

CSI Glossary of Terms

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Responsibility for this Glossary of Terms

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

Purpose

This document defines the terms, phrases and abbreviations used in the CSI Certification Program.

Background

Certified Seafood International (CSI) delivers a competitive new third-party certification program with global reach, and chain of custody 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

Definitions

Definitions were taken or adapted from relevant authorities including:

- The International Organization for Standardization ([ISO](#));
- [FAO Terminology Portal](#) and related FAO instruments;
- [GSSI Benchmark Framework Glossary](#);
- [Iceland Responsible Fisheries Foundation \(IRFF\) Standard](#) and related scheme documents; and
- [Certified Seafood Collaborative \(CSC\) RFM Standard](#) and related scheme documents.

Additional sources are cited in the Reference section at the end of this document.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Accreditation	Third-party attestation about the competency of a CB to assess conformity against specified standards.
Accreditation Body (AB)	An organization that provides accreditation of CBs for specified standards and scopes.
Adverse effect	The outcome of an activity, whether ongoing or historic, that results in a significant and widespread negative effect on the environment. A significant effect is one likely to be irreversible or very slowly reversible. In the context of fishery management, the detection of an adverse effect of a fishery on a habitat or ecosystem should prompt management actions to reduce, minimize, or mitigate the effect.
Adverse impact	<p>Broadly, an adverse impact is one that has a significant and widespread negative effect, which may reasonably be anticipated, to wildlife, aquatic life, or other natural resources, including populations of endangered or threatened species, or significant degradation of environmental quality over broad areas¹.</p> <p>The effects of fishing may have one or more of the following adverse impacts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overfishing of the target stock; 2. Overfishing of non-target stocks; 3. Impacts on Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) Species 4. Reduction in abundance of dependent predators; 5. Harmful impacts on essential or susceptible habitats; or 6. Harmful impacts on another part of the ecosystem (e.g., food webs, communities).
Appeal	Request by a party for reconsideration of a decision made by the CB in relation certification status.
Area-Based Fishery Management (ABFM) Measure	An Area-Based Fishery Management (ABFM) Measure is a formally established, spatially defined fishery management and/or conservation measure, implemented to achieve one or more intended fishery outcome ² . ABFMs may include Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or other effective area-based conservation measures.
Aquaculture	<p>Artificial culture in captivity of aquatic organisms including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and aquatic plants; often referred to as mariculture when practiced in the marine environment.</p> <p>Also see “full-cycle aquaculture” and “enhanced fishery.”</p>
Assessment (fishery assessment)	A systematic and independent process to review and analyze fishery-related information for the purpose of determining conformity of the fishery with the CSI Fishery Management Standard. Assessment may involve assembling, organizing, summarizing, interpreting and reconciling existing knowledge sources.
Assessor (fishery assessor)	Person who is competent to participate in a fishery assessment and has been engaged for this purpose by a CB.
Assessment plan	A schedule of proposed assessment activities for a fishery assessment. The plan should specify the time, location and involvement of persons in key assessment activities.
Assessment team	<p>Two or more assessors who have been engaged by a CB to conduct a fishery assessment as part of a team.</p> <p>Note: One member of the assessment team is designated the lead assessor.</p>

¹ Adapted from 42 U.S. Code § 7412 - Hazardous air pollutants.

² Definition adapted from CBD 2018, FAO 2012, and FAO 2019.

