

# Global Salmon Initiative (GSI)

## Background Information

### **The Global Salmon Initiative (GSI)**

The Global Salmon Initiative (GSI) is a leadership initiative established in 2013 by global farmed salmon producers focused on making significant progress on industry sustainability. GSI is committed to fully realizing a shared goal of providing a highly sustainable source of healthy food to feed a growing global population, while minimizing our environmental footprint, and continuing to improve our social contribution.

GSI is focused on the three pillars of sustainability: reducing environmental impact, increasing our social contribution and maintaining economic growth.

As global farmed salmon producers (based on production by tonnage), GSI represents approximately 70% of the global farmed salmon industry.

GSI is an independent initiative which consults with global stakeholders, including World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), who provide an advisory role on GSI projects.

### **GSI membership**

*Member companies:* Bakkafrøst, Blumar, Cermaq, Compañía Pesquera Camanchaca, Empresas AquaChile, Grieg Seafoods, Lerøy Seafood Group, Los Fjordos, Marine Harvest, Norway Royal Salmon, SalMar, Multiexport Foods SA, The Scottish Salmon Company and Scottish Sea Farms.

While membership is made up of farmed salmon producers, GSI welcomes the support of other organizations involved in the industry. GSI is open to all global farmed salmon producers who share the GSI vision, and who are willing to work to achieve the GSI objectives.

### **GSI principles**

Members of GSI abide by the following principles:

- Significant progress on sustainability
- Transparency
- Cooperation

### **GSI objectives**

- I. Bring together global farmed salmon producers and other industry stakeholders to strive towards significantly improving the sustainability of salmon farming
- II. Cooperate to continue to outperform other sources of animal protein, in terms of contribution to human health, environmental responsibility and efficient feed conversion rate, and to be widely recognized for this accomplishment

- III. Achieve the highest standards of corporate citizenship in the regions where members operate
- IV. Translate environmental and social sustainability into greater economic sustainability through enhanced social license and market acceptance.

### **GSI projects**

GSI is committed to projects involving the whole of the industry where we can make significant improvements in sustainability. In consultation with our stakeholders, GSI has chosen to focus on three priority areas: biosecurity, feed sourcing and meeting industry standards.

**Biosecurity:** GSI has highlighted the issue of sea lice as a major risk to the sustainability of the industry. Through sharing of best practices and knowledge, GSI aims to have a substantial impact on decreasing lice levels.

**Feed:** In partnership with FAO, GSI is exploring initiatives to support the expansion of sustainable aquaculture, including obtaining sustainable sources of feed, and improving global understanding of sustainable aquaculture through a process of knowledge dissemination and transfer.

**Standards:** GSI recognizes the importance of transparency, and understands that progress in achieving our goals requires evaluation. GSI has chosen to use the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Salmon Standard as its primary reference point, and as a framework to guide and report on the progress GSI is making. GSI is committed to reaching the ASC standards across all member company farms by 2020.

### **GSI stakeholders**

GSI fully realizes that success will only come through cooperation and involvement with other stakeholders at every stage of the decision-making and planning process.

GSI has been working with national associations and industry bodies from the outset of the initiative and will continue to do so. Collaboration with the national associations is crucial to the success of improving the sustainability of the industry as a whole.

### **Further information**

Further information is available on request from the GSI secretariat, AXON, at [GSI@axon-com.com](mailto:GSI@axon-com.com) or by visiting [www.globalsalmoninitiative.org](http://www.globalsalmoninitiative.org).