



## ISEAL Community Member System Overview

Organisation Name	MarinTrust
Year	2023
Version	V 1.0

### 1) The STRATEGIES our system employs to meet its sustainability objectives

MarinTrust aims to champion best practice in fisheries and production for Marine Ingredients. We aim to keep improving the responsible sourcing and production of global marine ingredients through a robust, multistakeholder, accessible programme of certification.

Our vision is to see marine ingredients recognised as the best and most important source of animal and human nutrition. Our key MarinTrust’s Strategic Objective is to have 75% of global combined marine ingredient production certified, in application, in assessment or in an Improver Programme by 2025.

The long-term intended impacts of the MarinTrust Programme are set out in the MEL system outline, the Theory of Change, and MEL plan.

The MarinTrust Statement of Change is to Improve the global responsibility of the sourcing (incl. fisheries) and production of marine ingredients. This statement communicates the desired change that MarinTrust endeavours to bring about through its standard programme.

The strategies employed to achieve the objective of the statement of change are identified through causal pathways which link the inputs with the outcomes and impact and include the assumptions. The strategies employed include:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Research and information
- Training

- Advocacy and awareness in industry and government
- Support and advice
- Standard revision
- Monitoring, Evaluation & learning
- Revision of assurance processes
- Improver Programme.

We also work with partners to ensure a path to sustainability is available to fisheries.

## 2) A description of the STANDARD that our system has developed

MarinTrust is the scheme owner of the MarinTrust Standard and develops the standard framework in alignment with ISO 17067: 2013 and compliance against ISEAL.

The continuing development of the global fishmeal and fish oil markets after 2000 created a growing need for the industry to demonstrate its commitment, and provide assurances, to the responsible sourcing of raw materials and the safe production of marine ingredients.

In 2007, IFFO (The Marine Ingredients Organisation) Board of Directors decided to create an independent standard in order to provide assurances regarding responsible sourcing of marine ingredients.

The IFFO Board of Directors put together a multi-stakeholder Technical Advisory Committee in 2008 to develop a business-to-business Global Standard for the Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (IFFO RS). It was agreed that the unit of certification would be the fishmeal and fish oil factory.

The first version of the Standard was finalised in 2009 and opened for application in October, and in 2010 the first fishmeal plant achieved certification.

In 2020, IFFO RS rebranded to MarinTrust.

The purpose of MarinTrust is to champion best practice in fisheries and production for Marine Ingredients and aims to keep improving the responsible sourcing and production of global marine ingredients through an accessible programme of certification.

The objectives of the MarinTrust Programme are explicit within the MarinTrust Standard version 3.0, and upcoming Version 3.0 (October 2023) and explicit in the MarinTrust Control Manual.

The MarinTrust Standard is structured to cover each of the three main pillars of its objectives in turn.

The key objectives of the programme focusses on 3 key pillars, and the standard is structured to ensure:

- responsible sourcing of non-IUU fishery material;
- responsible traceability of fishmeal and fish oil back to these fisheries;
- and responsible production of safe fishmeal and fish oil. The Standard is structured to cover each of these pillars in turn, followed by a fourth section specifically tailored to fish by-products.

Compliance to the MarinTrust programme is ensured through our Assurance system and monitored via our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Programme which demonstrates MarinTrust's impacts within the global sourcing and production of marine ingredients.

This is done through data collection, analysis and evaluation reports whilst at the same time showing transparency in its findings. The MEL system allows MarinTrust to learn, adapt and improve as it assists in the recognition of areas in which there are deficiencies or short falls in its organisational activities, and to effectively adjust in advance in order to achieve its objectives.

### 3) How we maintain **RESPONSIBILITY** for decisions taken about and by our system

1. The standard development, setting, review and update is described in the MarinTrust Control Manual and the Standard Development Procedure which are publicly available on the MarinTrust website.

The MarinTrust Governing Body Committee (GBC) is responsible for the oversight of the standard development process and the practical and technical development of the standard and review is carried out by specialist committees each governed by a specific Terms of Reference (ToR).

The development or revision of a standard may be undertaken by MarinTrust either in line with the review cycle outlined in the procedure or through the urgent revision process.

2. The assurance system comprises of our governance, Oversight system and Quality Management system. The MarinTrust Assurance system responsibilities are defined in the Main Control Manual. We have technical and objective based committees which support the effective running of the MarinTrust Programme.

Further detailed information on governance and assurance oversight can be found on the MarinTrust website.

MarinTrust Technical Assurance Committee (TAC) is responsible for managing technical matters relating to the development, revision, and implementation of the MarinTrust Assurance System as part of the Quality Management System (QMS), including the technical relevance and appropriateness as a third-party, accredited certification programme.

Our Assurance Oversight system ensures impartiality and independence of our certification process.

The MarinTrust Secretariat, on behalf of the Governing Body Committee (GBC), appoints independent third-party accredited Certification Bodies to carry out fishery and by-product assessment, auditing, and certification activities. All certification decisions are made by the registered CB found listed on the MarinTrust website.

