means to settle conflicts arising within or among fisheries sectors.	-	All
1.1.6	For shared target stocks ⁴ , there shall be a bilateral, subregional, or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement that addresses management of the target stock over its entire area of distribution.	-	Shared target stock

⁴ Applicable to UOCs with a target stock that is transboundary, shared, straddling, highly migratory, or a high seas fish stock exploited by two or more States.

Management Theme 1.2. Fishery Management Plan

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
1.2.1	There shall be a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or other management framework ⁵ for the target stock.	-	All
1.2.2	The FMP or other management framework shall set out long-term management objectives consistent with optimal utilization ⁶ of the target stock while also reflecting the scale and intensity of the fishery, and it shall identify management approaches, actions, or measures to meet those objectives.	BASI, S&I, LTFK	All
1.2.3	The FMP or other management framework shall specify how a precautionary approach is applied to management of the target stock and how uncertainty is addressed.	-	All
1.2.4	The FMP or other management framework shall set out objectives to reduce, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem.	-	All

⁵ FAO recognizes FMPs and other management frameworks (CCRF 7.3.3).

⁶ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

Management Theme 1.3. Fishery Statistics

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
1.3.1	The Fisheries Management Organization or Arrangement (FMOA) shall have a system for collecting fishery data in line with international standards ⁷ and/or best practice for the sector.	-	All
1.3.2	Timely, complete, and reliable fishery statistics shall be compiled for the target stock.	S&I, DLF Tool, BASI, LTFC	All
1.3.3	The quality and quantity of fishery data shall be sufficient to derive reliable estimates of catch and fishing effort for the target stock.		All
1.3.4	Fishery datasets shall be maintained, regularly updated, and reviewed periodically to ensure they remain useful for stock assessment purposes.	BASI, LTFC	All

⁷ FAO. 1999. Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382. Rome, FAO. 1999. 113 p. <https://www.fao.org/3/x2465e/x2465e.pdf>

Management Theme 1.4. Fisheries Research

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
1.4.1	Fisheries research shall be conducted as appropriate to support the effective conservation and management of the target stock and its ecosystem. Research results shall be disseminated in a manner that is timely and transparent, and respects confidentiality where appropriate.	S&I	All
1.4.2	Shared Target Stocks: Management shall cooperate with relevant international organizations to facilitate research on optimal utilization of the target stock. Research results shall be shared with the relevant parties.	-	Shared target stock

Core Tenet 2. Management assesses and responds to the state of the target stock.

Management Theme 2.1. Stock Assessment

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
2.1.1	The state of the target stock shall be regularly assessed using a method which is appropriate for the species, fishery, and ecosystem.		All
2.1.2	Stock assessment shall account for the range, structure, productivity, and resilience of the target stock.		All
2.1.3	Stock assessment shall consider total fishing mortality ⁸ of the target stock.	-	All
2.1.4	In line with the precautionary approach, the FMOA shall account for scientific uncertainty about the status of the target stock. Uncertainty may be addressed through a suitable method of risk assessment.	S&I, LTFK, RA	SSF, DLF
2.1.5	Fishery data inputs (see 1.3.2 and 1.3.3) shall be sufficient ⁹ to support a robust stock assessment in line with best practice and/or applicable international standards. Stock assessment may also use verifiable LTFK if applicable.	BASI, LTFK	All
2.1.6	Stock assessment results shall be published in a timely manner, respecting confidentiality arrangements as may be applicable.	-	All
2.1.7	Shared Target Stocks: Management shall cooperate with relevant international organizations to ensure that results from stock assessment reflect the best available scientific information.	BASI	Shared target stock
2.1.8	Where information about the target stock is insufficient, alternative assessment approaches may be used (e.g., surrogate information) in lieu of an analytical stock assessment methodology but only in low-risk circumstances.	RA	DLF

⁸ See CSI Glossary of Terms. *Total fishing mortality* is defined as all sources of fishing mortality of the stock including: discards; unobserved and incidental mortality; unreported catches; and catches in other fisheries.

⁹ "Sufficient information" is information that is judged to be appropriately reliable, relevant, and current for its intended use given the scale and intensity of the fishery under consideration.

