

PRESS RELEASE

WBA launches first of its kind global benchmark ranking seafood companies on their UN SDG impact

- Seafood Stewardship Index ranks 30 of the most influential seafood companies in the world.
- Industry shows broad commitment on sustainability but overall performance needs to improve and more measurable action is needed to meet the SDG agenda.
- Thai Union Group tops the ranking, followed by Mowi and Charoen Pokphand Foods.

Location/Oslo: 23rd October 2019: The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) today launched the Seafood Stewardship Index ranking 30 of the most influential seafood companies in the world on their commitments, transparency and performance to meet the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Benchmark is the first detailed ranking of these keystone companies based on their sustainability efforts. It analyses where the largest seafood companies need to take bold action in the next decade to meet the UN SDG's agenda to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future for all.

Overall, WBA found leading practices amongst several of the seafood companies with strong sustainability strategies, sourcing and human rights policies. There are also good examples of how companies manage the environmental impacts of their operations and their work on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture initiatives.

However, the future long-term sustainability of the seafood industry is being hampered by a lack of oversight of operations and supply chains impacting for example, measures to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, protect ecosystems and respecting human rights and working conditions. The performance also indicates that the industry overall needs to move into a phase of active implementation, particularly on how it addresses its impact on ecosystems, human rights and working conditions and local communities with room for considerable improvement.

The seafood industry produces one of the world's most valuable, globally traded food commodities and is an important nutrient source to around three billion people - especially those in developing countries. The seafood industry also employs millions worldwide with more than hundreds of millions of people depending on it for their livelihoods.

Rik Beukers, Lead Seafood Stewardship Index at WBA, said; "The high level of engagement by the majority of the companies has facilitated the development of this ranking with deep insights into the seafood industry. Across the ranking there are examples of best practice but overall the Seafood industry needs to act boldly to meet the UN SDG agenda. The most influential seafood companies globally can make significant progress and they need to quickly. The hope is that this benchmark will drive even greater transparency and encourage peer to peer learning to reach the ultimate end goal – more sustainable oceans for us all."

Gerbrand Haverkamp, Executive Director at WBA, said: "The big take away from this ranking is that there is now a broad commitment and consensus around sustainability among those companies most subjected to domestic and international scrutiny in the past on issues like human rights, overfishing and pollution. With just one decade left to achieve the SDGs, now is the time for the entire seafood industry to step up. Transforming the food system requires greater transparency and bold action from the Seafood industry. Our oceans and the people directly depending on them rely on getting this right and fast. That starts with some of the most influential global seafood companies getting a better grip on their operations."

The ranking

The WBA Seafood Stewardship Index ranks the 30 most influential seafood companies based on their efforts towards achieving the UN SDGs, the world's agenda for working towards a sustainable future. It presents an overall ranking based on the weighted sum of the results in five measurement areas. These areas reflect where key industry stakeholders expect corporate action and where seafood companies could have the most impact. For each of the five measurement area's WBA looked at the public disclosures, commitments and performance of the companies in the benchmark. The five areas are:

- Governance and management of stewardship practices
- Stewardship of the supply chain
- Ecosystems
- Human rights and working conditions
- Local communities

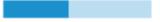
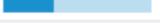
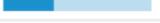
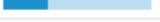
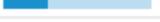
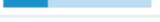
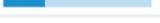
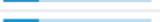
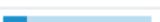
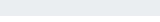
Overall, Thai Union Group tops the WBA Seafood Stewardship Index 2019 ranking. The company, known for its John West and Chicken of the Sea brands, stands out with robust environmental and social commitments, targets and activities on which it reports publicly.

In second and third in the ranking respectively, are Mowi, a Norwegian integrated salmon farming company formerly known as Marine Harvest, and Thai-based conglomerate Charoen Pokphand Foods, both demonstrating strengths across most measurement areas. Indeed Mowi scored highest on transparency with a strong sustainability strategy detailing how it manages the impacts of its farming operations. Charoen Pokphand Foods, one of the largest shrimp producers in the world, demonstrates strong human rights commitments and group-level sustainability strategies and targets.

The remainder of the top ten is made up of companies based in developed countries, predominantly Europe. Rank 11 to 20 shows a group of companies based in different geographies, including Europe, Asia and North America. Places 21 to 30 are dominated by Japanese (four) and US-based (three) companies. Half of the companies in this section are privately owned, generally displaying less public disclosure of company policies and operations.

Ranking of Seafood Stewardship Index



1	Thai Union Group		2.70 / 5
2	Mowi		2.42 / 5
3	Charoen Pokphand Foods		2.32 / 5
4	BioMar Group		2.22 / 5
5	Nueva Pescanova		2.04 / 5
6	Cargill Aqua Nutrition		1.87 / 5
7	Nutreco (Skretting)		1.86 / 5
8	Mitsubishi Corporation		1.79 / 5
9	Parlevliet & Van der Plas		1.72 / 5
10	Austevoll Seafood ASA		1.70 / 5
11	FCF Co., LTD.		1.53 / 5
12	Nomad Foods		1.51 / 5
13	SalMar		1.50 / 5
14	Labeyrie Fine Foods		1.36 / 5
15	Royal Greenland		1.33 / 5
16	Bumble Bee Foods		1.27 / 5
17	Nippon Suisan Kaisha (Nissui)		1.19 / 5
-	Tri Marine Group		1.19 / 5
19	Dongwon Group		1.17 / 5
20	Marubeni Corporation		0.87 / 5
21	High Liner Foods		0.84 / 5
22	Maruha Nichiro		0.83 / 5
23	Kyokuyo		0.76 / 5
24	Pacific Seafood Group		0.49 / 5
25	Cooke		0.41 / 5
26	Wales Group (Sea Value & Sea Wealth)		0.34 / 5
27	Red Chamber Group		0.23 / 5
-	Trident Seafoods		0.23 / 5
29	Yokohama Reito (Yokorei)		0.12 / 5
30	Shanghai Fisheries Group Co., LTD.		0.06 / 5

Note to editors

- The WBA will be launching the Seafood Stewardship Index at the Our Oceans conference in Oslo on 23 and 24 October.
- The Seafood Stewardship Index results are published on www.seafood.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org
- WBA is funded by the Governments of the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark and the Aviva Foundation.

About the World Benchmarking Alliance

The private sector has a crucial role to play in advancing the SDGs, but to boost companies' motivation, there needs to be real change in the way that their impact is measured. That's why the WBA has set out to develop transformative benchmarks that will compare companies' performance on global challenges we all face. The benchmarks will be backed by the best available science, while leveraging existing international

norms and standards. We are grounded in the aspiration that real progress can only be accomplished by working with others. The WBA will act as an independent, transparent body with a broad group of more than 100 allies who will provide the WBA with the necessary support to be a successful driver of change. The benchmarks will aim to empower all stakeholders, from consumers and investors to employees and business leaders, with key data and insights to encourage sustainable business practices across all sectors. www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org

Dr. Darian McBain, Thai Union’s Global Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability

“At Thai Union, we’re proud to be a global leader in creating a more sustainable and transparent seafood industry. Every day we are working to ensure our seafood is caught in healthy oceans using sustainable fishing methods or farmed in sustainable production systems, by people who are employed in safe and fair working conditions.”