

## A SIDE EVENT

Organized by the German Delegation  
At the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011, Ethiopia Room, 12:00 – 13:15:

### The Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI): Multi-Stakeholder Network for the development of a benchmarking tool for standards and certification schemes for fishery and aquaculture products

#### Program:

- Welcome Remarks (Dr. Marc Nolting, GIZ)
- Presentation of the GSSI and its business and work plan with a focus on the benchmark architecture (Heiko Liedeker, Leading Standards)
- Discussion and questions from the floor

#### Background:

Presentation and discussion of the *Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative* which aims at developing a benchmarking tool recognized by industry, public and private social and ecological standard systems, scheme owners and other stakeholders as a platform for assessment, evaluation and re-combination of private or public eco-labeling scheme, as well as stakeholder engagement and capacity building across schemes.

The benchmarking tool will be used as a self assessment tool by the scheme owners. It will be developed as a benchmarking framework in accordance with international norms, such as the minimum requirements set out in the existing FAO Guidelines on the scope of the eco-label schemes for fish and fishery products.

The GSSI will enable evaluation, comparison, and re-combination of existing standards, certification and rating schemes and their respective key elements into a single harmonized scheme. It will facilitate harmonizing existing schemes based on minimum requirements for both fisheries and markets in developing countries and industrialized countries. It will allow different users to harmonize existing standards, certification and rating schemes according to their respective requirements (e.g. different market requirements).

The GSSI will benefit fishermen and farmers in developing countries by clearly stating the level of compliance needed to achieve widely recognized social and environmental compliance and certification requirements. This will broaden the range of compliance and certification programs under which developing nation's constituents could qualify for various schemes.

This side event presents an overview of the development activities which GIZ, Leading Standards in cooperation with the Allfish-Alliance have been engaged in, including the following:

- Development of the business and work plan of GSSI
- Consultation of different constituent groups of GSSI
- FAO Guidelines as possible minimum requirements

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