Term	Definition
Automatic Identification System (AIS)	The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a short-range coastal tracking system used on ships and by Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships and VTS stations.
Best Available Scientific Information (BASI)	<p>BASI is scientific information which is available to the fishery management organization and also meets applicable criteria for relevance, inclusiveness, objectivity, transparency & openness, timeliness, and peer review³. The breadth and quality of BASI may vary according to fishery and stock, and it may also vary over time as scientific understanding advances. BASI should be developed through an open, transparent and well-communicated process. BASI may draw from expert opinion or scientific advice where information is incomplete. BASI may also include information derived from local and traditional fisheries knowledge (LTFK) provided its validity can be objectively verified.</p> <p>Note: “Best Scientific Evidence Available” and “Best Scientific Information Available” are synonyms.</p> <p>Also see “scientific information.”</p>
Bycatch	<p>Part of a catch of a fishing unit taken incidentally in addition to the target species towards which fishing effort is directed. [adapted from FAO]</p> <p>Also see “non-target catch.”</p>
Certificate cost sharing agreement	A part of the certificate sharing arrangement that covers in detail the financial obligations of members of the fishery client group.
Certificate sharing arrangement	An arrangement put forth by the fishery client that provides requirements for the sharing of CSI fishery certificate by members and prospective members of the fishery client group. The certificate sharing arrangement may cover: member application and admission process; cost sharing agreement; other conditions of certificate sharing; and member removal process.
Certification agreement	A legally enforceable agreement between CB and client for the provision of certification services.
Certification scheme	A certification system to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply.
Certification Body (CB)	An independent body providing conformity assessments and certification services. Also known as Conformity Assessment Body or CAB.
Chain of Custody (CoC)	The set of measures which is designed to guarantee that the seafood product put on the market and bearing the ecolabel logo is really a product of designated origin and coming from the certified fishery concerned. These measures thus cover both the tracking/traceability of the product all along the processing, distribution, and marketing chain, as well as the proper tracking of the documentation and control of the quantity concerned ⁴ .
Chain of Custody Standard (CoC Standard)	The list of requirements that the applicant must meet to claim certification to the Unified Chain of Custody Standard and /or use the certified claim.
Competence	Ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results ⁵ . Note: Ability implies the appropriate application of personal behavior during the audit process.
Compliance	Fulfillment of a statutory or regulatory obligation or requirement.

³ Adapted from NRC 2004.

⁴ FAO 2009

⁵ ISO 19011:2011

Term	Definition
	Compare to “conformity.”
Conformity	Fulfillment of a requirement of the Standard. Compare to “compliance”
Corrective action	Action taken to eliminate the cause of a non-conformity or other undesirable situation.
Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	A plan describing how corrective actions will be implemented.
Conservation and Management Measure (CMM)	A specific control which is imposed on a fishery to attain a conservation and management objective ⁶ . CMMs may include input controls (fishing effort limitations), output controls (catch quotas), technical measures (gear regulations, closed areas and time closures) and socio-economic incentives (access and use rights).
CSI Certification Program	The certification scheme implementing the CSI Fishery Management Standard.
CSI Certified Claim	A CSI-approved claim used by a licensee on food products for human consumption and non-human grade products. For example: “This product comes from a fishery that has been independently certified to the Certified Seafood International (CSI) Certification Program.” See <i>CSI Logo Guidelines</i> for further details.
CSI Fishery Management Standard	Global certification standard for Fishery Management. CSI is the owner of the CSI Fishery Management Standard.
CSI Requirement	A mandatory element of the CSI Fishery Management Standard to which a fishery must demonstrate conformity.
Data	See “fishery data.”
Data-limited fishery (DLF)	<p>A fishery where limited data are available to inform management, e.g. fisheries for species where baseline biological data such as size at maturity, fishing mortality and growth rates are unknown.</p> <p>NOTE: Data-limited fisheries (DLFs) are those fisheries for which independent status assessments are not practical for some impacted populations, due to a mismatch between the scale of the fishery and the level of data required. In practice, data-limited fisheries are often small in both volume and value and often conducted with small vessels and crews. As such, they are often unable to support formal, quantitative stock assessments, large, directed research programs, or observer programs. Instead, they are often managed with alternative data sources and rules that are more practical yet may be sufficient for the fishery size and scale.</p>
Dependent predator	A predator within a food web that is heavily dependent on the consumption of one or a few ‘key’ prey species for maintenance and growth.
Discards	Fish released or returned to the sea, dead or alive, whether or not such fish are brought fully on board a fishing vessel.
Displacement	The process by which one component of a population comes to occupy the position previously occupied by another component. In the context of managing enhanced fisheries, displacement should not result in a reduction of the natural reproductive component below abundance-based target reference points (or their proxies).
Ecosystem	An organizational unit consisting of populations and communities of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Ecosystems tend to have characteristic structures (e.g., species diversity, trophic levels, functional group compositions) and processes (e.g., cycling of mass, energy and nutrients among the groups, food web interactions).

