



Chain of Custody Programme

MSC Workshop – Gdansk 30th May 2019

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The MSC program – where does CoC fit in?



- **Internationally recognised**
UNFAO, ISEAL & Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative
- **Consistent with International norms**
- **Assurance of origin from sustainable fishery**
- **Assurance of traceability**



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

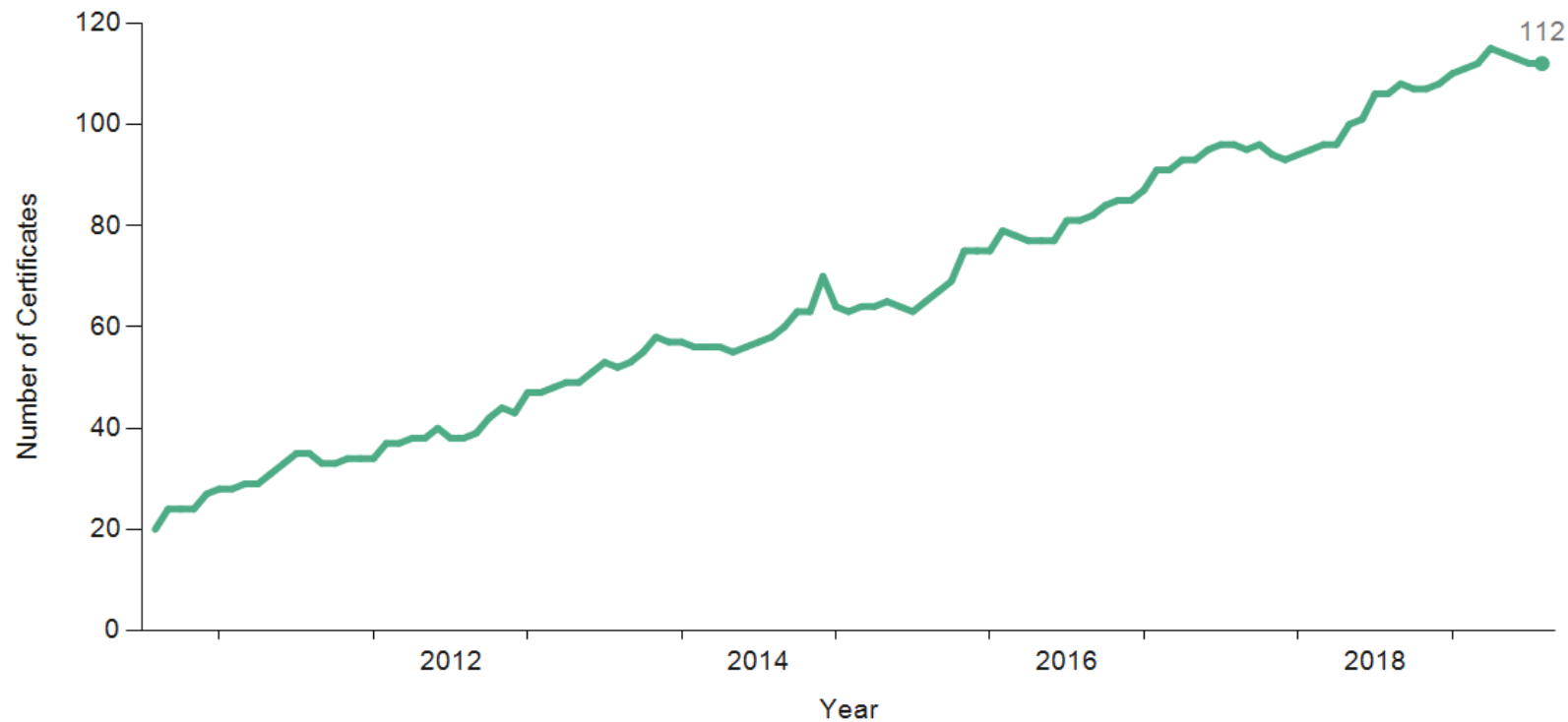


Growth of CoC certificates (February 2019)

