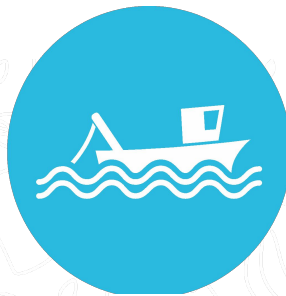




Introduction to the Marine Stewardship Council

MSC RECOGNIZES AND REWARDS SUSTAINABLE FISHING



Fishery



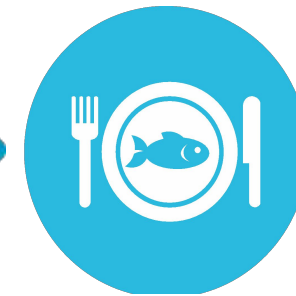
**Fishery
Certification**



**Chain of Custody
Certification**



**Licensing
Agreement**



**Consumer
Product**

OUR OFFICES



TWO GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS

MSC Fisheries Standard

3 Principles for
environmental sustainability

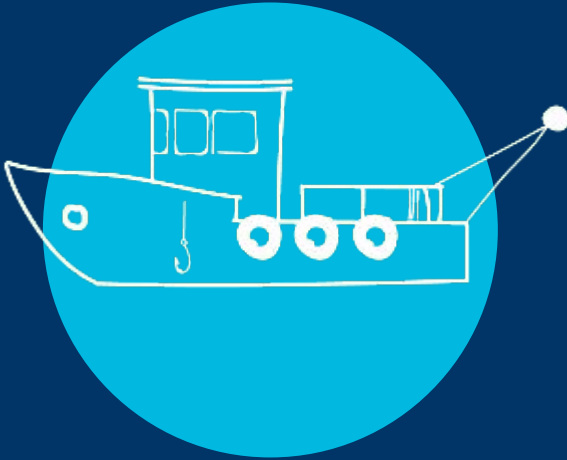
- 1 Healthy fish stocks
- 2 Ecosystem impacts
- 3 Effective management

MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard

Ocean to plate traceability
through the **entire supply chain**

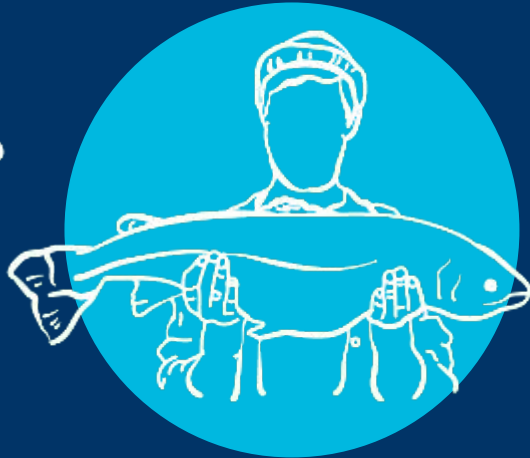
- 1 Identification
- 2 Segregation
- 3 Effective management
- 4 Only certified product carries the logo

MSC AT A GLANCE



594

fisheries certified



76

**fisheries
In assessment**



20%

**of wild marine
catch certified**



56

countries engaged

*engaged = certified and in assessment; Data: September 2025

USA species certified



PACIFIC COAST

Alaska pollock
Albacore tuna
Atka mackerel
Bigeye Tuna
Brine shrimp
Cod (Pacific)
Flounder (two species)
Hake (Pacific)
Halibut
Lingcod
Market squid
Pacific ocean perch
Plaice
Rockfish (six species)
Sablefish
Salmon (five species)
Shrimp (pink)
Skate (longnose)
Sole (eight species)
Swordfish
Yellowfin Tuna

EAST COAST

Acadian redfish
Atlantic menhaden
Dogfish
Haddock
Longfin and shortfin squid
Ocean quahogs
Pollock
Scallops
Scup
Surf clams
Swordfish
Winter and little skate
Yellowfin and albacore tuna

GULF OF AMERICA

Gulf menhaden
Louisiana and Texas oysters
Louisiana blue crab



The background of the slide is an underwater photograph showing a large school of fish swimming in clear blue water. A dark blue, semi-transparent rectangular overlay covers the center of the image, providing a background for the title text.