⁶ GSSI 2022

Term	Definition
Ecosystem function	An intrinsic set of conditions or processes (e.g., primary productivity, food web interactions, biogeochemical cycles, energy transfer) that are vital to ecosystem integrity. Ecosystem function is a key element of ecosystems.
Ecosystem structure	The spatial and temporal arrangement of organisms in an ecosystem. Ecosystem structure includes population density, species diversity, richness or evenness, and standing crop biomass. Ecosystem structure is a key element of ecosystems.
Endangered species	A taxon in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if causal factors continue operating ⁷ .
Enhanced fishery (EF)	A fishery that is supported by activities aimed at supplementing or sustaining the recruitment of one or more aquatic organisms and raising the total production or the production of selected elements of a fishery beyond a level which is sustainable by natural processes. 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.
Enhanced target stock	A target stock that is managed using one or more fishery enhancement activity. Enhanced target stocks are comprised of natural reproductive components and enhanced components.
Escapement	The number or proportion of fish surviving (escaping from) a given fishery at the end of the fishing season and reaching the spawning grounds. The term is generally used for anadromous fish management (e.g., salmon) but also for some squid fisheries.
Escapement goal	A management goal for level of escapement. Escapement goals may be reflective of specific management objectives (e.g., optimal utilization, maximum sustainable yield).
ETP species	An endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species as defined by criteria set out in the CSI Standard.
Evaluation Parameter (EP)	Constituent part of a CSI Requirement representing the finest level of evaluation considered in a fishery conformity assessment. Three types of EP are recognized: EP1 – Management Process; EP2 – Adequate Information; and EP3 – Status/Outcome. Up to three types of EP may be used to evaluate a single CSI Requirement.
Fish Aggregating Device (FAD)	A permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary object, structure, or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed, and/or tracked, and used to aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can be either anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).
Fishery	A unit engaged in the harvesting of aquatic resources and which may be identified as such by a fishery management organization or other authority. Typically, the fishery unit is defined by some or all of the following: the people involved; the species or stock targeted; the area where harvesting occurs; the gear or method of fishing; the class of boats; and the nature of the harvesting activity (i.e., for commercial, recreational, or subsistence purposes).
Fishery assessment	See “assessment.”
Fishery client	A certification client, whether applicant or certified, who represents the fishery under consideration.
Fishery client group	The collective of entities and/or organizations (i.e., fishery client group members) represented by the fishery client.
Fishery client group member	An entity or organization that is admitted by the fishery client into the fishery client group and meets the conditions of the certificate sharing arrangement.

⁷ Adapted from IUCN.

Term	Definition
Fishery data	Facts about a fishery that result from measurements or observations ⁸ .
Fishery management	The integrated process of information gathering, analysis, planning, decision-making, allocation of resources, and formulation and enforcement of fishery regulations by which the fishery management authority controls the present and future behavior of interested parties in the fisheries, in order to ensure the continued productivity of the living resources.
Fishery Management Plan (FMP)	An administrative instrument for long-term strategic management of fishery resources ⁹ . The FMP: sets out long-term objectives for the fishery; identifies partners in the fishery and their respective roles; and specifies the management rules.
Fishery Management System (FMS)	<p>The framework of processes and procedures used by an FMOA to fulfil all tasks required to achieve its objectives. The FMS includes the processes of all agencies involved in the management of the fishery, the legal framework within which the fishery is undertaken, and the conservation and management measures (CMMs) implemented in relation to the fishery for the target stock.</p> <p>Note: CSI follows the usage of the CCRF by referring to the FMS as a set of processes with a defined aim (e.g., vessel monitoring systems, rescue systems, gear marking systems). This departs from the FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines wherein the term “management systems” includes processes as well as the authoritative bodies themselves.</p>
Fishery-Relevant Habitat (FRH)	Habitat that falls within the fishery footprint and with which the fishery has some potential for interaction.
Fishery statistics	A collection of fishery data. Fishery statistics generally fall into three categories: 1. Catch and landings—statistics on the removal of aquatic organisms; 2. Fishing effort—statistics on the fishing effort and the fishing vessels/fleets (if used) that harvest the resources; and 3. Socio-economic—statistics on the labour force, income, costs and invested capital in a fishery sector.
Fishery technology	The equipment and practices used for finding, harvesting, handling, processing and distributing aquatic resources and their products ¹⁰ .
Fisheries Management Organization or Arrangement (FMOA)	<p>The organization(s) and/or arrangements responsible for fisheries management, including the formulation of the rules that govern fishing activities. The FMOA, and its subsidiary bodies, may also be responsible for all ancillary services, such as the collection of information, its analysis, stock assessment, monitoring and enforcement (M&E), consultation with interested parties, application and/or determination of the rules of access to the fishery, and resource allocation.</p> <p>CSI intends to define FMOA broadly enough to encapsulate all relevant levels of authority within the jurisdiction as delineated by the UOC. In other words, the term “FMOA” should cover all of the following scales as may be applicable: state and local, national, bilateral, international, and regional.</p>
Fishing capacity	The ability of a stock of inputs (capital) to produce output (effort or catch). Fishing capacity is also the ability of a vessel or fleet to catch fish ¹¹ .
Forage species (forage fish)	A low-trophic level species used as prey by a predator for its food. Forage species are typically small-bodied, schooling species that may serve as prey for larger commercially

⁸ FAO 1999

⁹ Adapted from IRFF 2023.