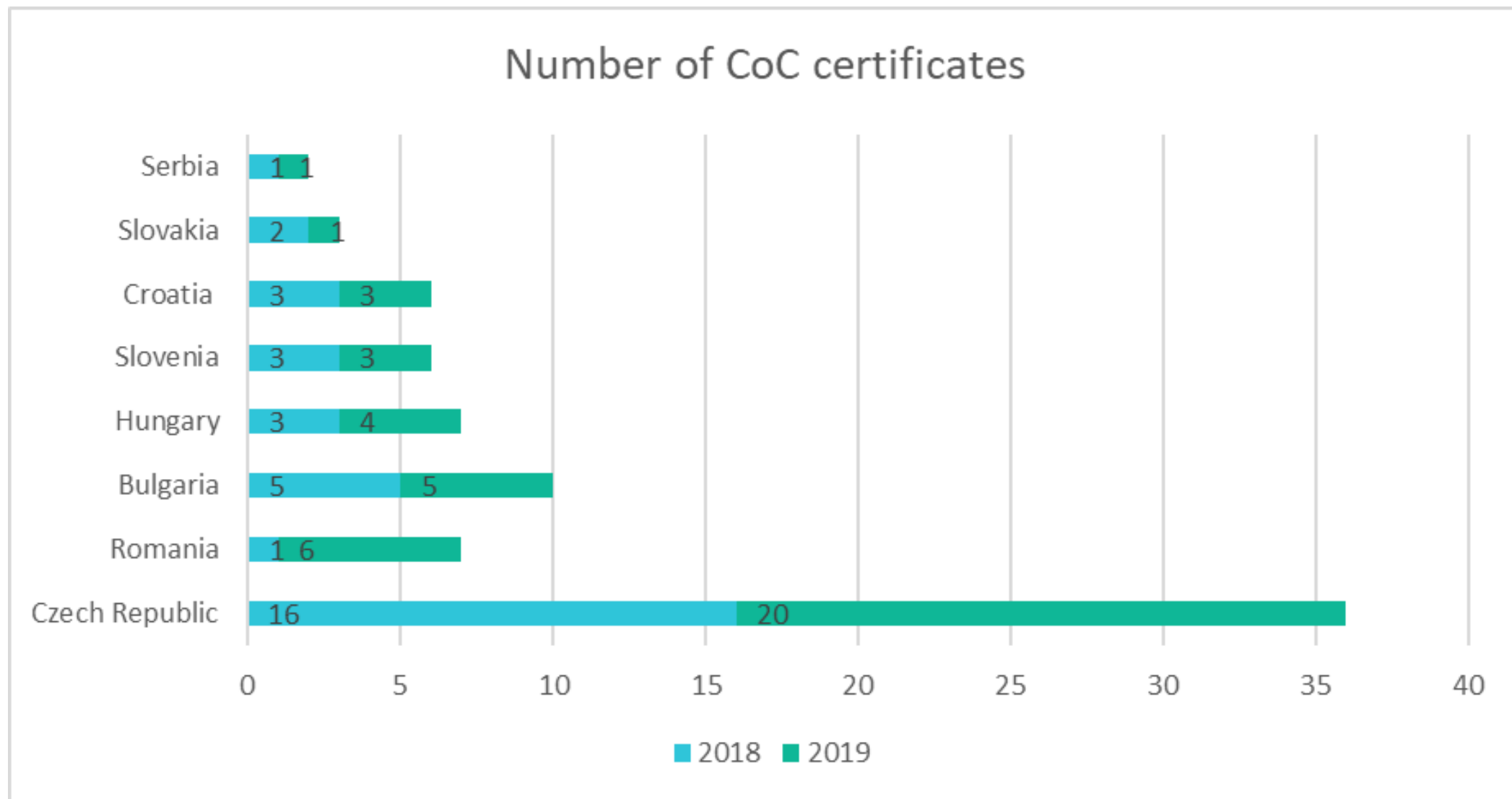


- The first CoC certificate was first issued in **February 2000**
- **4,500** CoC certificate holders
- **362** certified fisheries
- **100** countries with valid CoC certificate holders

