



# VOLUNTARY LABELLING, CERTIFICATION & STRATEGIC POSITIONING

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Presenter: Francis Murray, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, UK



UNIVERSITY of  
**STIRLING**



# Institute of Aquaculture

PrimeFish Team & Contributors

Francis Murray, Dimitar Taskov & John Bostock



Institute of  
**Aquaculture**  
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**BE THE DIFFERENCE**

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as an example of pre-competitive sectoral certification strategy
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# 1. Seafood certified sustainability standards

# What are certified sustainability standards?

- Market-based approach to govern negative externalities of business practices
- Here mainly relating to environmental, social (& food safety) standards
- Borne of a legislative vacuum & loss of confidence in nation states internalise non-economic considerations valued by society
- Many types of ownership and certification forms
- But all are (i) voluntary & (ii) adhere to third-party auditing systems
- Framed as consumers directing change through purchasing power? or

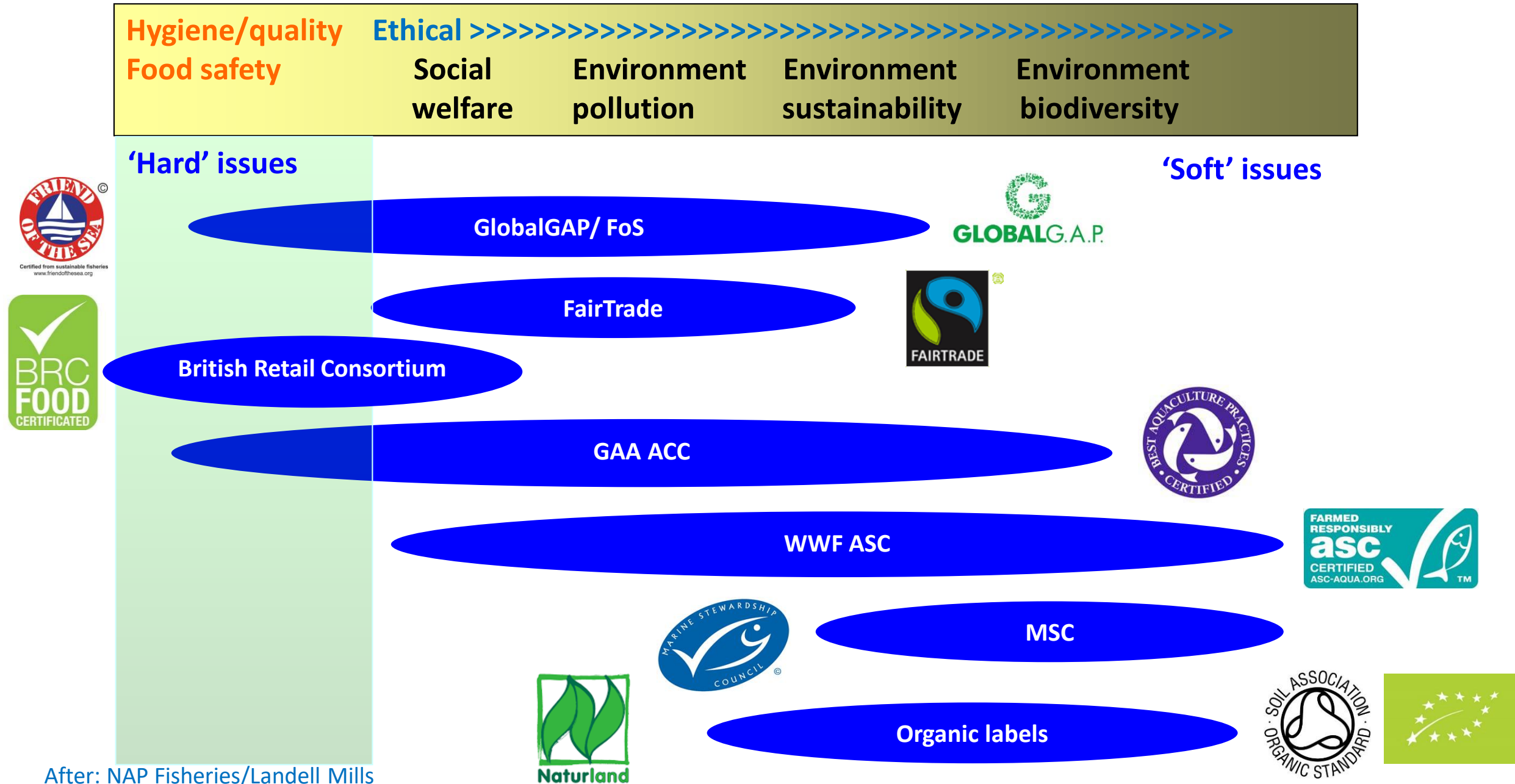
# Why certify?