CB accreditation is granted by independent Accreditation Bodies (AB) who ensure CBs adhere to ISO/IEC 17065 and MarinTrust requirements.

The Accreditation Body must be signatory members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) or Recognised Regional Accreditation Groups.

### 4) How our system's design demonstrates a **COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT**

MarinTrust has implemented a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system which is based on a Theory of Change, considering the assumptions associated and the potential negative and unintended outcomes.

The MEL system includes a comprehensive MEL Plan that clearly sets out the indicators, baselines, targets, method, responsibilities and schedules, as well as the production of annual reports (both internal and public) and subsequent stakeholder reviews.

The indicators measure progress towards intended outcomes and monitors unintended effects. Each indicator as listed in the MEL system is associated with the specific level of data collection and part of the Theory of Change.

Annual MEL reports are produced based on the previous year's data and information gathered. Results are assessed against defined targets each year to identify areas for improvement and areas that require additional work for the following year. These reports are also used to present findings to the MarinTrust Governance and other stakeholders, and allow for internal review on the MEL system. The current MarinTrust MEL report on 2022 results is available.

We have a data management system for storing, organising and facilitating analysis and use of performance monitoring data. The MarinTrust Assurance Data Strategy and Data Governance Policy is reviewed annually to maintain relevance and legal compliance. The data quality framework outlines the key data quality assurance measures and currently focuses on the application to certification and impacts data. Development and implementation is still ongoing to ensure all assurance data are part of the Assurance Data Governance system.

Data collected from Non-conformance reports are used to identify clauses in the standard that have high levels of non-conformance, with a specific focus on environmental and social criteria. This is to demonstrate improvements in conformance over time via improvements in practices of audited sites, and to identify areas of the standard that should be reviewed during the next standard revision.

MarinTrust has completed the metric feasibility project which focussed on developing a more suitable way of allowing environmental and social impacts of the standard to be measured. The metrics identified are being reviewed as part of the upcoming version 3 of the MarinTrust Standard.

Current impact work (external impact evaluation) is based around investigating the attribution of environmental impact of the MarinTrust Standard in line with the 'MarinTrust Research Project Policy'.

5) How our standard or tool is monitored and reviewed to ensure its **RELEVANCE**

MarinTrust Standards, requirements, and key information in relation to the Programme (including Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system) is publicly available via the website.

All Standards of the MarinTrust Programme are reviewed at least every 5 years to ensure their relevancy, accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency. Standard development and revision is carried out through a stakeholder consultation process, actively engaging with the public in the format of an open comment period (Public consultation) in line with the Standard Development Procedure, as well as pilots conducted throughout to ensure feasibility and engagement on the ground.

Comments and suggestions on the Programme are welcomed at any time and is actively sought on the [website](#) and further details on how can be found outlined in the control manual, complaints, comments and suggestions procedures.

MarinTrust welcomes comments on certificate holders, Improver Programme Accepted sites and CB performance at any point after the initial audit process/certification/accreditation process.

MarinTrust conducts an annual audit of all registered CBs and takes into consideration all comments, suggestions, and information submitted by stakeholders.

#### 6) How the standard is **IMPLEMENTED**

MarinTrust develops the standard framework and appoints independent third-party accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) to conduct fishery and by-product assessment, auditing, and certification activities, including certification decisions, on behalf of the scheme.

MarinTrust requires, as a prerequisite, all certification bodies wishing to certify against the MarinTrust Programme are compliant with ISO/IEC 17065. The competence and consistent performance of certification bodies is ensured through the use of the Accreditation Bodies (AB). The accreditation bodies must be members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and compliant with ISO 17011.

MarinTrust requires the AB to ensure the CB is accredited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the Programme and carry out CB office audits as well as a performance review of the CB auditors.

As part of the measures to ensure the standard is implemented accurately and consistently, MarinTrust provides clear interpretation and sampling guidance, assessment methodology, and reporting templates and has a training Programme in place for both registered Certification Bodies and the MarinTrust Staff. The training procedure outlines key MarinTrust criteria, requirements and process for the appointment, training, and approval of CB personnel involved in the certification process. In addition, MarinTrust organise periodic training for relevant CB staff, auditors, and assessors under the MarinTrust Programme.

We have dedicated staff for management of the MEL system. This comprises of the ongoing maintenance and implementation of the MEL System including gathering and analysing data associated with the system, producing MEL reports for internal and external use, coordinating with partners for data collection and other MEL value chain partners to ensure outputs meet their needs. All other staff provide relevant inputs during the annual MEL data collection process and system reviews.

The MarinTrust Licence Agreement and Claims policy outlines the claims that Certificate Holders may make upon gaining certification under the MarinTrust Programme. This agreement allows MarinTrust to further protect and enforce the integrity of the logo and claim usage.

In addition, the procedure for MarinTrust logo and Claims Management outlines who can use the MarinTrust logo, how the MarinTrust Logo is issued to certified clients and how its use is monitored and recorded.

The MarinTrust Procedures for monitoring and investigating incidents of misrepresentation and corruption. Monitoring activities are carried out at regular intervals.