The Landscape of an Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities



The Fishery Client



The CAB and Assessment Team



NGOs



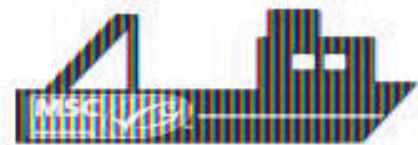
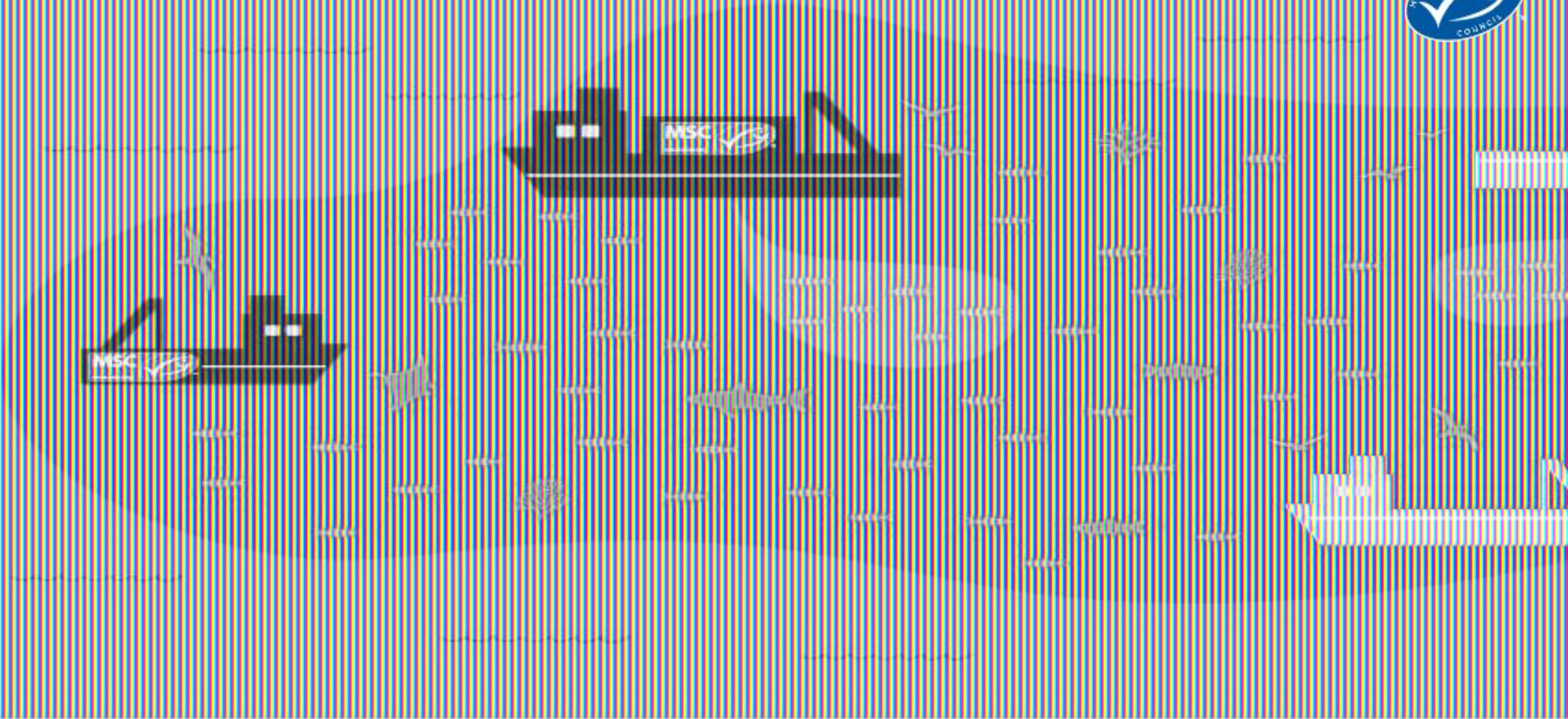
Peer Reviewers

MSC Support



**Anthony Mastitski
Fisheries Outreach**

What is assessed?