Growth of CoC certificate



- **112** CoC Certificates In total
- **104** Single Site Certificates
- **7** Multisite Certificates
- **1** CFO Certificate
- **0** Group Certificates

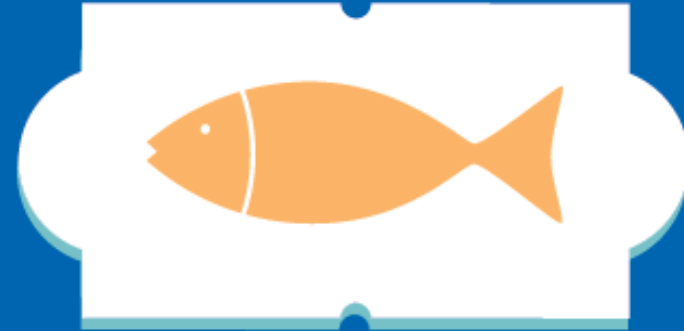


Why is Chain of Custody important?



99.6%

of the 256 MSC labelled products
we tested were correctly labelled



30%

of seafood is mislabelled
globally, on average

The testing sampled 256 unique products and 13 species of fish, sourced from
retailers across 16 countries

Who needs CoC and how does it work?



Who requires CoC?



- In some cases the MSC certified fishery, in any case the first buyer of a certified fishery
- Every company handling certified seafood within the supply chain (own CoC or as subcontractor)
- Every legal owner of certified seafood within the supply chain
- Up to Consumer-Ready-Tamper-Proof-Packaging (CRTPP)

When is CoC not needed?

- Companies buying pre-packed, labelled certified products ultimately sold to end consumer without being opened, re-packed or re-labelled → CRTPP
- Companies that don't wish to sell product as certified
- Companies that do not take legal ownership of certified product

Chain of custody certification process



MSC find a supplier
[msc.org/suppliers](https://www.msc.org/suppliers)

The MSC and ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) have partnered to share the MSC Chain of Custody Standard. This means companies can have one certification audit that covers both MSC and ASC product.



Choose a
certification body
(step 1)



Prepare for
the audit
(step 2)



Complete
the audit
(step 3)



Receive certificate
and code
(step 4)



Use the MSC
ecolabel
(step 5)

Find an accredited
certification body
[msc.org/cabs](https://www.msc.org/cabs)

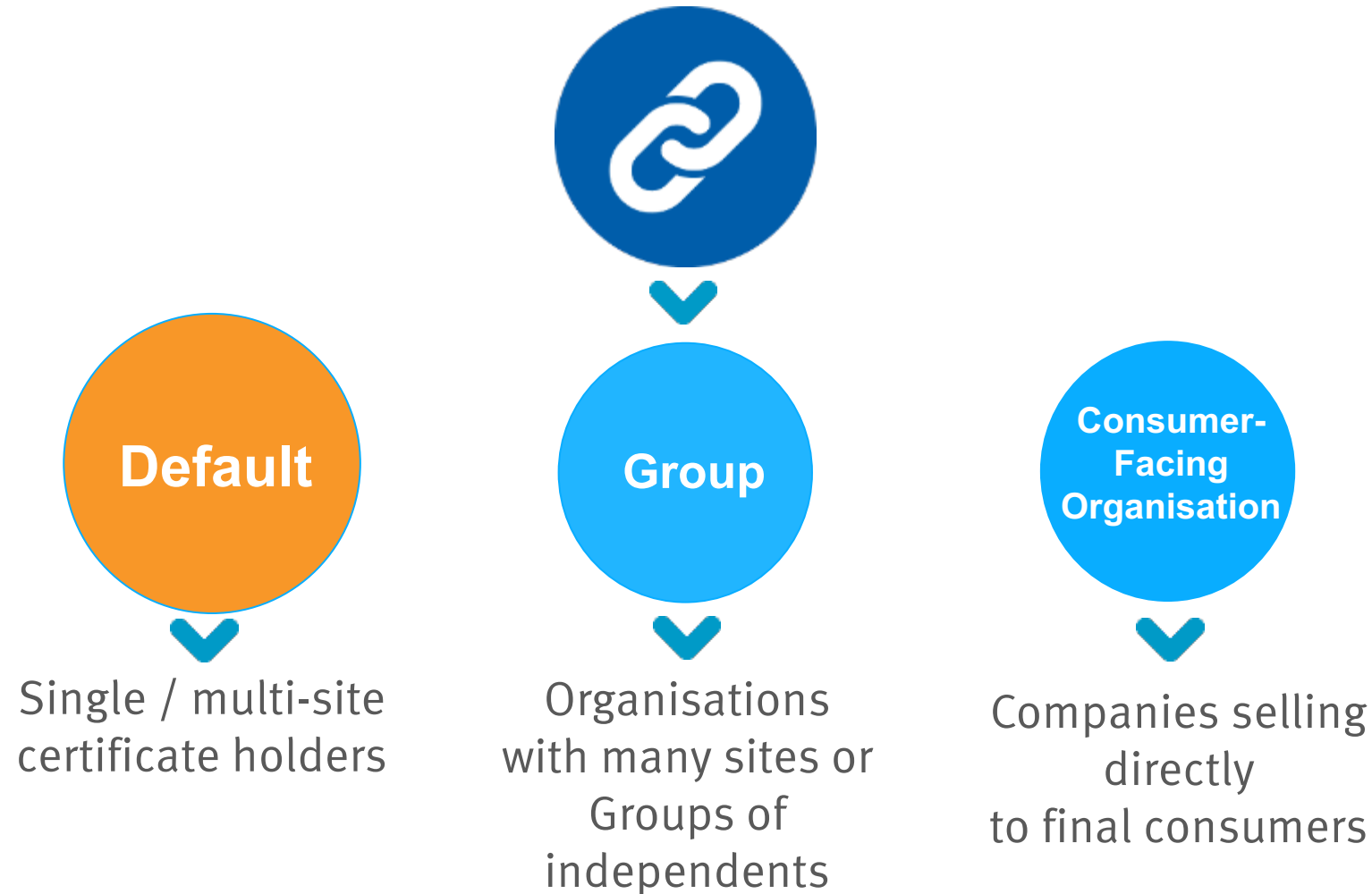
Use MSC Get Certified Guide
[msc.org/documents/get-certified](https://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified)

Access
[msc.org/suppliers](https://www.msc.org/suppliers)

The MSC Chain of Custody program documents



CoC Standard



Other Requirements

- CoC Certification Requirements
- General Certification Requirements
- Vocabulary
- Audit Checklists

The Chain of Custody Standard: Five core principles



Principle 1



Companies must purchase certified product from a certified supplier

Principle 2



Certified products are clearly identifiable

Principle 3



Certified products are separated from non-certified

Principle 4



Certified products are traceable and volumes are recorded

Principle 5



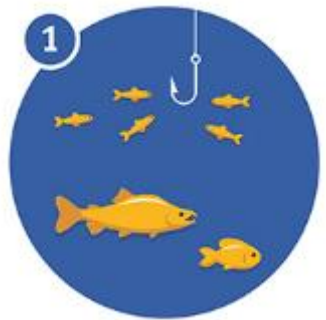
The company's management system addresses the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard

The new Chain of Custody Standard aims to ensure:

- Certification requirements are effective and consistently applied
- The certification process is more efficient
- Access to the MSC program is improved
- The Standard is aligned with industry trends



How we develop our Standards?



Identify
areas for
improvement



Research
and develop
solutions



Consult with
stakeholders
to gather
and consider
their
feedback



Be guided
and
informed by
the MSC
Technical
Advisory
Board and
Stakeholder
Advisory
Council



The MSC
Board of
Trustees
makes the
final
decision on
changes



Evaluate the
changes to
make sure
they have
the intended
outcome

When do the changes become effective?

The new CoC Standards were released.

28 March 2019

28 September 2019

The new CoC Standards come into effect
six months after their publication.



CoC 2019 release – What has changed?

