



SBTN Ocean Methods V1.0: Overview for Decision Makers

Purpose and scope: The [Ocean methods](#) represent the third step in a comprehensive, five-step process developed by SBTN. Companies must first assess (Step 1) and prioritize (Step 2) their environmental impacts using SBTN's methods before proceeding to Step 3 (Ocean, Land, and Freshwater targets) to set science-based targets for nature in the ocean. V1.0 Ocean methods have an initial focus on seafood value chains, covering pressures related to commercial fishing and aquaculture.

The Ocean methods define three types of science-based targets that companies can set in the seafood sector. Each target has a series of different pathways that allow for multiple approaches to target-setting, depending on a company's context:

1. Avoid and Reduce Overexploitation
2. Protect Structural Habitats
3. Reduce Risks to Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Marine Wildlife Populations.

Expression of interest: SBTN is now inviting companies to [register their interest](#) in setting seafood science-based targets. Responses will help SBTN understand corporate demand and determine resources.

Benefits for companies:

- **Reduced business risk:** proactively reduce risks from overexploitation and habitat loss in seafood supply chains; identify stock sustainability issues earlier by leveraging the best available science.
- **Improved accountability and leadership:** drive meaningful environmental and social improvement across the full seafood value chain; enhance your corporate disclosure and regulatory alignment through SBTN's rigorous framework.
- **Scaled positive impact:** take action where it is needed the most across seafood portfolios, reflecting local needs; standardized approach facilitates pre-competitive collaboration with other leading companies.
- **Enhanced rigor and credibility:** SBTN's rigorous methods and independent validation procedure ensure credibility of targets; integrate your risks across land, freshwater, and ocean in one consistent target-setting approach.

Method development: The V1.0 Ocean methods have been developed by the SBTN Ocean Hub. WWF and Conservation International (CI) co-lead the Ocean Hub, and are supported by the steering committee that comprises The Nature Conservancy, FishWise, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, UNEP Finance Initiative, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). The Ocean Hub work has been funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Walton Family Foundation.

The Ocean methods have undergone a multi-stakeholder consultation process with companies and consultancies, the scientific community, and civil society. The methods and tools were tested for feasibility during a four month long pilot in 2024, and a [public consultation](#) on the draft guidance was open from September 10 to November 12 2024.