



GSA has appointed Mike Kocsis as its new CEO. Photo: GSA

## Global Seafood Alliance names new CEO

Industry veteran promoted to top role at seafood certification group.

9 April 2024 17:37 GMT *UPDATED* 9 April 2024 18:22 GMT

By [John Fiorillo](#) 

The Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) has named a new CEO to replace longtime leader Wally Stevens.

The seafood certification group said Tuesday Mike Kocsis will take over as CEO.

Kocsis, who has extensive seafood industry experience spanning two decades, joined the organization in April 2022 as chief systems officer to oversee certification operations and information technology and was most recently promoted to chief strategy officer last August.

Kocsis' career includes leadership roles at leading seafood brands such as High Liner Foods, King & Prince Seafood and Gorton's Seafood.

In 2016, while serving as vice president of aquaculture procurement at High Liner Foods, he was recognized on [IntraFish's 40 Under 40 list of upcoming leaders](#).

Stevens, according to GSA, will assist in Kocsis' transition into the CEO role and remain a member of the GSA board of directors and GSA executive committee, the group said.

Stevens, who has been involved with GSA for 17 years, has been acting CEO [since the departure of Brian Perkins in March 2023](#).

Perkins was named CEO of the group in December of 2021, after Stevens announced his retirement from the CEO role.

The transition to a new CEO comes at a time when the effectiveness of certification schemes are being questioned in terms of their ability to prevent forced labor and other human rights abuses in the the global seafood supply chain.

In March, rival certification program the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) announced it was ceasing operations in China. The move followed a report earlier in the year from the nonprofit Outlaw Ocean Project detailing humans rights abuses tied to China seafood supplies.

Products from companies involved were being sold by leading US wholesalers and retailers, the report found.

GSA, which has been active far longer in China, and certifies dozens of farms across multiple species, said it remains committed to all its regions.

"When you disengage from a problem you cede your position to help solve it," Stevens wrote in a company newsletter. "GSA will not abandon its vision or its responsibilities in any area of the world where this kind of work is sorely needed simply because the challenge is too great."

The certification groups were also forced in March to address allegations that India's shrimp industry is [mistreating workers and violating quality standards](#).

Three separate reports published by US-based media and nonprofit groups claimed the GSA's Best Aquaculture Practice's (BAP) certification scheme, as well as the ASC's certification scheme, were routinely breached by Indian exporters.

The Corporate Accountability Lab, a [nonprofit group and authors of one of the reports](#), said that while the standards were "laudable," they were regularly violated and in practice functioned "as little more than marketing ploys that fail to protect workers or the environment."

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