

## Conclusions presented by 'Plos One' are wholly untrue, says MSC

by editor | May 9, 2020 | Latest News



*The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has responded to the conclusions from Plos One paper*

Conclusions presented in the Plos One paper “Small is beautiful, but large is certified” are wholly untrue, says the [Marine Stewardship Council](#).

The MSC) claims a paper published in [Plos One](#), and the associated communications by the French NGO, Bloom are deeply misleading.

The main accusation, that the MSC has used imagery to present a false picture of our work is wholly untrue. The research is based on 399 photographs, across 8 years, primarily from just one of MSC's 18 Facebook accounts. We do not believe this analysis to be a relevant or credible indicator for evaluating a science-based certification programme.

Seafood which carries the blue MSC label comes from fisheries which have been independently scrutinised by experts as meeting internationally recognised standards of best practice in sustainable fishing, no matter where it came from.

The MSC works with and promotes sustainability for all types and sizes of fisheries. This is vital if we are to address the global challenge of overfishing.

The percentage of small-scale fisheries achieving MSC certification is currently around 16%. However, this does not reflect the breadth of the MSC's work to support these fisheries. Given their social, economic and environmental importance, we provide small-scale fisheries with funding, training and tools to help them improve their sustainability. It may take many years for most to achieve certification, but we're focused on the long-term.

Bloom implies that "industrial fishing" is always destructive. This gives an over-simplistic image. The sustainability of a fishery is not determined by its size or fishing gear alone. All fishing gear can have negative impacts on marine biodiversity if poorly managed. The important thing is to make sure that whatever the gear and the size of the boat, it is managed and used in such a way as to respect fish stocks and all the surrounding marine species and habitats. These are two of the three pillars of our standard that fisheries must meet to be MSC certified.