¹⁰ FAO 1996

¹¹ FAO 1998

Term	Definition
	and recreationally important fish, as well as for marine mammals and seabirds. Anchovies, herring, sprat, krill, and sardines are some common forage species.
Full-cycle aquaculture	Culture-based systems that propagate organisms through all or nearly all of their life cycle. Full-cycle aquaculture generally does not rely on the capture of organisms from the wild. Note: “Intensive Aquaculture” is a synonym.
Gear-Susceptible Habitat (GSH)	Habitat that is susceptible to damage by the fishing gear used by the UOC to harvest the target stock.
Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)	An organism that has been transformed by the insertion of one or more transgenes ¹² .
Ghost fishing	The accidental capture of aquatic organisms by fishing gear (usually gill nets, traps, or pots) that has been lost or discarded at sea and that continues to entangle or trap aquatic animals.
Habitat	The physical, chemical, and biological environment in which an organism lives.
Habitat enhancement	A fishery enhancement activity that involves the modification of habitat to increase production of a desirable species. Examples of habitat enhancements include artificial reefs, salmon spawning channels, lobster casitas, fish attracting devices (FADs), and mussel ropes.
Harvest Control Rule (HCR)	A set of well-defined rules for determining management action (e.g., in the form of a TAC or allowable fishing effort) in response to changes in stock status relative to reference points.
Hatchery	A facility used for the artificial and controlled hatching and rearing of aquatic organisms, on a commercial or experimental basis, through their early life stages. A hatchery is usually closely associated with a nursery facility where the cultured organism is grown to the appropriate size before being released into the wild or an on-growing structure.
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing	<p>Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing refers to fishing conducted in violation of national laws or internationally agreed conservation and management measures in effect in oceans around the world.</p> <p>Illegal fishing refers to activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations; - Conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organization and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or - In violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization. <p>Unreported fishing refers to fishing activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or - Undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization which have not been reported or have been

¹² GSSI 2022

Term	Definition
	<p>misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organization.</p> <p>Unregulated fishing refers to fishing activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or - In areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.
Initial assessment	Refers to the assessment of a fishery prior to its first certification.
Introduced species	A species translocated by human activity, whether intentionally or accidentally, to waters or habitats outside its natural distribution range. The terms non-indigenous species, non-native species, and exotic species are synonyms.
Irreversible or very slowly reversible	The quality of being impossible or difficult to return to, or to restore to, a former condition ¹³ . Examples of irreversible or very slowly reversible effects of fishing are recruitment overfishing, genetic modification, excessive depletion of very long-lived organisms, and changes to the ecological role of a species in the food-web.
Impacts with limited reversibility	Impacts that are likely to be irreversible or slowly reversible.
Key prey species	A species within the food web that is heavily depended on by a predator as a food item.
Lead assessor	<p>Assessor with responsibility for oversight of the assessment team during a fishery assessment.</p> <p>Note: oftentimes the lead assessor will also be a technical expert in one or more subject areas of relevance to the fishery assessment.</p>
Legal framework	A broad system of rules that governs and regulates decision-making, agreements, laws and other matters relating to fisheries management.
Limit Reference Point (LRP)	The point beyond which the state of a fishery and/or a resource is not considered desirable. Managers often set a management objective to avoid the LRP for a given stock.
Limited re-assessment	An assessment whose scope of evaluation is limited to the review of specific requirements or issues of concern.
Local and Traditional Fishery Knowledge (LTFK)	The union of Local Fishery Knowledge and Traditional Fishery Knowledge. See “Local Fishery Knowledge” and “Traditional Fishery Knowledge.”
Local Fishery Knowledge (LFK)	Observations, experiences and/or expertise of the people of a particular region in relation to a fishery ¹⁴ . Often acquired over the course of a few generations or less, and based on personal, shared, or inherited experience.
Management action	A step or measure taken by managers to prevent, stop, limit, and/or reverse an adverse trend. For example, as a stock approaches or exceeds its limit reference point, managers should take management action(s) to reverse the decline in stock abundance. Some types of management actions include corrective actions, remedial actions, and preventative actions.