- Supports ethical consumption & production by integrating social & environmental issues
- Price premium? - limited evidence
- 'Eco-efficiency' improved resource utilisation (growth, feed, escapes etc.)
- Other strategic objectives
  - outsourcing of brand/ reputation risk-management
    - v civil society challenges/ campaigns
    - fragmented value-chains v internal assurance
  - pre-competitive: social licence to operate (GSI example)?
- Limited to companies capable of funding costs? (industry dynamics)

# Who drives demand for 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification?



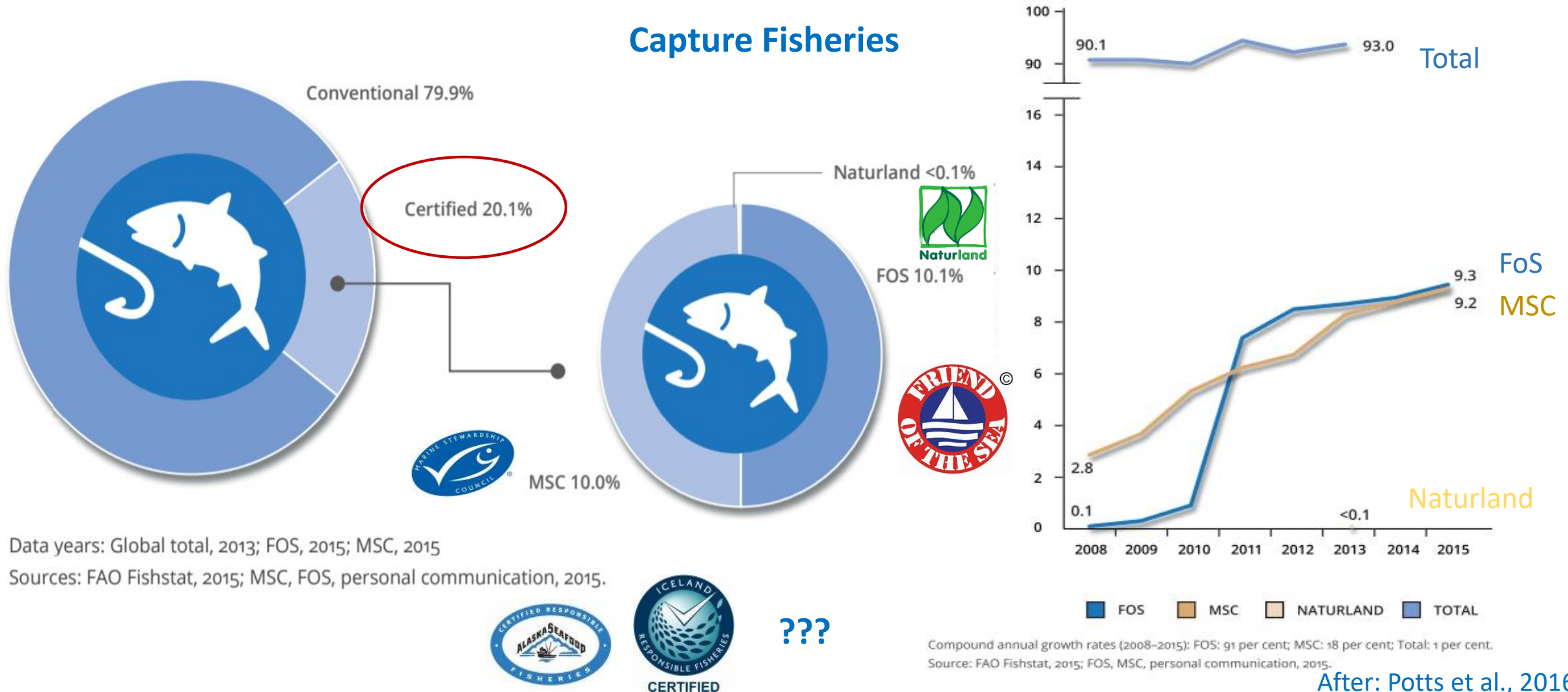
# The seafood ethical labeling spectrum – food safety to organics





