

## World Benchmarking Alliance starts process to rank world's largest seafood companies against the SDGs

*October 22, 2018*

The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) today announces the start of the process to measure the impact of the 30 largest seafood companies in the world towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an ambitious set of 17 goals for 2030 on sustainable development that were adopted by all 193 UN member states. The Seafood Stewardship Index (SSI) will be a first of many benchmarks to be developed by the World Benchmarking Alliance and is aimed at moving towards a sustainable seafood production.

During the coming 8 weeks, the WBA will run a [public consultation on the draft methodology for its Seafood Stewardship Index \(SSI\)](#). Industry stakeholders and all other relevant parties alike are invited to provide feedback on the current draft version of the methodology that, once final, will be used to rank the world's largest seafood companies.

The WBA, which was launched during the UN General Assembly in New York in September this year, will develop a broad range of corporate benchmarks by 2023 to comprehensively assess the progress of 2,000 companies across major areas of transformation required to achieve the SDGs. The WBA will help to promote competition among businesses in their race to deliver against the SDGs. By assigning a value to social good, the WBA will help to create a market that rewards corporate leadership while challenging those that lag behind.

At a time of increasing focus on the role of the private sector in helping to drive these greater levels of sustainability, equality and prosperity in society, the WBA will increase transparency and accountability for seafood businesses in relation to the SDGs that are closest to their core business. It aims to empower consumers, investors, governments, civil society organisations and companies by providing them with free and publicly available data that shows seafood companies' SDG-performance. This will help them when making purchasing decisions, allocating investments or directing strategy, policy and advocacy efforts.

**Bas Geerts, Lead Seafood Stewardship Index at the World Benchmarking Alliance:** "The Seafood Stewardship Index (SSI) is a bold response to the major challenges facing the global seafood industry these days. This consultation will make the SSI methodology more robust as we continue to bring many different perspectives to the table. Therefore, we kindly invite you to share with us your reflections, feedback and suggestions regarding this draft methodology."

The Seafood Stewardship Index will consist of 30 company score cards, showing how and to what extent each company contributes to sustainable seafood production and trade, and an index ranking the companies from 1 to 30, based on their performance levels. It will show what companies do well and where there is still opportunity to contribute more.

The first Seafood Stewardship Index report is expected to be published towards end 2019. The methodology for it will be published in March 2019.

All WBA benchmarks will be developed by means of an inclusive and transparent multi-stakeholder process. The current draft methodology for the SSI has been built on existing scientific knowledge related to seafood sustainability, a wealth of information from principles and normative standards, corporate reporting frameworks, as well as sector-, product- and issue-specific initiatives. Our processes have ongoing, continuous stakeholder engagement as an integral part of it.

After this first public draft the Seafood Stewardship Index has gone through this 8-weeks' public consultation period (22 October – 17 December 2018), all feedback will be analysed and processed into a revised final draft document. This will be put forward to SSI's Expert Review Committee, which holds a balanced stakeholder representation, for their final guidance. Once the methodology is final, it will be published on the WBA website, for all to see.

More information on the public consultation can be found on our website:

<https://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org/ssi-methodology-report/>

### **The World Benchmarking Alliance**

The WBA will develop a broad range of corporate benchmarks by 2023 to comprehensively assess the progress of 2,000 companies across major areas of transformation required to achieve the SDGs. The first set of benchmarks (of which the one for seafood will be one) will be published in 2019/20 and will address food and agriculture, climate and energy, digital inclusion and gender equality and empowerment. The WBA, a non-profit organization based in Amsterdam, strives to bring clarity to the role and performance of companies in contributing to the SDGs most relevant to their core business, while providing stakeholders and the wider public with free and accessible research and benchmarks.

**Gerbrand Haverkamp, Executive Director of the World Benchmarking Alliance:** “With only 12 years left to deliver against the SDGs, governments, businesses, civil society and individuals alike must make a concerted effort to achieve progress. This new and unique approach will measure and incentivise businesses to continue driving efforts towards a more sustainable future. The real value of benchmarks is that they will empower society to make decisions that are in line with societal values, which will ultimately create demand for corporate responsibility.” Adopted in 2015 by 193 countries, the SDGs are a collection of 17 interconnected goals negotiated by U.N. member states. Developed in consultation with business and civil society, the SDGs outline a global framework to ensure a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030, and address the world's most challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity and justice.