- New labour requirements for Chain of Custody (CoC) companies
- Default CoC Standard v5.0 – new requirements and guidance to ensure product integrity
- CFO CoC Standard v2.0 – greater oversight on company's growth and auditing them
- Group CoC Standard v2.0 – improved efficiencies and accessibility
- CoC Certification Requirements v3.0
- General Certification Requirements v2.4

Changes to the Default Standard v5.0



1. Verifying products come from certified sources – *CoC Standard Principle 1*

- Always check certified status of suppliers on [msc.org/suppliers](https://www.msc.org/suppliers) or asc-aqua.org.
- Websites more reliable than paper certificates, which may be cancelled, suspended or withdrawn before expiring

Buying directly from certified fisheries/farms always check:

- The Public Certification Report on fisheries.msc.org or asc-aqua.org looking for the Traceability section
- Does the fishery/farm need CoC, what is the Unit of Certification?
- When buying directly from an ASC farm, you might check for use of antibiotics
 - ASC prohibits use of antibiotics, product would be non-conforming!



2. Correct labelling of species and origin – CoC Standard Principle 2

- Origin, catch area or species labelling needs to be aligned with the relevant legislation
- Auditors will check this, and where there is any evidence of mislabelling, this can be raised as a non-conformity



3. Effective record keeping & product sampling – CoC Standard Principle 5

- Subcontracted transport companies will need to be able to provide access to records or products on request
- The time for companies to provide traceability records to the MSC or designated agents reduced to 5 days
- In addition to MSC, Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) has been clarified as a designated agent



4. Effective system and management – *CoC Standard Principle 5*

Handling under-assessment product

- Prior written approval from your certification body
- ‘Under-assessment’ products are eligible to be sold as certified only once the fishery or farm is certified
- Only organisations that are part of a fishery client group, or the same legal owner as a farm being audited can handle under-assessment product



Changes to the CoC and General Certification Requirements



Highest impact changes

- CAB to check license status prior to audit
- CAB to investigate client outside of audit schedule based on MSC evidence. CAB required to respond within 5 days
- Immediate non-conformities after failure to provide traceback records
- Adding a new site within default multisite and suspension for default multisite can be in isolation



New requirements on forced & child labour



New requirements on forced & child labour



Objective: Mitigate the risk that certified organisations and their subcontractors use forced or child labour, to provide greater assurance that certified product is not associated with egregious labour violations.

Requirement: Organisations must complete a labour audit against a recognised third-party labour audit program, unless they are lower risk according to selected internationally recognised indicators.

