



MSC Fisheries Certification

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification is the best way to assure your buyers that your fishery is committed to sustainability. The Certification recognizes well-managed fisheries that conform to the international standards of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the world's leading certification for sustainable wild-capture seafood.



Certified fisheries contribute to the maintenance of healthy populations of targeted species and the protection of ecosystems. These fisheries help maintain the balance of biological, social and commercial interests. As the first certifier to be MSC-accredited, SCS has the experience and knowledge to skillfully guide you through the assessment process.

BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

Due to rapidly increasing consumer demand for sustainable seafood, some of the world's largest retailers are now requiring their suppliers to earn MSC Certification.

Certification will help you:

- Gain access to new markets
- Safeguard jobs through good management practices
- Earn potential price premiums
- Meet buyer demand for certified products
- Secure fish stocks for the future by protecting the marine environment

WHO SHOULD SEEK SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD FISHERIES CERTIFICATION?

Any wild-capture freshwater and marine fishery – regardless of size, scale, ecology, geography or technology – can seek certification.

Eligible wild-capture fisheries include, but are not limited to:

- Single species and multiple species.
- Trawl, longline, handraked and pots.
- Inshore and offshore.
- Pelagic and demersal.

Pure aquaculture fisheries are not within the scope of the MSC assessment.

for information about becoming certified or locating certified products:

[SCSglobalServices.com/marine-stewardship-council-msc](https://www.SCSglobalServices.com/marine-stewardship-council-msc)

tel +1.510.452.8000

msc@scsglobalservices.com



MSC CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- 1. Apply for Certification.** Submit your application form. You will receive an SCS Assessment Services Agreement, which should also be completed and returned.
- 2. Authorize a Work Order.** We prepare a work order that includes the scope, costs and details of the audit. Authorize the work order, and schedule your evaluation audit.
- 3. Optional Pre-Assessment.** We evaluate the fishery's qualifications and determines what risks, if any, may limit its ability to successfully complete a comprehensive assessment. The results help you better understand the process and plan for improvements before entering the full assessment process.
- 4. On-Site Audit.** The certification assessment team reviews documentation, interviews stakeholders and evaluates fisheries against specific performance indicators related to the health of the stock, impacts on the ecosystem and the management system structures and functions.
- 5. Audit Report and Public Comment.** SCS writes a draft report, which you review along with two independent peer reviewers. The report is then posted for public comment.
- 6. Certification Decision.** After considering all comments, a final report is released together with the certification decision. If no objections have been raised, the public certification report is published and the fishery receives a certificate from SCS.
- 7. Annual Surveillance.** Certification is valid for 5 years, subject to annual surveillance audits.

CHOOSE SCS

SCS Global Services has nearly three decades of experience certifying environmental, social, health and safety claims, and is recognized worldwide for integrity, scientific rigor and true independence.

- **MSC Expertise.** SCS participated in the development of the MSC criteria, and was the first independent certifier accredited.
- **Personalized Attention.** SCS offers one-on-one personalized service tailored to meet your needs.
- **Bundling Audits.** SCS is accredited to perform food safety audits such as HACCP, and a range of additional services, including GHG auditing.
- **Exceptional Value.** SCS provides efficient audits at competitive prices.
- **Experienced.** Since 2000, we have certified fisheries around the globe.

Having certified some of the largest commercial fisheries (Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries) and small, community-based fisheries (South Australia's Lakes and Coorong fishery, Mexico's spiny lobster fishery), SCS can successfully conduct complex and simple assessments alike.

SCS also certifies seafood companies to the MSC Chain of Custody standard for seafood traceability, and is now accredited by the new Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC).