



for a living planet

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World Wide Fund For Nature

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WWF-SASSI ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

WWF-SASSI assessments are conducted pursuant to the “Common Wild Capture Fishery Methodology.” This methodology was initially developed under the umbrella of the Seafood Choices Alliance by WWF, the Dutch North Sea Foundation (NSF) and the British Marine Conservation Society (MCS). In order to ensure that the methodology is up to date and globally applicable, it is updated from time to time by fisheries scientists, the North Sea Foundation and WWF fisheries experts from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. This methodology is considered best practice for consumer seafood guides. Strengths of the methodology are that it is transparent and that consumers are presented with consistent advice across both local and imported species that are assessed. This also facilitates fair comparison between countries and allows for the sharing of assessment results across borders.

The Common Wild Capture Fishery Methodology scores a species across three categories, namely (1) stock status, (2) ecological impacts of the fishery in which the species is caught, and (3) the management measures in place for that particular fishery (Figure 1). The aquaculture methodology scores a species across four categories, namely (1) regional production system (and siting), (2) feed, (3) ecological effects, and (4) management. Based on the score received, a species is listed on the SASSI seafood list as Red, which includes species from unsustainable populations as well as species that are illegal to buy or sell in South Africa; Orange, which includes species or fishing/farming methods that have associated ecological reasons for concern; or Green, which includes species that are the most sustainably managed.

The WWF-SASSI list is an on-going, iterative process, with new species being assessed as required. As such, the WWF-SASSI seafood database, assessments, and informational tools will be regularly updated. The international methodology is also reviewed and updated periodically to ensure assessments remain as robust as possible.

While WWF-SA undertakes significant efforts to develop the WWF-SASSI assessments through an objective, transparent and collaborative process, it is important to recognise that WWF-SASSI assessments are desktop reviews of available scientific fisheries information aimed at providing broad-level guidance to consumers and retailers on a particular species per fishing method per country. Further, in order to maintain an orderly process and ensure that assessments are completed timeously, the periods provided for input from third parties will be adhered to. Please note that WWF-SASSI assessments are desktop-based and are not third-party audited, therefore, they should not be confused with eco-labels such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

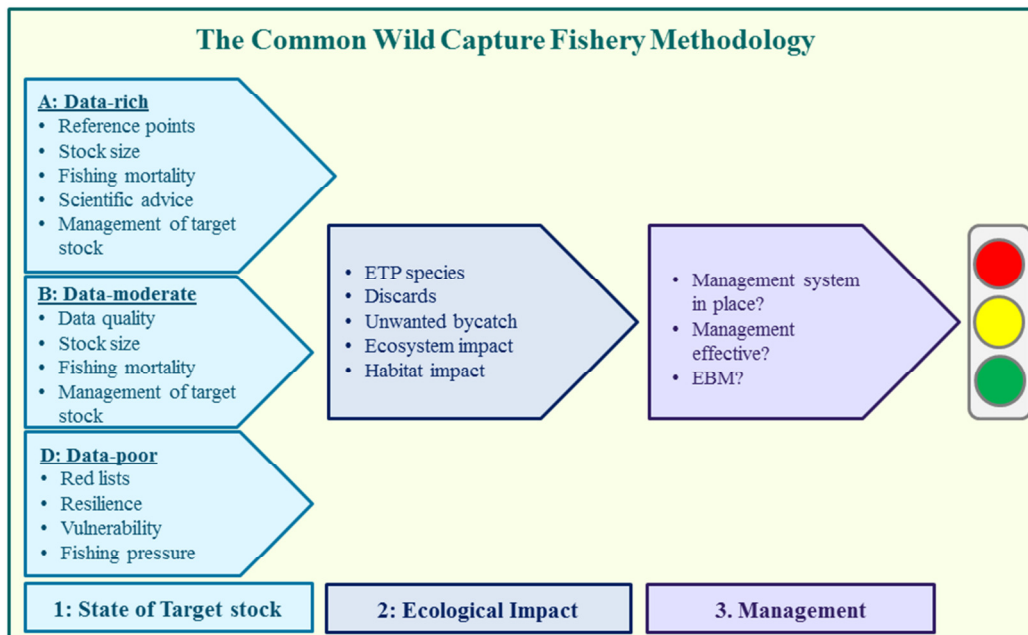


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the Common Wild Capture Fishery Methodology.

WWF-SASSI Assessment Process

Local species:

1. Interested and affected parties shall be notified of the assessment process via the WWF-SASSI website, SANCOR network and WWF-SASSI mailing list. Draft assessments shall be submitted to the relevant Scientific Working Groups at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for their review and input. A four-week period shall be provided for all reviews by Scientific Working Groups and submission of relevant documentation by interested and affected parties.
2. Interested and affected parties shall be notified of the outcome of any draft assessments (anticipated WWF-SASSI listing colour) via the SANCOR network and WWF-SASSI mailing list. This notification will provide for a 30-day period for interested and affected parties to submit comments. Because the WWF-SASSI assessments are based upon scientific documentation, any comments submitted for consideration must be properly substantiated, i.e., supported by published references, such as scientific working group documents or peer-reviewed journal papers.
 - Note: Those wishing to view the draft assessments must complete an official document of motivation to do so, which can be obtained by contacting WWF-SASSI on sassi@wwf.org.za.
3. At WWF-SA's discretion, assessments may be sent out for confidential external review to two expert external reviewers (one stock related expert and one ecological expert) to ensure accuracy across assessments. Any conflicts among external reviewers shall be presented to the external review panel for resolution. Any external reviewers consulted shall have four weeks to conduct their review.



4. An external, expert review panel shall meet over a one- to two-day period after a minimum two-week review period. The external review panel's decision is considered **FINAL**, after which the assessment will be adopted by WWF-SASSI. The external review panel shall receive all significant comments timely received by WWF-SASSI during the assessment process. An agenda shall be created to ensure the external review panel addresses the principle issues. (More information on the purpose and composition of the external review panel is provided below.)
5. Interested and affected parties shall be notified of final assessment outcome via the SANCOR network and the WWF-SASSI mailing list. Finalised assessments will be included into WWF-SASSI materials after at least 60 days.

International species:

1. Interested and affected parties shall be notified of the outcome of any draft assessment (anticipated WWF-SASSI listing colour) via the SANCOR network and WWF-SASSI mailing list. A 30-day comment period for interested and affected parties shall be provided.
2. Interested and affected parties shall be notified of assessment outcomes via the SANCOR network and WWF-SASSI listing mailing list. The final assessment results shall be included into WWF-SASSI materials after at least 60 days.

***The external review panel:**

The external review panel shall be composed of expert scientific staff and not industry personnel (or personnel otherwise largely subject to commercial interests). Thus, the panel should be composed of stock assessment, ecological and management/compliance experts primarily drawn from government and academic sectors.

The external review panel has three principal functions:

- 1) To review a sample of assessments to ensure consistency across assessments,
- 2) Consider the merits of any significant comments received, and
- 3) To review and reach consensus on all assessments where agreement was not reached by individual external reviewers (where consensus is not possible, decisions will be taken by the majority).

The external panel is anticipated to meet once per year over one to two days.