



The logo for the new association. Photo: WIS

New global Women in Seafood association launches in France

The new group aims to raise awareness of gender issues within the industry.

by IntraFish Media

A new international association for women in the seafood industry -- WSI -- officially launched in December.

The group's goals are to highlight women's contribution to the seafood industry, to raise awareness of gender issues within this industry and to promote professional equality between men and women.

WSI will make its first public appearance at the World Seafood Congress 2017 and the Icelandic Fisheries Fair in September in Iceland.

"The choice for Iceland is two-fold: its fishing industry is very dynamic and the country is at the forefront when it comes to gender equality," said Marie Christine Monfort, president and co-founder of WSI.

The motivation to create WSI came from the growing recognition that although one in every two seafood workers is a woman, women are over-represented in lowest paid and lowest valued positions and very few at leadership positions, the group said.

"Women are essential contributors to this important food industry, but they remain invisible, including to policy makers," WSI said in a statement sent to **IntraFish**.

"There is a need to increase awareness about their role in this industry and to recognise the value they bring.

"While we acknowledge that much progress has been achieved, a lot remains to be done," the group said. "Stories about women in the seafood industry are rarely told. WSI will operate as a sounding board to amplify women's voice and help them gain visibility through practical projects."

The group was co-founded by Monfort and Seafood Professional Pascale Baelde, and is supported by two gender specialist based in Singapore and London.

WSI already received the backing of men and women seafood professionals from France, the United Kingdom, Norway, Egypt, Australia and the United States.

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