The benchmarks will be designed to clarify what society expects from business with regards to the SDGs, and how these companies can best contribute to meeting these expectations. The WBA also believes this initiative will help to promote competition among businesses in their race to deliver against the SDGs. By assigning a value to social good, the WBA will help to create a market that rewards corporate leadership while challenging those that lag behind. The WBA is a fully independent organisation that is backed by an alliance of over 70 institutions. While many of the world's leading companies are taking clear action to align their business models with the SDGs, information and analysis of corporate sustainability performance is often hard to access or compare. Thus, investors, civil society, governments and consumers have no common mechanism through which to credit leading companies. Companies' efforts, or lack thereof, often go unrecognized, reducing incentives to improve sustainability performance and making it difficult to gauge industry leaders. WBA's mission is to provide everyone with access to

information that indicates how companies are contributing to the SDGs. It will do so by developing free and publicly available corporate sustainability benchmarks that rank companies on their sustainability performance and contribution to achieving the SDGs. The WBA is also expected to play a role in helping to leverage and harmonize the incoming wave of SDG-related monitoring initiatives that are currently being developed.

Learn more at: [www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](http://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org)

For further press information, please contact:

Bas Geerts, Lead Seafood Stewardship Index at World Benchmarking Alliance

[b.geerts@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](mailto:b.geerts@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org)

*Note: Draft methodology for the Seafood Stewardship Index is available in English and Japanese.*

Companies included in the Seafood Stewardship index:

Name	Country of Origin	Ownership	Revenue in USD million*	Name	Country of Origin	Ownership	Revenue in USD million*
1 Maruha Nichiro	Japan	Public	7,158	16 Cooke Aquaculture & Cooke Seafood USA	Canada	Private	1,339
2 Nippon Suisan Kaisha (Nissui)	Japan	Public	5,707	17 Schouw & Co (BioMar)	Denmark	Public	1,263 <sup>IV</sup>
3 Thai Union Group	Thailand	Public	3,752	18 Nueva Pescanova	Spain	Public	1,134
4 Marine Harvest	Norway	Public	3,694	19 Tri Marine International	United States	Private	1,050
5 Mitsubishi Corporation	Japan	Public	3,400	20 SalMar	Norway	Public	1,044
6 Dongwon Enterprise	South Korea	Public	3,163	21 Labeyrie Fine Foods	France	Private	1,040
7 Red Chamber Group	United States	Private	2,575	22 Shanghai Fisheries General Corporation	China	State-owned	1,038
8 Nutreco (Skretting)	Netherlands	Private	2,543 <sup>I</sup>	23 Royal Greenland	Greenland	State-owned	1,005
9 Trident Seafoods	United States	Private	2,400	24 F.C.F. Fishery	Taiwan	Private	1,000
10 Austevoll Seafood	Norway	Public	2,186	25 High Liner Foods	Canada	Public	956
11 Kyokuyo	Japan	Public	2,123	26 Bumble Bee Foods	United States	Private	955
12 Cargill Aqua Nutrition	United States	Private	2,140 <sup>II</sup>	27 Yokohama Reito (Yokorei)	Japan	Public	940
13 Charoen Pokphand Foods	Thailand	Public	1,917 <sup>III</sup>	28 Wales Group (Sea Value & Sea Wealth)	Thailand	Private	896
14 Marubeni Corporation	Japan	Public	1,900	29 Parlevliet & Van der Plas	Netherlands	Private	848
15 Pacific Seafood Group	United States	Private	1,370	30 Nomad Foods	United Kingdom	Public	800

\* Revenue information comes from Undercurrent News' report 2017, referring to companies' 2016 turnovers, unless otherwise stated.

I 2014 Revenues are EUR 2.1 billion. Source: <https://www.skretting.com/en-US/our-story/facts/>. Applied exchange rate EUR 1 = USD 1.2110232824 (Exchange rate 31-12-2014 XE currency converter).

II 2016 Revenues of Cargill Aqua Nutrition are about 2 percent of Cargill's total revenue of USD 107.2 billion. Source: <https://www.cargill.com/doc/1432092555283/aquaculture-sustainability-report-2016.pdf>.

III 2016 Sales from aquaculture amounted to THB 68,642 million. Source: [https://www.cpfworldwide.com/contents/investors/download/presentations/CPF\\_FY16\\_Final.pdf](https://www.cpfworldwide.com/contents/investors/download/presentations/CPF_FY16_Final.pdf) (page 11). Applied exchange rate: THB 1 = USD 0.0279251606 (Exchange rate 31-12-2016 XE currency converter).

IV 2016 Turnover is EUR 1.2 billion. Source: <http://www.biomar.com/en/global/about/facts-and-figures/>. Applied exchange rate EUR 1 = USD 1.0522549824 (Exchange rate 31-12-2016 XE currency converter).

[end]