Vessels within the
Unit of Certification



Vessels within the
Unit of Assessment



Target stock



Assess
ecosystem

Defining the unit of certification



- The Unit of Certification (UoC) is that part of the Unit of Assessment (UoA) that can provide catches into the supply chain as 'certified'.
- Other eligible fishers may exist where the UoC is smaller than the full UoA. In these cases, other eligible fishers may also access the certificate if they accept "certificate sharing" arrangements set by the client.
- The assessment of the UoA **must** include the impacts of the other eligible fishers in order for them to be included on the certificate.

What is the unit of certification (Uoc)?



The species is.... northern shrimp

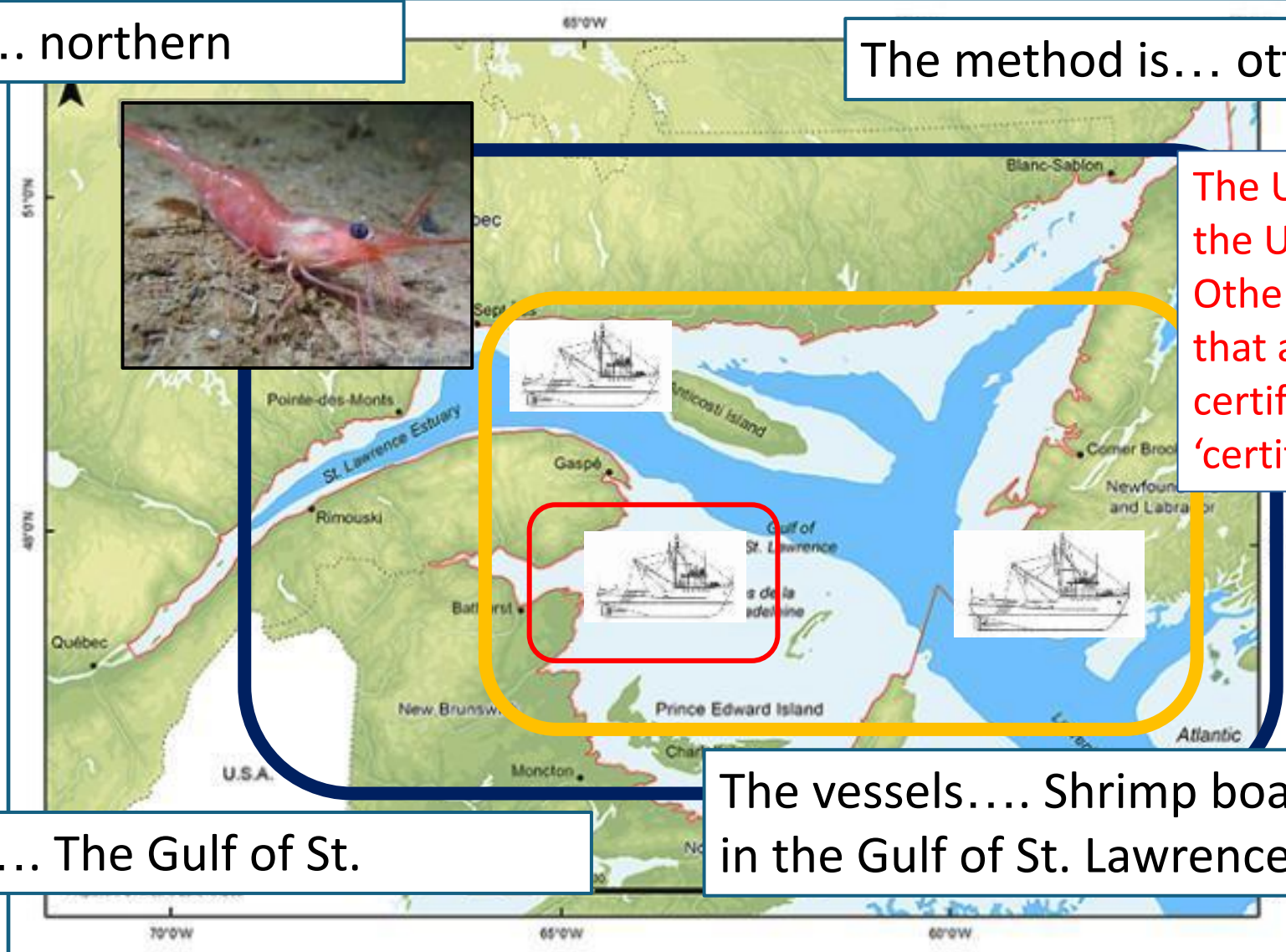
The method is... otter trawl



The UoC is the same as the UoA minus any Other Eligible Fishers that are not initially certified but may join by 'certificate sharing'

The location is.... The Gulf of St. Lawrence

The vessels.... Shrimp boats licensed to fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence





The Fisheries Standard

The three principles of the Fisheries Standard



- 1** The sustainability of stock
- 2** Ecosystem impact
- 3** Effective management

A GUIDE TO THE MSC FISHERIES STANDARD

Principle 1 – Sustainable fish stocks