¹³ GSSI 2022

¹⁴ Adapted from NPFMC 2023.

Term	Definition
Management authority (fishery management authority)	The legal entity which has been assigned by a State or States with a mandate to perform certain specified management functions in relation to a fishery, or an area (e.g., a coastal zone). Generally used to refer to a state authority, the term may also refer to an international management organization. Note: The management authority may be part of an FMOA.
Management system	System to establish policy and objectives and to achieve those objectives.
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	The highest theoretical equilibrium yield that can be continuously taken (on average) from a stock under existing (average) environmental conditions without affecting significantly the reproduction process. Also referred to sometimes as Potential yield. Note: MSY is estimated from surplus production models (e.g., Schaefer model) and other methods. In practice, however, MSY and the level of effort needed to reach it are difficult to assess. Referred to in UNCLOS, it is an essential fisheries management benchmark but it is also only one of the possible management reference points, considered also as an international minimum standard for stock rebuilding strategies (i.e., stocks should be rebuilt to a level of biomass which could produce at least MSY). Compare to “Optimum yield.”
Monitoring and Enforcement (M&E)	Activities undertaken by authorities to ensure compliance with fishery rules and regulations. “Monitoring, control and surveillance” (MCS) and “monitoring, surveillance, control and enforcement” are synonyms.
May	An allowed course of action within the limits of the standard.
Natural reproductive component (of an enhanced target stock)	For an enhanced target stock, that component of the population contributing to reproduction through natural (i.e., unenhanced) processes. The survival of fish stocks that are not enhanced depends entirely on their natural reproductive component. Stocks that are enhanced may have a natural reproductive component that contributes to the production of new generations.
Non-conformity (NC)	The non-fulfilment of a requirement of the Standard.
Non-Target Species (NT Species)	Biological components of the catch other than the target stock that are not categorized as ETP species or habitat-related species (i.e., elements of habitat structure). As a category, NT species may include bycatch species, unwanted species, regulatory or economic discards and/or commercially valuable species which are retained for consumption or sale. Note: NT species are ineligible to bear the CSI ecolabel.
Objective evidence	Records, measurements, observations, statements of fact, or other information which are relevant to the assessment and are verifiable. Can be qualitative or quantitative ¹⁵ .
Observer (fishery observer)	A certified person on board fishing vessels that collects scientific and technical information on the fishing operations and the catch for the management authority. Observer programs can be used for monitoring fishing operations (e.g., areas fished, fishing effort deployed, gear characteristics, catches and species caught, discards, collecting tag returns, etc.). Observers may or not have legal coercion powers and their data may or may not be used for non-scientific purposes (e.g., enforcement) depending on the situation.
Observer program (fishery observer program)	A program that employs fishery observers. May be a government agency or a third-party contractor.
Optimal utilization	The conservation and management objective of ensuring long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources. Optimal utilization is pursued through the adoption of appropriate

¹⁵ Adapted from ISO 19011:2011.

Term	Definition
	measures, based on the best available scientific information, which are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield (MSY), as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing countries ¹⁶ .
Overfished	A stock is considered “overfished” when it is exploited beyond an explicit limit beyond which stock abundance is considered too low to ensure safe reproduction. In many fisheries management systems, the term is used when biomass has been estimated to be below a limit biological reference point that is used as the signpost defining an “overfished condition”.
Overfishing	A level of fishing effort or fishing mortality such that a reduction of this level would, in the medium term, lead to an increase in the total catch ¹⁷ .
Point of Recruitment Impairment (PRI)	The stock level below which recruitment may be impaired.
Pre-assessment	An evaluation of the likelihood that information of sufficient quality and quantity is going to be available to assessors should a fishery assessment be undertaken.
Pre-Assessment Report	A report that presents the results from pre-assessment.
Precautionary Approach (PA)	<p>The precautionary approach (PA) is the application of prudent foresight to fisheries management. The PA stipulates that management should be cautious when scientific knowledge is uncertain, and management should not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone action or fail to take action to avoid serious harm to fish stocks or their ecosystem. The PA is widely accepted internationally as an essential part of sustainable fisheries management.</p> <p>Note: The PA is multi-faceted and broad in scope. A large number and range of issues may be addressed through application of the PA¹⁸. The PA is intended to provide managers with greater flexibility than would be afforded under the precautionary principle¹⁹ whose application as a “hard line” rule can cause complete prohibitions of sectors, industries or technologies.</p>
Protected species	A taxon protected under national legislation because of a threat of extinction or a clearly related conservation concern.
Proxy	An alternate approach that results in an equivalent outcome to the primary approach. Proxies are commonly used for reference points and other stock assessment parameters (e.g., CPUE as a proxy for biomass, 40%B0 as a proxy for BMSY). Compare to “surrogate information.”
Re-assessment	An assessment of a certificate holder which is undertaken for the purpose of re-certification.
Re-certification	Renewed certification of a certificate holder following successful re-assessment.
Recruitment overfishing	A type of overfishing in which the rate of fishing is (or has been) such that annual recruitment to the exploitable stock has become significantly reduced. The situation may be characterized by a greatly reduced spawning stock, a decreasing proportion of older fish in the catch, and/or generally very low recruitment year after year ²⁰ .
Reference Point (RP)	An estimated value derived from an agreed scientific procedure and/or model, which corresponds to a specific state of the resource and of the fishery, and that can be used