Management Theme 2.2. Reference Points

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
2.2.1	There shall be appropriate limit and target reference points (LRP and TRP) for the target stock.	BASI, PA	All
2.2.2	The TRP shall be set in manner consistent with long-term optimal utilization of the target stock.		All
2.2.3	The LRP for the target stock shall be set to avoid impacts that may be irreversible or very slowly reversible such as recruitment overfishing. The LRP shall account for uncertainty, in line with the precautionary approach.	-	All
2.2.4	The FMOA shall specify remedial actions to be taken when reference points are approached or exceeded.	-	All
2.2.5	The target stock shall not be overfished, and the level of fishing shall be appropriate relative to current stock status, taking into account environmental conditions ¹⁰ when relevant.	DLF Tool	All
2.2.6	Should the target stock exceed its LRP or otherwise be identified as depleted, remedial actions shall be taken to rebuild the stock within a reasonable timeframe.	-	Depleted stock

¹⁰ Productivity of stocks may fluctuate due to natural environmental variability and/or anthropogenic impacts other than fishing.

Core Tenet 3. Management effectively regulates, enforces, and monitors fishing operations.

Management Theme 3.1. Harvest Control

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
3.1.1	There is a harvest control rule (HCR) or comparable framework to ensure optimal utilization of the target stock.	-	All
3.1.2	There is evidence the HCR is implemented and effective.	-	All

Management Theme 3.2. Conservation and Management Measures

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
3.2.1	Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) shall be developed with consideration given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The structure and status of the target stock over its entire range; B. Relevant biological attributes of the target stock, such as age of maturity and reproductive potential; and C. Protection of spawners and, where appropriate, juveniles. 	BASI	All
3.2.2	In addition to 3.2.1, CMMs shall be developed with consideration of potential adverse impacts of the fishery on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. NT species; B. ETP species; C. Dependent predators; D. Habitats; and E. Ecosystem structure and function. 	BASI	All
3.2.3	CMMs for the target stock shall be specified in laws, regulations and rules, and effective mechanisms shall be in place to verify implementation of those CMMs including, where appropriate, observer schemes or their proxies ¹¹ , inspection programs, and/or vessel monitoring systems.	-	All
3.2.4	CMMs shall be reviewed periodically to evaluate their effectiveness, identify possible interactions with other CMMs, and determine the need for revision or elimination.	-	All

¹¹ For an approach to be considered a useful proxy for an observer scheme, it should provide a means of verifying CMM implementation that is largely independent of the fishery itself. Such proxies may include for example vessel tracking information derived from satellite data.

Management Theme 3.3. Monitoring and Enforcement

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
3.3.1	A legal and administrative framework for regulation of the fishery shall be established at local, national, and regional levels as appropriate. Compliance with the framework shall be ensured through effective mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement (M&E) ¹² .	-	All
3.3.2	The laws, rules, and regulations implementing CMMs shall be publicly available and effectively disseminated.	-	All
3.3.3	There shall be a system in place to prevent unauthorized vessels from fishing for the target stock.	-	All
3.3.4	Fishing gear shall be marked to enable identification of the owner.	-	Fishery using passive gears

¹² See CSI Glossary of Terms.

Management Theme 3.4. Sanctions

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
3.4.1	The legal and regulatory framework shall provide for sanctions in response to violations and illegal activities. Sanctions shall be of adequate severity to support compliance and discourage violations.	-	All
3.4.2	There shall be evidence that the fishery, as defined in the UOC, operates in substantial compliance with the legal and regulatory framework. There shall be evidence of compliance with applicable technical measures for the target stock (e.g., restrictions on mesh size, gear type, closed seasons or areas).	-	All

Core Tenet 4. Management assesses and responds to fishery impacts on the ecosystem.

