



A report authored by the Corporate Accountability Lab earlier this year was critical of the two leading certification schemes for the shrimp industry: the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) and the Global Seafood Alliance's Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP). Photo: BAP

Certification group considering changes as Indian shrimp investigation rolls on

Many of India's facilities and farms accused of labor violations in recent investigations hold seafood certifications.

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By [Rachel Sapin](#) 

Seafood certification body the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) said Tuesday no conclusions can be drawn yet from its internal investigation of allegations that its certified Indian shrimp processors have mistreated workers or routinely violated food safety standards.

"The ongoing investigation is currently focused on a small group of shrimp facilities, and no final conclusions can be shared at this time," the GSA said on Tuesday.

The certification group and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) were 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 program, were routinely breached by Indian exporters.

A representative from the GSA's program integrity department recently traveled to India to collect evidence "using internal sources and existing audit data, as well as aggregating and analyzing all evidence and findings from the external investigations," the GSA said.

The group said it is assessing potential improvements such as how best to incorporate genuine worker input into the BAP program, reviewing the way in which its status claims are evaluated in relation to metric tonnage, and potentially changing reporting requirements onsite.

It is also looking at ways to collaborate with organizations to help improve the overall audit process.

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." (Copyright)



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