¹⁶ Adapted from FAO CCRF § 7.2.1.

¹⁷ FAO 2026

¹⁸ FAO Technical Guidelines No.2, 1996

¹⁹ Macie and Gabriel 1999

²⁰ GSSI 2022

Term	Definition
	as a guide for fisheries management. Reference points may be general (applicable to many stocks) or stock specific.
Registered stakeholder	A stakeholder who has registered with the CB to participate in a fishery assessment. Registered stakeholders are given an opportunity to provide input on the Fishery Assessment Report and they may be consulted by the assessment team in person or remotely during site visits.
Remedial action	A management measure intended to stop and/or reverse an adverse trend. For example, as a stock approaches or exceeds its limit reference point, management should take remedial actions to reverse the decline in stock abundance.
Scale and Intensity (S&I)	A qualitative categorization of a fishery that combines attributes of the spatial and temporal extent of fishing operations and the relative magnitude of fishing effort (low intensity vs. high intensity). Assessors may consider S&I when assessing, for example, the effects of a fishery on the ecosystem.
Scheme Owner	The organization owning a certification scheme. CSI is the Scheme Owner of the CSI Certification Program.
Scientific information	Information that includes but is not limited to factual input, data, models, analyses, technical information, and scientific assessments.
Scope of certification	The specific products and processes for which certification is sought or granted and the standard to which they comply ²¹ .
Shall	Denotes a requirement. Compare to “should” and “may.”
Shared target stock	A target stock that can be exploited by more than one country. Includes transboundary, highly migratory, straddling, and purely high seas stocks ²² . Note: CSI’s definition is broader than that used in some other certification schemes. For example, MSC defines <i>shared stock</i> as “stocks of fish that migrate across the boundaries of adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of 2 or more coastal States.”
Shark finning	Removal and retention of shark fins while the remainder of the shark is discarded in the ocean.
Should	Denotes a requirement that shall be followed unless there are reasons not to. If the requirement is not followed, the justification shall be recorded. Compare to “shall” and “may.”
Stakeholder	An individual or group of individuals, whether at institutional or personal level, who has an interest or claim that has the potential of being impacted by or having an impact on a given activity. This interest or claim can be stated or implied and direct or indirect. Stakeholders and stakeholder groups can be at the household, community, local, regional, national, or international levels ²³ .
Standard	The CSI Fishery Management Standard.
Stock	A population of living resources grouped together by managers for assessment purposes. Such groupings should correspond to biologically distinct units.
Stock assessment	The process of collecting and analyzing biological and statistical information to determine the changes in the abundance of fishery stocks in response to fishing, and, to the extent possible, to predict future trends of stock abundance. Stock assessments are based on: resource surveys; knowledge of the habitat requirements, life history, and behavior of the species; the use of environmental indices to determine impacts on

²¹ Adapted from ISO 17065:2012.