Management Theme 4.1. Non-Target Species

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
4.1.1	The effects of fishing on non-target (NT) species shall be monitored. Information on catch and discards of NT species shall be collected to assess the risk of adverse impacts ¹³ .	-	All incl. EF
4.1.2	For the fishery under consideration, the <u>main</u> NT species are known and the risk of adverse impacts on them is assessed.	DLF Tool, LTFK, S&I	All incl. EF
4.1.3	For the fishery under consideration, the <u>minor</u> NT species ¹⁴ are known and sufficient information is available to assess the risk of adverse impacts on them.	DLF Tool, LTFK, S&I	All incl. EF
4.1.4	As appropriate, the FMOA shall take management action to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the risk of adverse impacts on main and minor NT species. There shall be evidence that actions are likely to be effective.	-	All
4.1.5	If there is a high risk of adverse impacts on NT species, the selectivity of the fishing gear used by the UOC shall be studied with an aim towards minimizing the catch of NT species and safeguarding biodiversity.	-	Only high risk

¹³ An adverse impact on an NT species is one that threatens it with recruitment overfishing or another impact that is likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.

¹⁴ Bait species, if applicable, are addressed as minor NT species under 4.1.3.

Management Theme 4.2. Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
4.2.1	The FMOA shall seek to protect endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species ¹⁵ from threat of extinction or another impact with limited reversibility ¹⁶ arising from interactions with the fishery.	-	WC, EF
4.2.2	There shall be sufficient information ¹⁷ to assess the risk of the fishery having adverse impacts on ETP species.	DLF Tool, BASI, LTFK	WC, EF
4.2.3	Management action shall be taken as appropriate to minimize fishery interactions with ETP species or to otherwise reduce, minimize, or mitigate the risk of adverse impacts on ETP species. There shall be evidence that actions are likely to be effective.	-	WC, EF

¹⁵ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

¹⁶ Recruitment overfishing or other impacts that are likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible.

¹⁷ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

Management Theme 4.3. Habitat

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
4.3.1	The FMOA shall consider the effects of the fishery on habitats and shall seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the risk of adverse effects.	-	All
4.3.2	The FMOA shall have sufficient information ¹⁸ about habitats that are susceptible to damage by gears used in the fishery (Gear-Susceptible Habitats or GSHs) to assess the risk of adverse effects.	S&I, BASI, LTFK	Exclude pelagic fisheries
4.3.3	The FMOA shall implement management actions to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the risk of adverse effects on GSHs as appropriate. There shall be evidence that actions are likely to be effective.	S&I, DLF Tool	Exclude pelagic fisheries
4.3.4	The FMOA shall protect rare or unique habitats or ecosystems ¹⁹ through management actions that may include Area-Based Fishery Management (ABFM) measures where appropriate.	-	All
4.3.5	The FMOA shall consider essential habitats ²⁰ for the target stock. If essential habitats are present in the fishing area, the susceptibility of such habitats to the gear used by the fishery shall be evaluated, and management actions shall be taken as appropriate to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.	BASI, LTFK	All

¹⁸ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

¹⁹ The phrase “rare or unique habitats or ecosystems” encompasses areas designated as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), thermal vent structures, and areas with significant coral cover.

²⁰ Essential habitats may include but are not limited to spawning grounds or nursery areas of the target stock.

Management Theme 4.4. Ecosystem Structure and Function²¹

No.	CSI Requirement	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
4.4.1	The FMOA shall have a good understanding of the role of the target stock in the ecosystem.	LTFK	All
4.4.2	The FMOA shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consider the effects of the fishery on the ecosystem²² with an aim to minimize adverse effects; B. Have sufficient information²³ to assess the risk of adverse effects on ecosystem structure and function²⁴; and C. As appropriate, take actions to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the most probable adverse effects on ecosystem structure and function. There shall be evidence that such actions are likely to be effective. 	BASI, LTFK, S&I	All. Includes forage species
4.4.3	If the target stock is a key prey species in the ecosystem, the FMOA shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Account for significant effects of the fishery on dependent predator species; B. Have sufficient information²⁵ to assess the risk of adverse impacts on dependent predator species; and C. As appropriate, take actions to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the most probable adverse impacts on dependent predator species. There shall be evidence that such actions are likely to be effective. 	LTFK, S&I	KP species only
4.4.4	The FMOA shall have information on the extent of lost fishing gear and shall implement measures as appropriate to minimize gear loss and/or to reduce ghost fishing by lost or abandoned gear.	S&I	All

²¹ Management Theme 4.4 covers attributes of the wider ecosystem that are not already addressed by Management Themes 4.1 to 4.3.