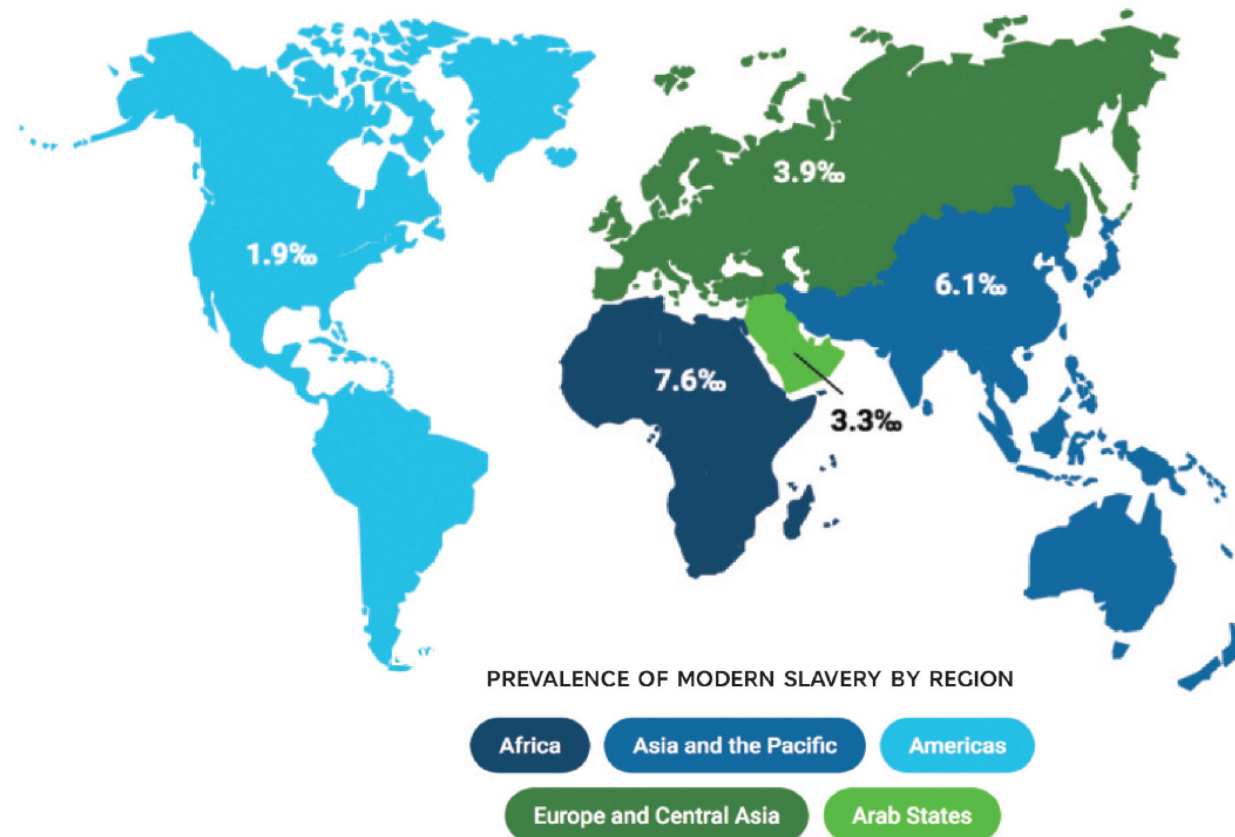
Recognised programs: amfori BSCI, SA8000, SEDEX SMETA, Consumer Goods Forum's SSCI-recognised schemes



Impact on Eastern Europe & Poland



- Poland an Eastern European countries currently lower risk
- No labour audits required
- Check if sites or subcontractors fall into Standard Risk country



Source: Global estimates of modern slavery (2016), ILO

Supporting Materials for the new CoC Requirements



Get Ce
Your guide to the MS
certification process
Chain of Custody Standard: Default V
For single or multi-site organisations tra
processor with several factory locations.

THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE IN SEAFOOD

Marine Stewardship Council Chain of Custody program

Pre-audit checklist for single and multi-site organisations (Version 2.0)

About this checklist

The pre-audit checklist allows you to determine how much of the **MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard: Default Version** your organisation currently meets and where you will need to make adjust your operations before the certification audit to ensure full compliance. This checklist can also be used if you are handling ASC certified products. Please check that your organisation meets the eligibility criteria for this Standard – the criteria can be found in the preface of the [CoC Default Standard](#) and in the [Get Certified! Your guide to the MSC and ASC Chain of Custody certification process](#).

Disclaimer: This checklist is intended as guidance only. Following this document is not a fully comprehensive way of preparing for an audit against the MSC Standard. The MSC recommends that all organisations read the MSC Chain of Custody Standard: Default Version 5.0 in full and evaluate the procedures specific to your organisation. This checklist and its content are copyright of Marine Stewardship Council – © Marine Stewardship Council 2019. All rights reserved. The official language of this checklist is English. The definitive version is maintained on the MSC's website www.msc.org. Any discrepancy between copies, version or translations shall be resolved by reference to the definitive English version and the English MSC scheme documents. If you are unsure on any subject covered, or would like to provide feedback on how we can improve this tool, please contact the MSC at standards@msc.org

Table 1: The MSC Pre-Audit Checklist

Requirement	What to do?	Does my organisation meet this already?		What changes need to be made?
		Yes	No	
Principle 1: Certified products are purchased from certified suppliers				
1.1 A process to ensure that all	Check which of your suppliers are Chain of Custody			



Questions?





Thank you!

Together we build a
responsible,
competitive & credible market
for sustainable seafood.

For more information, please contact:

supplychain@msc.org