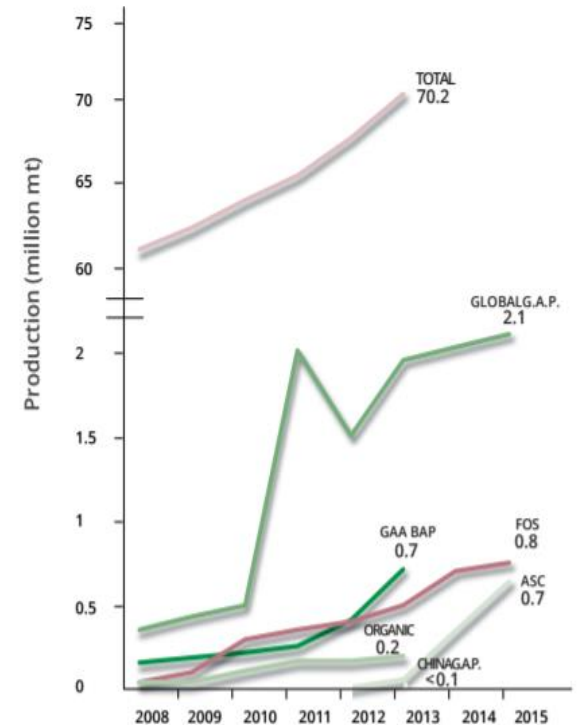
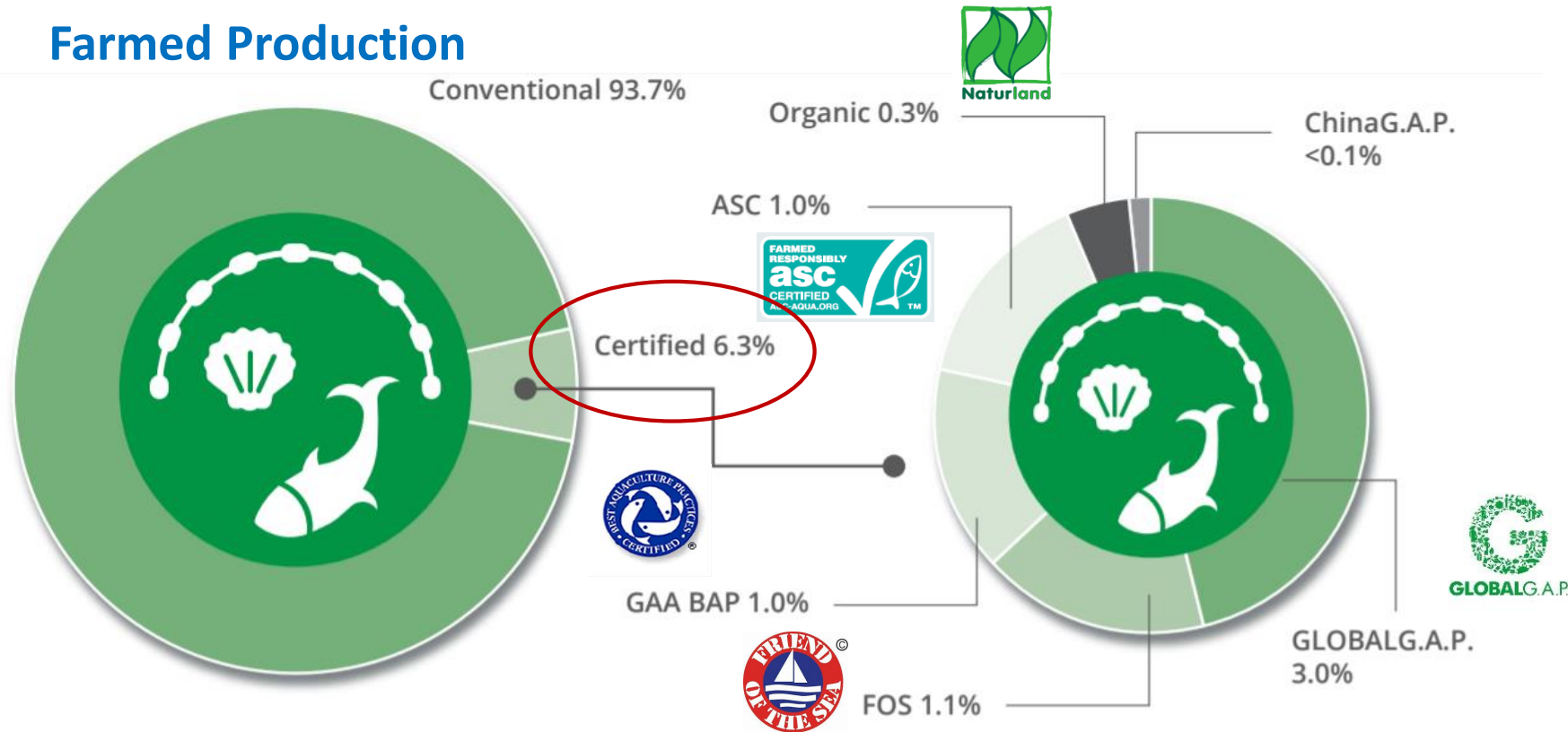
## 2. Adoption Trends