²² For forage species, the ecological role of the target stock is an explicit ecosystem consideration.

²³ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

²⁴ In line with the precautionary approach, a suitable method of risk management may be used to address scientific uncertainty about fishery effects on ecosystem structure and function.

²⁵ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

III. ENHANCED FISHERY MODULE

Enhanced Fishery Module (EFM)

E1. Introduction

The FAO sets out a general principle²⁶ that “States should consider...culture-based fisheries as a means to promote diversification of income and diet. In so doing, States should ensure that resources are used responsibly and adverse impacts on the environment and on local communities are minimized.” The FAO elaborates further on this principle²⁷ in the Ecolabelling Guidelines: “In the case of enhanced fisheries, the fishery management system should take due regard of the natural production processes and minimize adverse impacts on ecosystem structure and function.”

In recognition of FAO mandates for the responsible management of enhanced fisheries, and to acknowledge the growing importance of fishery enhancements to the wild capture fisheries sector, CSI has developed a standard module that is dedicated to enhanced fisheries. The enhanced fishery module (EFM) represents an opportunity for enhanced fisheries to pursue certification against the CSI Fishery Management Standard, thereby demonstrating responsible management with minimal adverse impacts to local communities and the environment.

This EFM puts forward a set of minimum requirements for eligible enhanced fisheries. In addition to meeting the “default” requirements of the CSI Fishery Management Standard, enhanced fisheries shall meet all applicable requirements set out in this EFM.

E2. Eligibility

Enhanced fisheries are eligible for assessment against the CSI Fishery Management Standard if the following four eligibility criteria are met:

- 1) The species shall be native to the fishery’s geographic area or if it is an historically introduced species, it shall have subsequently become established as a self-sustaining part of the natural ecosystem²⁸;
- 2) There shall be a natural reproductive component of the target stock;
- 3) Growth during the post-release phase shall be based upon food supply from the natural environment; and

²⁶ paragraph 6.19, FAO (1995) CCRF

²⁷ Paragraph 36.9, FAO (2011) Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries.

²⁸ For example, the Dutch Oyster Association oyster fishery for Pacific cupped oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, is both an enhanced fishery and a fishery for an introduced species. (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/dutch-oyster-association-oyster/>).

- 4) The production system shall operate without substantial²⁹ supplemental feeding.
- a) For stocks held before adulthood: supplemental feeding is “substantial” if food is provided to the animals after they attain 10% or more of average adult body size.
 - b) For stocks held as adults: feeding is “substantial” if food is provided during a period when the animals show appreciable growth (i.e., > 5% increase relative to size at capture).

E3. Scope Categories

Eligible enhanced fisheries may be categorized by the types of enhancement activities in which they engage. These activities include: stocking of organisms which are produced in culture facilities (“stocking”); transfer or translocation of organisms drawn from a wild stock; habitat modifications; or some combination thereof. For scoping purposes, CSI uses four categories (Table 2).

Table 3. Scope category based on the type of enhancement activities associated with the fishery.

Type of Enhancement Activity	Scope Category
Activities involving the stocking of cultured individuals in the wild	EF-S
Activities involving transfer or translocation of the target stock	EF-T
Activities involving habitat modification	EF-H
All forms of enhancement activity including those listed above	All EFs

In the following sections, the applicable scope category for each CSI requirement is given in the column under the heading “Fishery Type.”

²⁹ See CSI Glossary of Terms. Substantial supplemental feeding will cause most aquaculture operations and many ocean ranching operations to be ineligible for CSI certification.

