

THE RESPONSIBLE SEAFOOD SOURCING (RSS) STANDARD



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Sustainable Fisheries
PARTNERSHIP


BlueSeas
PHILIPPINES

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The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), through the Fish Right Program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), developed the Responsible Seafood Sourcing Standard to ensure actionable commitments and measurable targets in fostering sustainable production and responsible seafood trading.

WHAT IS IT?

Monitors for

Legal Compliance

Adherence to local and national regulatory requirements

Keeps track of

Traceability

Provides information on product, origins, and trading

The RSS Standard is a set of criteria that assess seafood supply chain practices, from catching and consolidation to trading and buying.

Ensures

Sustainability Commitment

Showcases fisheries-positive actions and responsible sourcing

Protects

Human and Social Welfare

Ensures equitable working conditions

WHAT DOES THE RSS AIM FOR?

The RSS Standard aims to properly define responsibly sourced seafood, looks at risks in supply chain processes, and identifies pathways to improve production and trade responsibly and equitably.

HOW DOES IT BENEFIT US?

The RSS Standard helps improve the processes and livelihoods within the fishing industry and market. It provides new opportunities for enhancing legal compliance, traceability, transparency, and social and environmental responsibility.

Benefits For Producers & Suppliers



Secures livelihoods by ensuring stable and sustainable fisheries production



Allows for preferential sourcing from buyers who support fishing communities



Contributes to improved fisheries management through catching data



Reinforces traceability and increases access to markets and financial equity



Secures socio-economic benefits from equitable supply chains and healthy trading

Benefits For Buyers & Markets



Ensures fresh seafood supply while maintaining healthy oceans and supporting local fishers



Highlights contributions to improving marine resource management through improved compliance



Minimizes risk of IUU fishing within an organization's supply chain



Increases brand value and consumer trust through transparent ethical production



Improve the well-being of workers and the fishing community through equitable production and manufacturing

WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS?

The RSS Assessment is designed to assess 5 different key players in seafood supply chains.

Producers

People involved in harvesting seafood products and supporting activities.



Community-Level Consolidators

Individuals who are first to buy seafood from producers for trade within a small community.



Small-Scale Buyers & Processors

Individuals or groups with low capital who buy fish at wholesale and sell it to the next key player.



Institutional Distributors & Processors

Businesses with medium to high capital that buy and sell fish at wholesale and sell it to the next key player.



End-Buyers

Individuals or businesses that buy fish at wholesale prices and sell them at retail.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN INDICATORS?



LEGAL COMPLIANCE

- **Fisherfolk Registration:** Enlistment of fisherfolk
- **Boat Registration:** Enlistment of a fishing boat vessel
- **Gear License:** Permit to use specific fishing gear in a designated place
- **Record of IUU Violation:** Documented violations related to IUU fishing
- **Business Documentation Requirements:** Documents needed to run a business



TRACEABILITY

- **LTP (License to Transport Permit):** BFAR-issued permit to transport fishery products
- **Auxiliary Invoice:** LGU-issued permit to transport fishery products upon fee payment
- **Fish Catch Information:** Records detailing the fishing species, and catching method
- **Product Information:** Records of the scientific details of the fish and used catching method
- **Product Movement Information:** Records on a product's catch and sale



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

- **Seafood Sourcing Policy:** Policy for the procurement of seafood
- **Gear Impact and Selectivity:** Types of fishing equipment in line with responsible sourcing.
 - High selectivity of gears that reduce bycatch
 - Low-impact gears that minimize harm to the ocean
- **Endangered Threatened and Protected (ETP)/Prohibited Species:** Species which marketing or trade is forbidden or regulated
- **Product Portfolio:** Catalog of products listing the details of each catch
- **Landing Sizes:** Size of fish upon harvest
- **Fisheries Management Efforts:** Activities that support responsible fisheries management
- **Product Labeling:** Labels displaying information in accordance with legal requirements



HUMAN AND SOCIAL WELFARE

- **Safety and Emergency Measures:** Presence of safety devices and knowledge of their use
- **Gender Representation:** Recognition of women through equal representation
- **Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination:** Protection of workers from any form of abuse
- **Absence of Child Labor:** No underage workers in accordance with Philippine law
- **Labor Laws:** Legal requirements on labor, safety, wages, and benefits
- **Responsible Seafood Economy:** Fair and equitable distribution of economic value

HOW IS EACH KEY PLAYER ASSESSED?



Each key player is assessed against a set of indicators under the four criteria.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE						
Indicator	Producer (Municipal)	Producer (Commercial)	Community Consolidators	Small-Scale Buyers & Processors	Institutional Buyers & Processors	End Buyers
Fisherfolk registration	✓	✓	✓			
Boat Registration	✓	✓				
Gear license	✓	✓				
Record of IUU Violation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business documentation requirements		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

TRACEABILITY						
Indicator	Producer (Municipal)	Producer (Commercial)	Community Consolidators	Small-Scale Buyers & Processors	Institutional Buyers & Processors	End Buyers
LTP and auxiliary invoices*				✓	✓	✓
Fish catch information	✓	✓	✓			
Species information				✓	✓	✓
Areas of origin and destination		✓		✓	✓	✓

*Column also under Legal Compliance



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

Indicator	Producer (Municipal)	Producer (Commercial)	Community Consolidators	Small-Scale Buyers & Processors	Institutional Buyers & Processors	End Buyers
Seafood sourcing policy			✓	✓		
Gear impact and selectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Species portfolio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landing sizes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fisheries management efforts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accurate product labeling*				✓	✓	✓

*Column also under Traceability



HUMAN AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Indicator	Producer (Municipal)	Producer (Commercial)	Community Consolidators	Small-Scale Buyers & Processors	Institutional Buyers & Processors	End Buyers
Safety and emergency measures	✓	✓				
Gender representation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anti-harassment and non-discrimination*		✓			✓	✓
Absence of child labor*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compliance to labor laws*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social equity in trading			✓	✓	✓	✓

*Column also under Legal Compliance

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR ASSESSMENT?

Eligible members of the Philippines' seafood supply chains who seek assessment based on the RSS Standard can follow these simple steps:



LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER SEAFOOD PHILIPPINES

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions about the RSS Standard and its related documents, please contact Better Seafood Philippines through the following channels:



Email:

info@betterseafoodphilippines.com



Social Media Pages:

facebook.com/betterseafoodph

linkedin.com/company/better-seafood-philippines



Website:

<https://betterseafoodph.org/>



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