PRESS RELEASE

El Corte Inglés receives the MSC and ASC seals, ensuring that its fresh fish comes from sustainable sources

- *The company thus becomes the first retail distributor in Spain to have its fishmongers certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC).*
- *The Custody Chain standard ensures that any product on sale at El Corte Inglés fishmongers with the blue MSC or green ASC seal comes from sustainable fishing or a responsible fish farm.*

Madrid, 26 June 2023: El Corte Inglés has obtained MSC and ASC certifications for its fresh fish custody chain, which covers over 184 fresh fish counters (El Corte Inglés, Hipercor, Supercor and Sanchez Romero) and two logistics hubs. These seals ensure that indicated products put on sale by the company come from certified fisheries (MSC) or certified aquaculture farms (ASC), that their origin is certified by MSC and/or ASC, and they have been identified and separated from other products. The company aims to progressively increase the number of MSC and ASC references on sale as this step has been well received by customers.

El Corte Inglés is the first retail distribution company in Spain to certify its fishmongers with MSC and ASC, a certification process conducted by Kiwa Spain. A milestone achieved by El Corte Inglés that reinforces its commitment to protecting marine resources and ensuring their long-term durability, and for which the company has trained approximately 1,000 professionals from all its fishmonger counters.

The blue MSC seal is only granted to wild fish and seafood from fisheries certified according to 25 science-based indicator of sustainable fishing. Meanwhile, the green ASC seal recognises responsibly farmed sea products. Certified fish and seafood is kept separate from uncertified products throughout the supply chain. They are clearly

labelled so that their origin can be traced to a certified sustainable fishery or certified responsible farm.

In addition to fresh fishmonger products, El Corte Inglés also sells sea produce references that are frozen, canned, pre-cooked, or prepared in any other way, with both seals, thus extending the sustainable origin to all sea products available at its stores.

In line with its commitment to sustainable fishing, in 2022 El Corte Inglés received a Seas Forever Award for *Trajectory in MSC sustainable fishing*, granted for its efforts in sustainable fishing for both the company's own brand and manufacturer's brand. A recognition of the company's support for the MSC programme in Spain since it began in 2011, as well as its commitment to responsible and sustainable fishing through the blue MSC seal for both its own brand and manufacturer's brand. This award is also given in appreciation of the efforts made by El Corte Inglés to raise awareness of the implications of this certificate for the planet.

MSC and ASC set standards for sustainable fishing and aquaculture with a certification and eco-labelling programme. Fisheries looking to prove that they are well-managed and sustainable are assessed by a team of experts (independent of the fishery and MSC or ASC) regarding the science-based standard; this process is public and open to participation by all stakeholders. Sea products may only bear the blue MSC or green ASC seal if the fish comes from a fishery certified as sustainable or a farm certified as responsible and/or if the various supply chain operators also have a custody chain according to MSC standards.

This action is part of the El Corte Inglés commitment to society and its spirit of listening closely to the concerns of citizens, with special attention and sensitivity regarding the environment and sustainability.