# Certified sustainable fisheries production %volume 2013-15



# Certified sustainable aquaculture production %volume 2013-15

## Farmed Production



Data years: ASC, 2015; BAP, 2013; ChinaG.A.P., 2013; Conventional, 2013; FOS, 2014; GLOBALG.A.P., 2015; Organic, 2013.

Sources: FAO Fishstat, 2015; ASC, BAP, ChinaG.A.P., FOS, GLOBALG.A.P., Organic, personal communication, 2015.

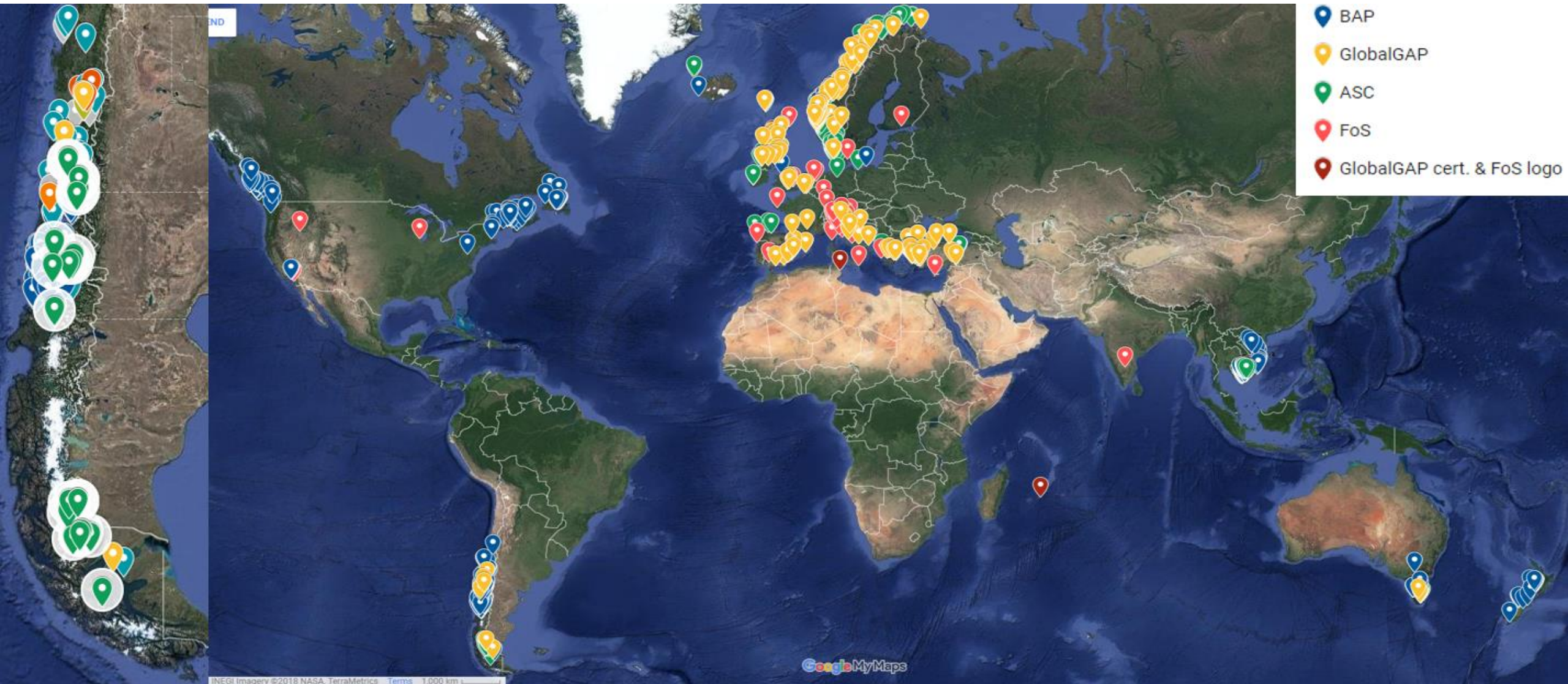
Compound annual growth rates (2008–2015): ASC: 98 per cent; BAP: 35 per cent; GLOBALG.A.P.: 29 per cent; Organic: 35 per cent; Total: 6 per cent. Sources: ASC, BAP, ChinaG.A.P., FIBL, FOS, GLOBALG.A.P., MSC, Naturland, personal communication, 2015.