²² FAO Terminology Portal

²³ GSSI 2022

Term	Definition
	stocks; and catch statistics. Stock assessments are used as a basis to assess and specify the present and probable future condition of a fishery ²⁴ .
Stock structure	The structure of a stock in terms of its size, age or genetic composition, and/or its spatial distribution. For multispecies stocks, structure may also identify its species composition.
Stocking	The release of cultured aquatic organism at any life stage into an aquatic ecosystem for the purpose of enhancement, stock rebuilding, or biological control. Stocking may involve the release of cultured organism that are derived from wild populations.
Sufficient information	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.
Supplemental feeding	The provision of food beyond that which is freely available to the animal in the natural environment.
Surrogate information	Information from a comparable circumstance or similar fishery situation. Surrogate information is often drawn from information about, or experience with, a closely related population, species, habitat, or ecosystem. Compare to “proxy.”
Suspension	The process of making CSI certification temporarily invalid for all or part of the scope of certification.
Susceptibility	The degree to which a biological system (population, community, habitat or ecosystem) is likely to be impacted by disturbance. Susceptibility is a function of exposure, sensitivity, and resilience ²⁵ . Exposure: The spatial and temporal extent of a disturbance across a system. Sensitivity: The degree to which a system is affected by a disturbance. Resilience: The capacity of a system to adapt to or recover from the effects of a disturbance. “Recoverability” is a synonym of resilience.
Target Reference Point (TRP)	A point which corresponds to the state of a fishery and/or resource which is considered desirable. TRP often serves as a management objective for a stock.
Target stock	The stock exploited (i.e., targeted) by the fishery being put forward as the Unit of Certification. The target stock should comprise a single management unit as defined by the relevant FMOA, which should ideally correspond to a biological population. In assessing compliance with the Standard, assessors consider the impacts of all fisheries on the target stock over its entire area of distribution. Certification and ecolabelling apply only to products derived from the target stock. Note: “Stock under consideration” (FAO 2009) is a synonym.
Technical measure	A type of management measure aimed at restricting fishery technology. For example, the objective of a technical measure may be to protect juveniles and spawners of the target stock or non-target species by imposing restrictions on the use of certain gear types or the timing/location of fishing activities. Also see “fishery technology.”
Termination	The process for voluntary cancellation of certification.
Threatened species	A species threatened with extinction.
Threatened with extinction	A category of organisms listed in CITES Appendix I. Note that CITES does not give numeric values for the inclusion of species in this category.
Threshold	A boundary value (e.g., a point or line) beyond which a specified rule, action, or process takes effect.

²⁴ FAO Terminology Portal

²⁵ Adapted from Turner et al. 2003, IPCC 2007, and Pelletier et al. 2020.

Term	Definition
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The total catch allowed to be taken from a resource in a specified period (usually a year), as defined in the management plan.
Total fishing mortality	All sources of fishing mortality of the stock including: discards; unobserved and incidental mortality; unreported catches; and catches in other fisheries.
Traditional Fishery Knowledge (TFK)	The cumulative body of information and beliefs held by a community, tribe, indigenous peoples, subsistence user group, or another societal grouping in relation to a fishery and the environmental and social context in which it operates. TFK often has a cultural basis which fosters its transmission across generations. TFK may encompass historic approaches used by such groups to manage their fishery resources. Also see “Local and Traditional Fishery Knowledge” (LTFK).
Transfer	The movement of individuals of a species or population of an aquatic organism from one location to another within its present range. Compare to “translocation.”
Translocation	The movement of individuals of native or introduced (exotic) species to waters or habitats outside their natural or previous distribution. Compare to “transfer.”
Uncertainty	Lack of perfect knowledge of the many factors that may affect a fish stock and the consequence of this lack of perfect knowledge. For example, there is uncertainty in stock assessment, estimation of biological reference points, and responsiveness to management action ²⁶ .
Unified CoC Standard	The Unified Chain of Custody Standard. Also see ‘Chain of Custody Standard’.
Unit of Certification (UOC)	A concise delineation of the unit to be certified. In the CSI Certification Program, the UOC is defined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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).
Verification	A confirmation through the review of objective evidence that requirements have been fulfilled.
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	A vessel tracking system (usually satellite-based) which provides management authorities with accurate information on fishing vessels position, course, and speed at time intervals. Details of approved VMS equipment and operational characteristics vary with the requirements of the nation of the vessel's registry, and the regional or national water in which the vessel is operating.
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME)	A marine ecosystem identified using the criteria outlined in paragraph 42 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (link). Some characteristics of VMEs are: uniqueness or rarity of their biota; the functional significance of habitats and habitat fragility; life-history traits of component species that make recovery difficult; and structural complexity (link).
Withdrawal	The process of revoking or cancelling a certification in full.

²⁶ See Restrepo et al. 1998.

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