

### 3.1 Food Security Kitemark

#### ***Protect and support local, diverse, nutritious blue food environments***

##### **What problem is your proposition addressing?**

Local, wild, blue food production systems are characteristic of food commons in that they are widely distributed, employ large numbers of people (Cohen et al 2019), and support a diversity of nutritious foods and food practices that support more healthy diets (Bogard et al 2015, Thilstead et al 2015). However, these systems are increasingly undermined by the homogenization and intensification of commercialized food commodities that: 1) drive overexploitation and illegal practices; 2) increase energy and fuel use demand; 3) undermine local food and nutrition security.

Blue foods are the most traded food commodity globally (Gephart & Pace 2013); with even greater quantities moved through foreign and illegal fishing (Belhabib & LeBillon 2020). Yet, the majority of this flow is poorly documented and unregulated. Consequently, a limited number of mostly high income nations and corporations benefit disproportionately from global fishing (Osterblum et al 2015), often in nations where food and nutrition insecurity is of concern (e.g. Pacific nations, Bell et al 2015), or worsening (e.g. west Africa, Okafor-Yarwood 2019), and the benefits of trade remain ambiguous (Bene et al 2010, Asche 2009). This concentration of blue food influence presents a unique, and urgent, position for leverage based on principles of justice, that the UNFSS is well placed to negotiate.

##### **How does your proposition address the problem?**

A food security kitemark, developed for blue foods but with broader application to other food based systems, is a voluntary commitment designed to support governments, businesses, and other non-state actors to enact a principle of 'do no harm'. Through requirements:

1. **Local Food Security Impact Assessment:** Companies involved in transporting nutritious food (e.g. tuna, fishmeal and fish oil (FMFO)) will be required to evaluate the local state of food and nutrition security involving:
  - Minimum levels of participation from actors along local value chain (e.g. small scale producers, traders, consumers), key social groups (e.g. representatives across age, gender, class, ethnicity groups), with precedent given to female-headed households.
  - Existing local and global databases and guidelines will be made available to support this assessment (e.g. Food systems dashboard, Food composition databases, Global Dietary Database).
2. **Implement corrective measures:** Where a status falls below a bar, a commitment is triggered, and companies will be required to implement corrective measures such as:
  - Bolster local diets by channelling locally set portion of their nutritious products. These can be repurposed from discards, bones, heads, viscera, and produced for local school feeding or food assistance programs, for example in the form of dried fish powders (Byrd 2021).
  - Support local markets through price protections, purchasing contracts, investments into safe processing programs (e.g. drying).
  - Promote local and indigenous dishes through marketing, chef schemes, and fresh produce to school programs (e.g. small fish in w Africa).
3. **Blue Food 'Trase' system for use in policy development and negotiation** (Gardner et al 2019): A global system to identify and monitor 'keystone commodities'

(starting with FMFO and Tuna) that have been found to exacerbate overexploitation and food insecurity will be established. This system would build on systems developed to monitor soy (e.g. [TRASE](#)) and provide a system of transparency to monitor and support those accredited with a kitemark. This information will be used to support inclusion of FSK clauses in trade negotiations, multi- and bi-lateral agreements.

### Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?

Draws together existing ideas to develop a cross cutting solution that can be place based, but globally relevant.

### Which organisation/s, institution/s or groups of individuals are associated with the solution?

Lancaster University, FAO, WorldFish, Stanford & Stockholm Blue Foods Assessment, SEABOS, (TRASE-to be established)

### What is the scientific evidence that supports your proposition?

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- Okafor-Yarwood, Ifesinachi. "Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the complexities of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) for countries in the Gulf of Guinea." *Marine Policy* 99 (2019): 414-422.
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### Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape, or other type of setting?

Most applicable to west Africa, the Pacific, but also applicable to other regions with high fisheries yields but food security and environmental concerns. Can also be repurposed for other food systems (e.g. Soy)

### Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?

Global blue food corporations (e.g. Thai Union), multilateral organizations (e.g. FAO, WFP, ActionAid), (e.g. SEABOS), governments, SME's, Small holder organizations- e.g.

### Source and process

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- Hazel Healy (New Internationalist)
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