



# SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK

## GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE

### SBTN Launches First Ocean Science-Based Targets for Seafood

- **Science Based Targets Network launches the first-ever ocean science-based targets, starting with the seafood sector**, completing its initial suite of science-based targets for nature across freshwater, land, and ocean.
- **These targets provide a globally recognized, standardized framework** to help companies move beyond traditional sustainability commitments, scale their action, and build more resilient seafood supply chains.
- **Developed under the leadership of World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International**, the targets help companies address key drivers of ocean degradation - including habitat and biodiversity loss and overexploitation of fish stocks; strengthening both marine ecosystems and long-term business viability.

**MARCH 18, 2025** – The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) has launched the first-ever ocean science-based targets, starting with seafood, at the Seafood Expo North America. This milestone completes SBTN's initial suite of science-based targets for nature - providing companies with a clear framework for environmental action across freshwater, land, and now ocean.

### Why Ocean Science-Based Targets Matter

The ocean is the planet's largest carbon sink and a vital buffer against climate change, producing most of the world's oxygen and absorbing vast amounts of carbon dioxide. Yet, ocean ecosystems are under immense pressure - overfishing and habitat destruction from seafood production are among the leading causes of ocean degradation. Without urgent action, the stability of marine ecosystems and global seafood supply chains is at risk - and further weakening the ocean's ability to mitigate climate change.

SBTN's ocean science-based targets set a new benchmark for corporate action across the seafood value chain, helping companies integrate the latest marine science into their business strategies. These targets help companies go beyond traditional sustainability commitments to tackle habitat loss, overfishing, and marine biodiversity decline while strengthening long-term supply chain resilience.

*"With the first ocean science-based targets for seafood, companies now have a globally recognized framework to scale action across land, freshwater, and ocean. These targets help companies move beyond incremental change, strengthening marine ecosystems, supply*



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*chain resilience, and long-term viability."*

— Erin Billman, Executive Director, Science Based Targets Network

### **Building on Existing Corporate Sustainability Efforts**

The seafood industry has made progress in sustainability through certifications, corporate targets, and responsible sourcing commitments. But as environmental pressures intensify and regulations evolve, companies must go further.

Developed under the leadership of World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International, with support from a Steering Committee including the Marine Stewardship Council, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, FishWise, UNEP FI, The Nature Conservancy, and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, these targets can increase the pace and scale of corporate action.

They extend companies' efforts to drive meaningful environmental and social improvement across the full seafood value chain. By taking a more comprehensive approach, companies can move past incremental improvements to support healthy ecosystems and stable fish stocks, ultimately ensuring long-term business and supply chain resilience.

*"The targets provide crucial support for seafood companies looking to future-proof their business, recognizing our dependence on healthy marine ecosystems to thrive now and in the future. Through SBTN's target-setting methods, we mapped our nature impacts—both direct, through our own fish farming, and indirect, through our supply chain—to set meaningful goals for nature-positive action. This ambitious and comprehensive process has driven motivation for change across our business, and we hope to lead a way for others to follow."*

- Thorbjørn Harkamp, Vice Managing Director, Musholm (2024 target piloting company)

By addressing key drivers of ocean degradation, these targets help companies take meaningful action on:

- **Habitat and biodiversity loss**
- **Overexploitation of fish stocks**
- **Threats to marine wildlife**

*"Over the past twenty years, seafood companies that have made meaningful efforts to engage in sustainability commitments have enabled improvements in fishing and farming practices. The SBTN targets provide an additional framework to identify impact across entire seafood portfolios and value chains, providing opportunities to integrate and expand*



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*efforts that translate to change on the water.”*

— Dr. Sarah Glaser, *Senior Director, World Wildlife Fund*

### **A Standardized, Credible Approach for Business & Nature**

The science-based targets provide a standardized, independently validated framework that aligns with voluntary and regulatory reporting requirements. Companies setting these targets can ensure credibility, comparability, and long-term business viability, while helping to restore marine ecosystems.

*"These new science-based targets for the seafood industry give companies the tools to integrate ocean health into their business strategies in a measurable, actionable way. By addressing key drivers of marine biodiversity loss and standardizing impact reduction and restoration efforts, these targets will help companies accelerate change at the pace and scale our ocean urgently needs."*

—Jack Kittinger, PhD, Senior Vice President, Center for Sustainable Lands and Waters, Conservation International

### **Companies Invited to Lead the Way**

Companies across the seafood value chain can now begin using SBTN's methods and are invited to [register their interest](#) to be among the first movers to set seafood science-based targets.

For more information about the first ocean science-based targets for nature, join an [upcoming webinar](#) or visit SBTN's [Ocean Targets page](#).

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#### **PRESS CONTACT**

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#### **ABOUT THE SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK**

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) unites a coalition of global environmental organizations in a civil-society and science-led initiative to equip companies and cities with the guidance they need to stay within an environmentally safe and socially just operating space. SBTN is extending the concept and momentum of the Science Based Targets initiative, which helps companies mitigate their GHG emissions, to address broader environmental issues through science-based targets for nature. The Science Based Targets Network is part of the Global Commons Alliance (GCA), a growing coalition of scientists, philanthropists, businesses and innovators, inspiring new ideas and action to safeguard what's common and precious to us all: the global commons.