EF Management Theme E1 – Management and Transboundary Considerations

No.	CSI Requirement: Enhanced Fisheries	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
E1.1	There shall be a fishery enhancement plan or strategy which aims for rational and sustainable use of the target stock.	-	All EFs
E1.2	The FMOA shall promote best practice in fishery enhancement by elaborating appropriate policies or procedures or by aligning with relevant international standards or codes of conduct.	-	All EFs
E1.3	As appropriate, the FMOA shall cooperate with relevant local, State, or regional partners on planning the development of enhanced fisheries.	-	All EFs
E1.4	In accordance with international law, the FMOA shall consider the effects of fishery enhancement activities on transboundary aquatic ecosystems when selecting species, sites, and management arrangements for the target stock.	-	All EFs
E1.5	The FMOA shall ensure that enhancement activities do not impede access to traditional fishing grounds or otherwise negatively impact the livelihoods of local fishing communities.	-	All EFs

EF Management Theme E2 – Target Stock

No.	CSI Requirement: Enhanced Fisheries	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
E2.1	The enhanced fishery shall have a stock assessment that treats separately the contribution of the enhanced component from that of the natural reproductive component.	-	EF-S
E2.2	Timely, complete, and reliable fishery statistics shall be compiled for the enhanced component and the natural reproductive component of the target stock.	S&I, BASI, LTFK	EF-S
E2.3	The FMOA shall collect fishery data for the natural reproductive component of the target stock in line with international standards ³⁰ and/or best practice for the sector.	LTFK	EF-S
E2.4	The FMOA shall manage fishery enhancement activities to avoid significant negative impacts to the natural reproductive component of the target stock.	-	EF-S
E2.5	The FMOA shall implement measures to ensure the natural reproductive component of the target stock is not overfished.	-	EF-S
E2.6	The natural reproductive component of the target stock shall not be displaced by the enhanced component below the target reference point (or proxy) for the stock.	-	EF-S
E2.7	For enhanced fisheries that draw organisms from the wild for the purpose of transfer or translocation ³¹ , such activities shall not have significant negative impacts on source populations.		EF-T
E2.8	The FMOA shall take actions to minimize adverse effects on the genetic diversity of the target stock.	-	All EFs

³⁰ FAO. 1999. Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382. Rome, FAO. 1999. 113 p. <https://www.fao.org/3/x2465e/x2465e.pdf>

³¹ See CSI Glossary of Terms.

EF Management Theme E3 – Environmental Impacts

No.	CSI Requirement: Enhanced Fisheries	Evidence Guide	Fishery Type
E3.1	The FMOA shall have a system for monitoring and assessing the environmental impacts arising from its fishery enhancement activities.	-	All EFs
E3.2	<p>The FMOA shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consider the effects of fishery enhancement activities on the ecosystem with an aim to minimize adverse effects; B. Have sufficient information to assess the risk of adverse effects on ecosystem structure and function³²; and C. As appropriate, take actions to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the most probable adverse effects on ecosystem structure and function. 	LTFK, BASI, S&I	All EFs
E3.3	<p>The FMOA shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consider the environmental impacts of habitat enhancement activities³³; B. Have sufficient information to assess the reversibility of the main effects of habitat enhancement; and C. As appropriate, take actions to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the effects of enhancement on habitat that may have limited reversibility. 	LTFK, BASI, S&I	EF-H
E3.4	The FMOA shall take actions to protect the target stock, NT species, and ETP species from adverse effects of disease or parasitism that may be associated with enhancement activities.	-	All EFs

³² In line with the precautionary approach, a suitable method of risk management may be used to address scientific uncertainty about the impact of enhancement activities on ecosystem structure and function.

³³ For example, habitat modification may be undertaken for the purpose of enhancing target stock abundance or for increasing the availability of the target stock to the fishery.

Appendices

Appendix 1. List of Acronyms

ABFM	Area-Based Fishery Management
BASI	Best Available Scientific Information
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
COC	Chain of Custody
CSI	Certified Seafood International
DLF	Data-limited fishery
EF	Enhanced Fishery
EFM	Enhanced Fishery Module
ETP	Endangered, Threatened, or Protected
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMOA	Fishery Management Organization or Arrangement
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FMS	Fishery Management System
GSH	Gear-Susceptible Habitat
GSSI	Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
KP	Key Prey (species)
LRP	Limit Reference Point
LTFK	Local and Traditional Fishery Knowledge
M&E	Monitoring and Enforcement
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NT	Non-Target
PA	Precautionary Approach
RA	Risk Assessment
RFM	Responsible Fisheries Management
S&I	Scale and Intensity
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TRP	Target Reference Point
UOC	Unit of Certification
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
WC	Wild Capture