GlobalGAP, GAA & ASC = 80% of export aquaculture certification globally

After: Potts et al., 2016



# Certified aquaculture entities by standard body Oct 2017 - Primefish Spp.



### 3. 'Taking back control'?

The Global Salmon Initiative (GSI)  
as an example of pre-competitive sectoral  
certification strategy



# When certification fails?

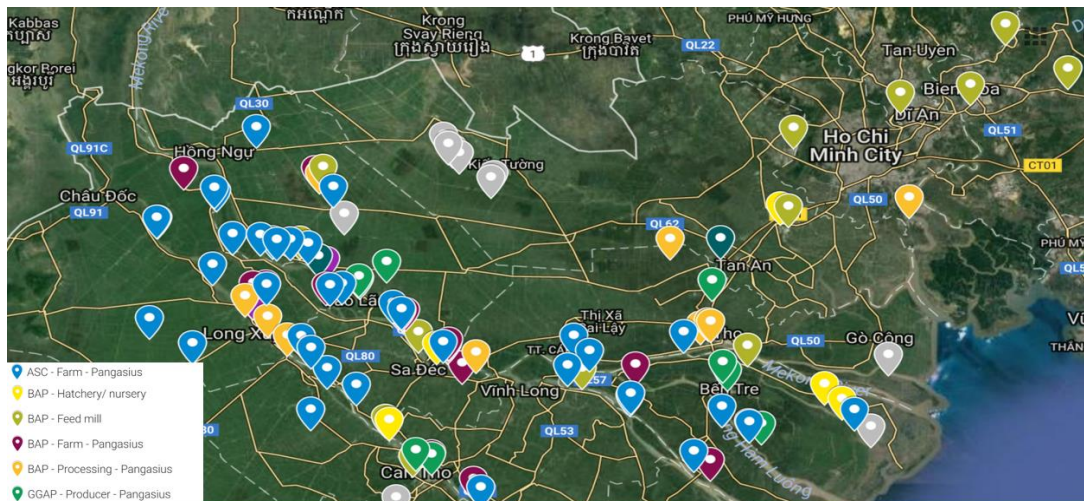
