Sustainability







More than 70 groups are criticizing the body over the latest version of its salmon standard.



BAP logo on package of farmed salmon. New BAP logo. (Photo: BAP/GAA)

chemicals and water quality.

the letter.

**Dominic Welling** Correspondent Published 8 May 2024, 19:11

> More than 70 environmental, animal welfare, and community groups are criticizing certification group Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) for "greenwashing" the salmon farming industry with the latest version of its Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) standard.

In an open letter to the GSA's new CEO, Mike Kocsis, the groups accused

the organization of certifying farms and facilities linked with illegal activity and environmental damage. The 76 groups, based in 18 different countries, criticized the new

"Instead, the standard relies on farms meeting their minimal legal obligations and following business as usual practices," the groups state in

standard for failing to limit the impact of issues such as sea lice, disease,

Devan Meserve, vice president of marketing and communications at Global Seafood Alliance, defended the new standard in a statement emailed to IntraFish, noting that the BAP salmon farming standard was developed with an experienced technical committee and approved by a

standards oversight committee made up of representatives from

academia, the NGO community and industry experts.

Meserve said the standard, officially called the BAP Salmon Farm Standard Issue 3.0, included more comprehensive guidelines for farmers, including "significant changes" to social responsibility rules and interactions with predators and other wildlife.

received will be considered for inclusion in the final draft, and publicly available on the BAP website, Meserve added. The NGOs' letter follows recent exposes by the *Associated Press*, the

The comment period for the standard closed May 5. All comments

facilities in the Indian shrimp supply chain. The Corporate Accountability Lab said in it report 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."

forced labor, child labor and worker exploitation in some BAP-certified

Outlaw Ocean Project and Corporate Accountability Lab that alleged

In April, the GSA said no conclusions had been drawn from its internal investigation of the allegations.

The GSA said it was assessing potential improvements such as how best

to incorporate genuine worker input into the BAP program, reviewing

the way in which its claims are evaluated, and potentially changing reporting requirements onsite. It also said it is looking at ways to collaborate with organizations to help improve the overall audit process.

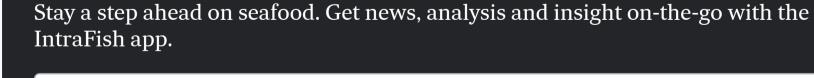
The GSA and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), which was also criticized in the investigations, remain critical components of retail and foodservice operators' purchasing strategy.

stop the green-washing, and do their own environmental and human rights due diligence on their seafood supply chains." (Copyright)

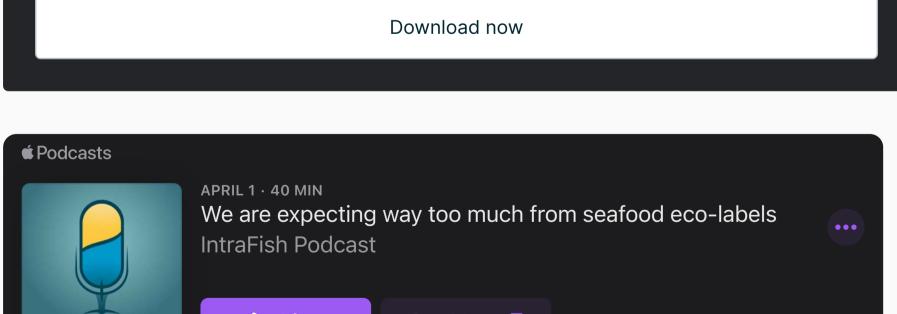
Dana Cleaveley, a market analyst with SeaChoice, one of the NGOs

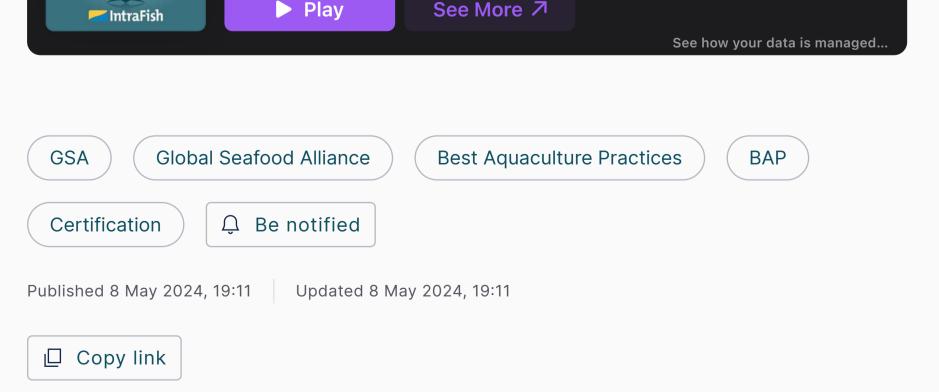
mounting the opposition to the latest salmon standard, said in a press

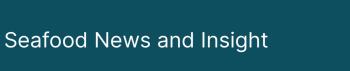
release that retailers "must quit relying on these flawed certifications,



**Download the IntraFish app** 







**IntraFish** 

delivering news at speed and explaining why it matters – unrivalled intelligence

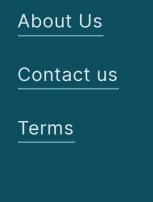
to help you thrive within a rapidly changing global industry. Editor-in-Chief

IntraFish supplies the breaking news and insight to inform better business

global team of experts are focused on the needs of industry professionals,

decisions throughout the value chain, from the sea to the supermarket shelf. Our

**Robin Paxton** 



Information

Advertise

FAQ Privacy policy Cookies

Privacy

**Follow** 

**Facebook** 

us