

## BACKGROUND

Seafood is a major source of employment and nutrition in the Philippines. About 1.9 million people, work in the fishing sector, and Filipinos get about 50 percent of their animal protein from fish and seafood.

However, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a national threat. In 2019, up to 40 percent of wild-caught seafood came from IUU fishing, costing the country an estimated Php 62 billion (US\$1.3 B) in annual losses while depleting fish stocks and destroying marine habitats. This problem is exacerbated by the fragmentation and lack of transparency in seafood supply chains.

## CONTEXT-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL CHALLENGES

Addressing IUU fishing requires effective implementation of fishery laws, stronger fisheries management measures, and the adoption of supply chain controls that ensure legal and responsible seafood trade.

Long-term improvements in fishing and sourcing can only be sustained if there is a market for sustainable seafood and/or economic actors who can enable changes and improvements.

While little emphasis has been placed on the supply chain in the past, RSS focuses on market and regulatory factors as a key to influencing compliance.



## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE RSS ASSESSMENT

The **RSS Standard Assessment** is open to all Philippine individuals and organizations engaged in the fishing, sourcing, manufacturing, and retailing of wild-caught seafood harvested in Philippine waters. To learn more about the RSS Assessment process, please visit: [www.betterseafoodph.org](http://www.betterseafoodph.org)

## MORE ABOUT BETTER SEAFOOD PHILIPPINES

Better Seafood Philippines (BSP) is the interim owner of the Standard. Any modification in the contents of this Standard without prior written consent from the owner and its duly-authorized persons is strictly prohibited. The development of this tool was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Fish Right Program.



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

# Responsible Seafood Sourcing Standard

*Engaging markets to promote seafood sustainability*

[WWW.BETTERSEAFOODPH.ORG](http://WWW.BETTERSEAFOODPH.ORG)



## WHAT IS RSS?

The **Responsible Seafood Sourcing (RSS) Standard** establishes criteria to assess current supply chain practices in the capture, sourcing, and trading of wild-caught seafood.

## HOW IT WORKS

Using the RSS criteria, key supply chain actors can complete an RSS Standard Assessment to measure their performance on legal compliance, traceability, environmental responsibility, and human and social welfare issues.

This assessment identifies risks in the supply chain and helps actors develop a pathway to address these challenges in a responsible manner. The Standard is designed for use by:

### PRODUCERS



### FIRST RECEIVERS



### INTERMEDIARIES



### END BUYERS



## ABOUT THE TOOL

There are two types of RSS Standard assessments, producer-level and buyer-level assessments. Both types include two categories of criteria:

**Qualifying criteria:** Indicators that identify which actors are eligible to apply for a full assessment.

**Performance criteria:** Indicators that score each applicant's performance against pre-established thresholds.

## RSS BENEFITS FOR:

### BUYERS & MARKETS

-  Safeguard Reputation
-  Build Consumer Trust & Confidence
-  Assure Supply
-  Increase Sales & Brand Value
-  Improve Transparency

### PRODUCERS & SUPPLIERS



## RSS SCORING

Applicants are assessed against four major performance areas and given a score from 0 to 4 stars (with 0 being the lowest and 4 the highest). A minimum score of 2 stars in each performance area is required to be considered compliant with the RSS Standard.

Increase Supply Chain Visibility



Gain Access to New Buyers & Better Markets



Improve Traceability



Increase Access to Financial Tools & Information



Augment Income & Sustain Livelihood Over Time

