



Global Sustainable
Seafood Galicia Forum

2023 Edition

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Galicia, a leading region in fishing, aquaculture and the processing of fishery products, hosted the first Global Sustainable Seafood Galicia Forum (GSSG) in April 2023.

GSSG Forum aspires to establish Galicia and Spain as an international reference in the sustainability dialogue, attracting and bringing together organizations, institutions, and professionals dedicated to the sustainable future of seafood products.

The first GSSG forum was hosted at the Afundación headquarters in the city of Vigo and attracted over 300 attendees.

Twenty-one experts from the seafood sector gathered to share their knowledge and insights, and discuss the **sustainability and traceability** of seafood, the sector's role in achieving the **UN 2030 Agenda**, and **sustainable finance**.

21 → **+300** → **15**
Speakers Attendees Sessions

Speakers ↘

Nada Bougouss

Fishery Officer FAO

Eva Mudde

SDG Impact Manager GSSI

Julio Morón

Managing Director OPAGAC and AGAC

Mike Kraft

Executive Director FISH Standard for Crew

Eva Van Heukelom

Partnership Manager GSSI

Jennifer D. Kemmerly

Vice President, Global Ocean Conservation

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Eduardo Míguez

Deputy Director of Puerto de Celeiro

Greg Brown

Executive Director GDST

Leone Lubrano

Solutions engineer IBM Sustainability Software

David Vivas

Chief of Section a.i., Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch UNCTAD

Katarina Sipic

Secretary General AIPCE CEP

Robert Blasiak

Associate professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre

Gumersindo Feijoo

Vice-chancellor's office for Digital Transformation and Innovation USC

Nuno Cosme

Corporate Director of Sustainability Nueva Pescanova Group

Javier Garat

Secretary general CEPESCA and President Europeche & ICFA

Marcelo Hidalgo

Founder & Director Seafoodmatter

Miguel Arroyo

Environment Manager UN Global Compact

Carlos López Jall

CFO Nueva Pescanova Group

Flavio Corsin

Director Partnerships Aqua-Spark

Javier Fraga

Director Abanca Mar

Regina Pallá

Deputy Director of Sustainability COFIDES



Conclusions ↘ 2023

- Collaboration, open dialogue, and transparency are essential on the path for achieving sustainable seafood products.
- Aquatic food ecosystems create jobs and income for local communities, enhancing their resilience. Over 600 million people worldwide rely on these ecosystems.
- Preserving marine ecosystems and their diversity is essential to meet the increasing consumer demand. Notably, fisheries management has improved, with 82% of landed species being sustainably sourced, according to the FAO SOFIA 2022 report.
- The blue transformation aims to ensure a sustainable seafood supply while prioritizing environmental sustainability, where people and the planet must be at its core. This transformation needs to focus on science, collaboration, dialogue, and the collective efforts of the entire sector, in an equitable, inclusive, and resilient manner.
- Sector representatives expressed their dedication to environmental responsibility and fair labour practices within fishing fleets, highlighting the priority of the people of the sea “over the fish”.
- Gathering data and leveraging technology are crucial for achieving traceability, which supports food safety, legality, and sustainability. This approach enhances transparency and credibility within the sector.
- Through fishing and aquaculture, the seafood sector supports the 2030 Agenda by ensuring global nutrition and combating hunger, aligning with SDG 2: Zero Hunger.
- Efficiency and renewable energies will play a vital role in achieving the goals of SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), especially in a sector that currently contributes to less than 1% of carbon emissions.
- Collaborative public-private alliances between institutions and industry are essential for advancing sustainability goals (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals).
- Responsible ocean management should be grounded in scientific research, responsible sector leadership, and inclusive dialogue that engages all stakeholders.
- Transferring academic knowledge to society for a more sustainable management demands time and resources. Experience indicates that dissemination is more effective when dialogue and collaboration among all parties are enhanced.
- The challenge of conserving biodiversity while feeding the population must be balanced with the needs of people and profitability. Without economic sustainability, there is no future.
- The Seafood MAP collaborative project provides a verified platform to share and promote best practices within the sector and its management.
- To achieve the sustainability objectives, one must be ambitious.
- Transparency and dialogue are essential between the financial and productive sectors. The financial sector should be seen and act as a promoter and verifier of sustainability, supporting the productive sector. Meanwhile, the productive sector needs to develop sustainable products and projects to secure financing.
- To achieve a healthy and productive ocean by 2030, the sector must integrate sustainability into its business strategy, providing sustainable and traceable products.

“Let us be ambitious and work together in open dialogue as we move forward on the path to sustainability”.

The logo for GSSG (Global Sustainable Seafood Group) is displayed in a large, white, stylized font against a background of blue water with ripples and small fish. The letters are bold and interconnected, with the 'S's being particularly prominent.