

# Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects

## Glossary

**Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (Conservation Alliance or Alliance)**: The Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions connects leading conservation groups that work with businesses representing more than 80 percent of the North American grocery and food service markets. Through its [Common Vision](#), a roadmap companies can use to develop and implement sustainable seafood policies, the Conservation Alliance works with businesses to establish and fulfill sustainable seafood commitments, encourage environmental improvements in fisheries and farms, and increase traceability of their products to their sources.

**Experience Applying the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Standard**: Someone is considered to have credible experience applying the MSC standard if he/she is a [registered MSC technical consultant](#) or works through an [accredited conformity assessment body](#) recognized by the MSC.

**Marine Stewardship Council**: The Marine Stewardship Council works with partners to transform the world's seafood markets and promote environmentally sustainable seafood practices. MSC sets and maintains standards for sustainable fishing and seafood traceability, which are helping to make global seafood markets more sustainable. Its certification and eco-label program provides fisheries around the world with a way to gain recognition and reward for environmental management.

**Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard**: The MSC Fisheries Standard measures the sustainability of wild-capture fisheries based on three principle areas. Each principle has a series of performance indicators that are used to evaluate a fishery's environmental performance. The three principle areas are:

Principle One: Sustainable fish stocks

Principle Two: Minimizing environmental impact

Principle Three: Effective management

**Marine Stewardship Council Pre-assessment**: A pre-assessment is a preliminary evaluation of a fishery against all MSC performance indicators to provide a picture of the fishery's baseline environmental performance and challenges. A pre-assessment allows a fishery to identify any areas that need to be improved to reach an unconditional pass of the MSC standard. A pre-assessment must be completed by someone experienced with applying the MSC standard (see above).

**Needs Assessment**: Less rigorous than an MSC pre-assessment, a needs assessment is an evaluation of a fishery that covers the three principle areas of the MSC standard to determine environmental challenges and improvements needed in the fishery. It may not assess at a detailed level the fishery's performance against every performance indicator.

**Scoping Document**: A scoping document summarizes the results of the needs assessment or MSC pre-assessment and recommends strategies for addressing the fishery's challenges to help fishery improvement project participants develop a workplan.

**Unconditional Pass of the Marine Stewardship Council Standard**: The MSC Fisheries Standard is designed to assess if a fishery is well-managed and environmentally sustainable. To pass unconditionally means a fishery has achieved a score of 80 or more on all performance indicators of the standard.