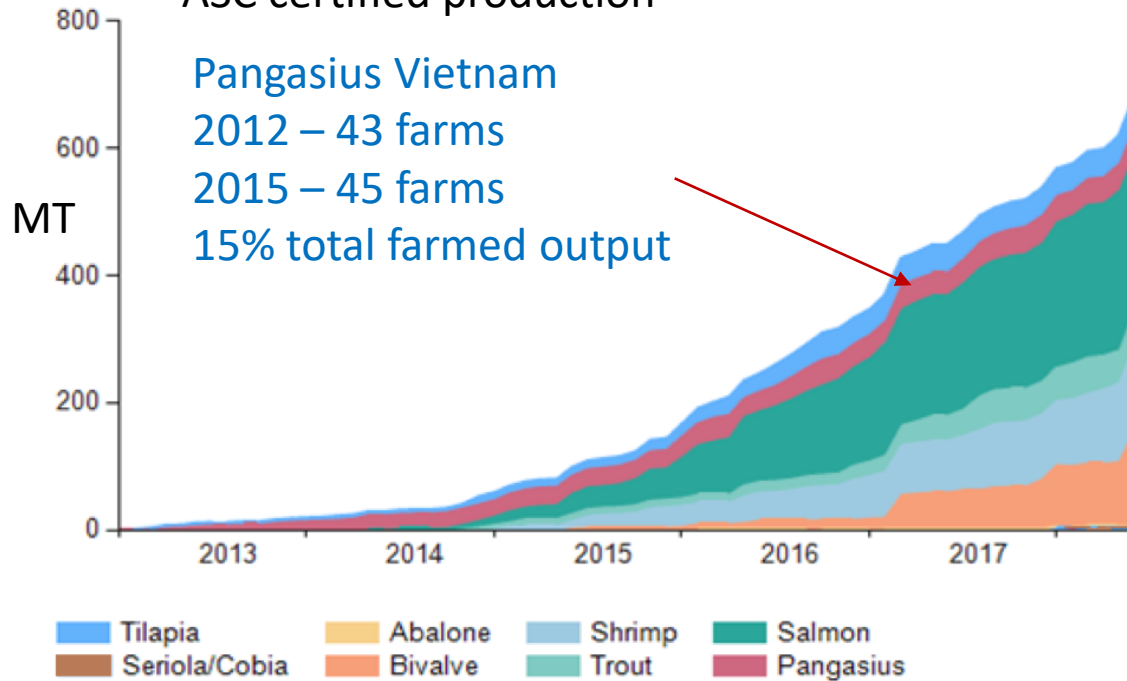
ASC certified production

Pangasius Vietnam

2012 – 43 farms

2015 – 45 farms

15% total farmed output



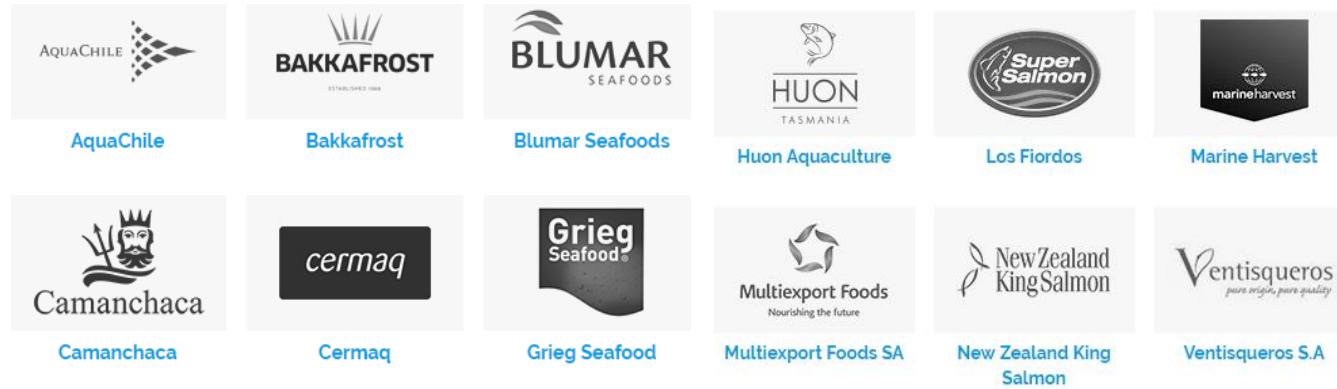
Jan 2017: French retail chain Carrefour stop selling pangasius in Spain, Belgium, Italy & France *citing environmental & food safety concerns!*

