

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 from North America, South America, Europe, and Japan that work with businesses throughout the supply chain from fishermen and fish farmers to retailers and restaurants. Conservation Alliance members and collaborators work collectively to tackle challenges that are too big for any one organization to solve alone and share expertise and develop tools that help businesses advance their sustainable seafood commitments and fisheries and aquaculture to make improvements.

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 [accredited conformity assessment body](#) or has [other demonstrated qualifications approved by the reviewer](#).

[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.