1.1 Stock evaluation (target catch)

- 1.1.1: Sustainable stock levels
- 1.1.2: Or, stock is rebuilding



1.2 Harvest Management Strategy

- 1.2.1: Precautionary harvest strategy + no shark finning
- 1.2.2: Harvest control rules and tools
- 1.2.3: Reliable information and monitoring
- 1.2.4: Robust assessment of stock status

Principle 2 – Minimising Environmental Impact



2.1 Impact on primary species (non-target catch)

- 2.1.1: Sustainable stock levels
- 2.1.2: Management strategy + reduction of unwanted mortality
- 2.1.3: Reliable information



2.2 Impact on secondary species (non-target species)

- 2.2.1: No threat to stock levels
- 2.2.2: Management strategy + reduction of unwanted mortality
- 2.2.3: Reliable information on risk



2.3 Impact on endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species

- 2.3.1: No threat to ETP species stock levels
- 2.3.2: Management strategy to protect ETP species
- 2.3.3: Reliable information on risk



2.4 Impact on habitats

- 2.4.1: No serious or irreversible harm
- 2.4.2: Strategy to protect habitats
- 2.4.3: Information on vulnerable habitats



2.5 Impact on the ecosystem

- 2.5.1: No serious or irreversible harm
- 2.5.2: Management strategy to protect the ecosystem
- 2.5.3: Reliable information on ecosystem function and impact