# The Global Salmon Initiative (GSI)



- ‘Pre-competitive’ ‘corporate citizenship’ voluntary commitment of global salmon producers in (most) highly consolidated seafood sector:
  - Commitment to 100% ASC certification all farms by 2020
  - Transparency on 18 environmental & social performance indicators
- Key drivers?
  - **social license** for growth ambitions & assoc. site licensing requirements?
  - WWF global eNGO founding role & background support for ASC standards?

# GSI Members (12-24 companies from 2013-2016)



2018:  
17 farmed  
salmon  
companies  
participating  
producing  
>65% of  
global  
volume.

SN	Company	Operational Countries					
1	Marine Harvest	Chile	Norway	Canada	Scotland	Faeroes	Ireland
2	Cermaq	Chile	Norway	Canada			
3	Grieg Seafood		Norway	Canada	Scotland		
4	Aquachile	Chile					
5	Blumar	Chile					
6	Camanchaca	Chile					
7	Los Fjordos	Chile					
8	Multiexport Foods	Chile					
9	Ventisqueros	Chile					
10	Bakkafrost					Faeroes	
11	Huon						Australia
12	NZ King Salmon						N. Zealand

Associates:

SKRETTING  
a Nutreco company



# 18 Environmental & Social Indicators – accessible from GSI website

Grp	SN	Indicator Description
1	1.1	Fish escapes
2	2.1	Fish mortality
3	3.1	<u>Antibiotic use Index (AUI)</u>
4	4.1	<u>Sea lice counts</u>
5	5.1	Sea lice treatments – in bath
	5.2	Sea lice treatments – in feed
6	6.1	Non-medicinal sea lice treatment methods
7	7.1	Wildlife interactions – Birds
	7.2	Wildlife interactions - Mammals
8	8.1	<u>Use of Marine Ingredients in Feed – Fish Meal</u>
	8.2	<u>Use of Marine Ingredients in Feed – Fish Oil</u>
9	9.1	<i>Certifications &amp; Environmental Licenses</i>
10	10.1	<i>Legal compliance – Fines (USD)</i>
11	11.1	<i>Occupational Health &amp; Safety – Fatalities</i>
	11.2	<i>Occupational Health &amp; Safety – Injury Lost Time</i>
	11.3	<i>Occupational Health &amp; Safety – Absence Rate</i>
12	12	<i>Interactions with the Community</i>
13	13	<i>Direct Labour (FTE Per Year)</i>
14	14	<i>R&amp;D Investment (Website Link)</i>

## Environmental

Fish Escapes

Fish Mortality

Antibiotic Use

Sea Lice Counts

Sea Lice Treatments

Non-Medicinal Methods

Wildlife Interactions

Use of Marine Ingredients in Feed

Certifications & Environmental Licenses

## Social

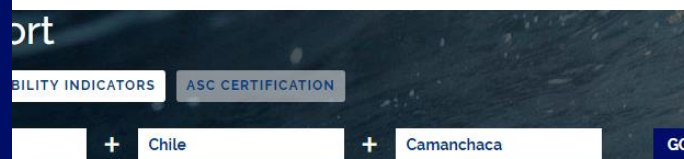
Compliance

Occupational Health and Safety

Interaction with the Community

Direct Labor

R&D Investment



haca in Chile

the use of antibiotics, and we hope to show our progress here via the GSI. We have a responsibility to ensure a sanitary environment, and protect the health and safety of our employees. At times, this means we have to use antibiotics to ensure the health of our fish, and to fight off illness. We only ever use antibiotics following the direction of a veterinarian, and they are only used under close instruction from certified fish health professionals.

Number of treatments over entire production cycle.