Principle 3 – Fishery Management



3.1 Governance and Policy

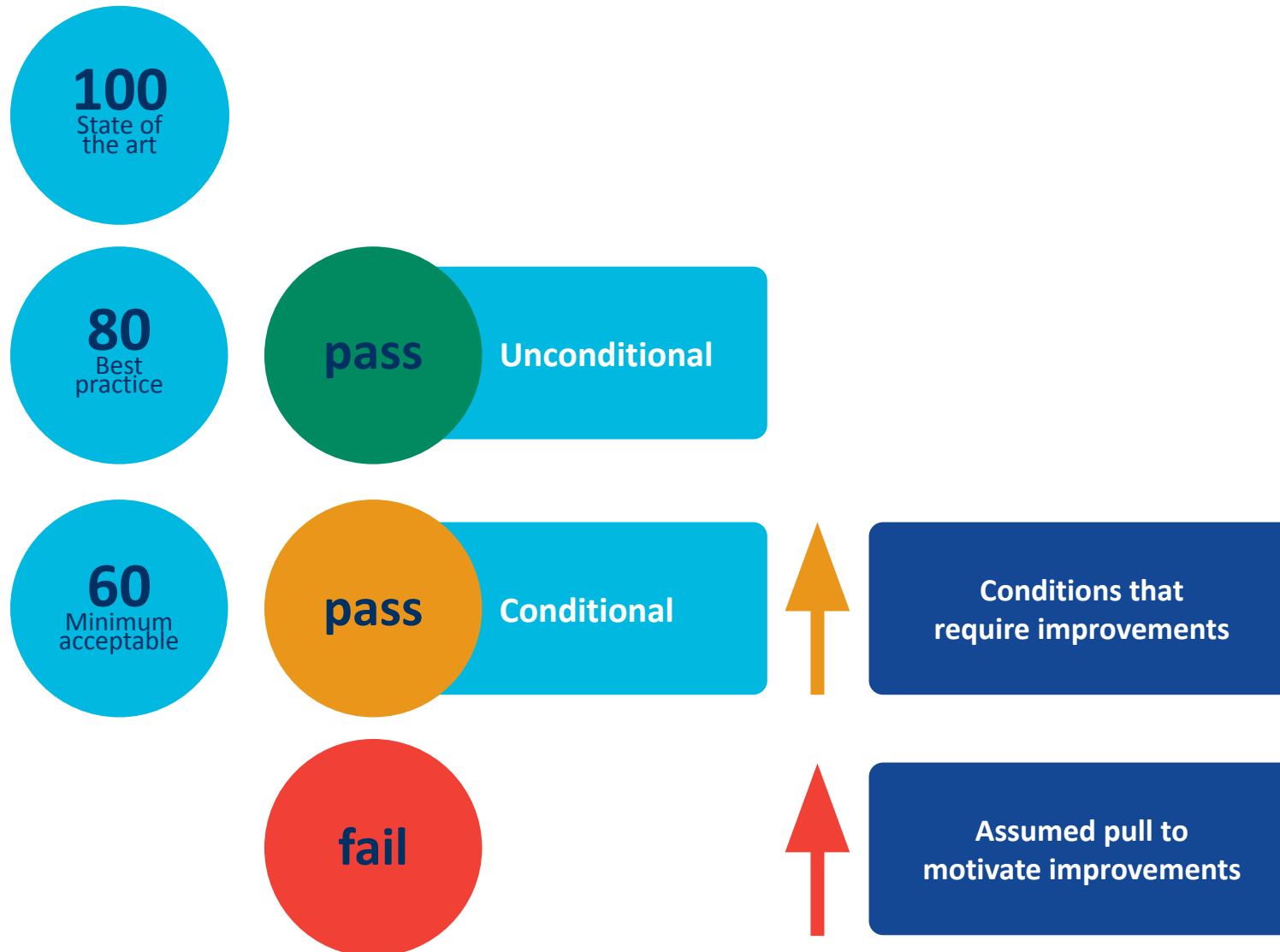
- 3.1.1: Effective legal or customary framework + recognises rights of people dependant on fishing for food or livelihood
- 3.1.2: Effective consultation process
- 3.1.3: Long term objectives



3.2 Fishery Specific Management System

- 3.2.1: Clear fishery specific objectives for achieving P1 & P2
- 3.2.2: Effective decision-making process
- 3.2.3: Compliance and enforcement systems
- 3.2.4: Management performance evaluation

Meeting the MSC Standard



Introduced Species Based



- SD2.1.1.2 The CAB shall make modifications to the scoring issues at PI 1.1.1 for fisheries that include setting target reference points at levels which may be lower than MSY as a deliberate measure to allow for reduced biodiversity impact.
- a. The CAB shall not accept limit reference points set at levels below which there is an appreciable risk of impairing reproductive capacity.

Introduced Species Based Fisheries (ISBF)



SD2.1.1.3 CABs shall address measures in place in the fishery to prevent further ecosystem impacts that may have occurred as a result of the introduction of the species to the new location under the Ecosystem component of Principle 2.

- b. CABs shall include mechanisms against this additional scoring issue to be:
 - i. Setting target reference points at levels that allow for recovery of species impacted by the introduction,
 - ii. Containment measures such as fishing down at the boundaries of the stock to prevent further spread,
 - iii. Protection and/or creation of faunal refugia,
 - iv. Provisions in legislation to prohibit further introductions of any other alien species.
 - v. Other relevant mechanisms.



THANK YOU!

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