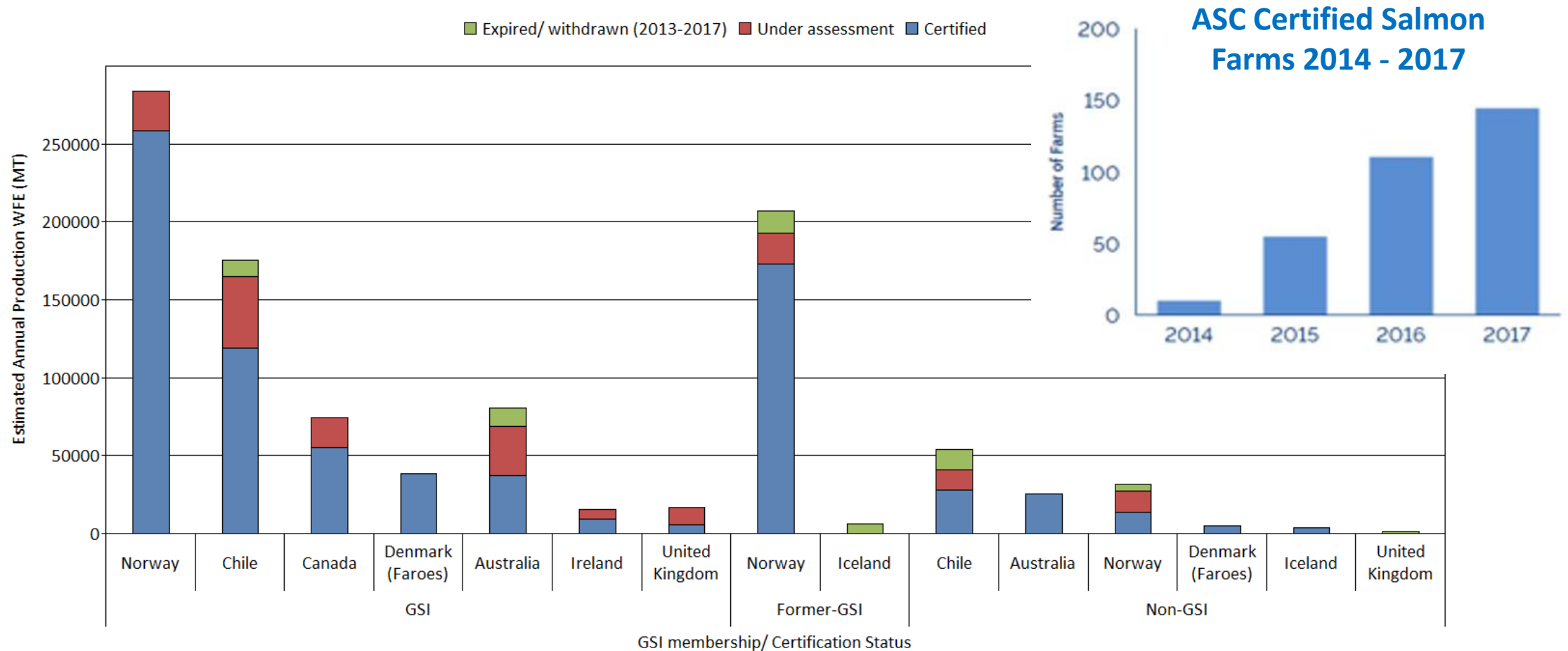


This figure has been calculated as a company average for the species farmed in this region.

Due to differences in regional treatment regulations and practices, inter-regional comparisons of antibiotic use should be avoided. The Sustainability Report can however be used to track company progress over time.



# Est. output (WFE mt/yr) of ASC certified marine salmonid cage sites by GSI membership, country & certification status





## 4. Summary & recommendations

- Most certification schemes do not guarantee a price-premium; but as minimum guarantee continued access to certification-centric market segments
- **GSI**: example of salmon industry re-asserting control of certification to achieve strategic sectoral precompetitive objectives.
  - Primary driver: social license for marine-site licensing & future growth
- **Sustainable Shrimp Partnership (SSP)**: Ecuadorian shrimp producers adopting similar approach
  - leveraging benefits of national antibiotic-free farming status
- Strategic lessons for
  - (i) companies in 'concentrating' sectors e.g. seabass & bream
  - (ii) emergent (national) schemes e.g. VietGAP, Icelandic & Alaskan Responsible Fisheries
- Collaborating producers need to take leading role & ownership