



## PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

6 – 8 December 2021, Virtual Meeting

### **Attendance** (*alphabetical order*)

**Co-Chairs:** Ms Stefanie Moreland, Ms Amanda Nickson

**Members in attendance:** Ms Stefanie Moreland (Co-Chair), Ms Amanda Nickson (Co-Chair), Dr Johann Augustyn, Ms Heather Brayford, Mr Rory Crawford, Ms Yumie Kawashima, Mr Tor Larsen, Dr Ghislaine Llewellyn, Mr Ivan Lopez (part), Ms Christine Penney (part), Mr Marco Quesada (part), Ms Carmen Revenga, Ms María José Espinosa Romero (part)

**Observers:** Ms Gabrielle Anhalzer (SCS Global Services) (part), Dr Antonio Hervas (Accreditation Services International) (part)

**MSC Governance:** Dr Werner Kiene (MSC Chairman) (part), Dr Rebecca Lent (TAB Member) (part), Dr Keith Sainsbury (TAB Member) (part)

**MSC Staff:** Ms Polly Burns (Head of Fisheries Standard Policy), Dr Rohan Currey (Chief Science and Standards Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive), Mr Jay Lugar (Head of Fisheries Outreach), Dr Ernesto Jardim (Fisheries Standard Director), Ms Tanya van Niekerk (Governance Secretary), Dr Alene Wilton (Chief Operating Officer), Ms Nikki Wood (Head of Stakeholder Engagement)

*The Council was also joined by a number of relevant MSC staff on a project-by-project basis.*

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*This summary contributes to the transparency of MSC's governance. Readers should note that recommendations made by the MSC Stakeholder Advisory Council are reviewed by the MSC Board of Trustees and only those recommendations that are formally endorsed by the MSC Board of Trustees will result in changes to the program or MSC's work. The Board may not always immediately consider the Council's recommendations, especially in instances where more research or consultation is required. Project pages on [msc.org](https://www.msc.org) will be updated to reflect final decisions, including rationales.*

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Co-Chairs, Ms Stefanie Moreland, and Ms Amanda Nickson, welcomed Council members, the Chairman of the MSC, observers, and MSC staff to the meeting.

In view of the ongoing challenges and widespread travel restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Council meeting was again being held as a virtual meeting, focusing on important topics where the Council's engagement and input to MSC's policy development and provision of advice to the MSC Board was required.

### Consolidated Draft Fisheries Standard and Guidance

The Council was provided with the consolidated draft **Fisheries Standard and Guidance**.

The [Fisheries Standard Review](#) (FSR) started in September 2018 and incorporated 16 topics (projects). Collectively these projects are expected to deliver **revisions to the Standard** to resolve issues and meet the objectives of the FSR.

The Council reflected on the **review process** so far. The MSC Executive had followed a comprehensive policy development process over the last three years (since the FSR review began in 2018), to bring together stakeholders' and partners' expectations; incorporate new science and widely-adopted fisheries management best practices; and work on simplification and clarifications to deal with accessibility concerns. This work had led to production of the first consolidated draft of a revised

Standard and marked an **important milestone for the review**. The **FSR projects had been developed in parallel**, and MSC had analysed the cumulative impacts of the revised Standard, with the process designed so that MSC could, as much as was possible, integrate the evaluation of impact across the different projects. Some further testing and further refinement were needed, indicated by square bracketed text in the scheme documentation, which would be addressed through the remainder of the FSR and Fisheries Certification Process Review.

The Council acknowledged the **extent of consultation and engagement on the proposals to date**, and the high level of input from different stakeholder groups. This activity included undertaking multiple consultancies for projects to seek expert views on options or to develop options further; pilot testing by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs); cumulative impact testing; and impact assessments, which looked at a range of impact types - effectiveness, auditability, accessibility and retention, feasibility, acceptability, and simplification.

The Council acknowledged the **extent and quality of the work by the MSC Executive in producing the consolidated draft Fisheries Standard** and welcomed the opportunity to provide stakeholder advice to the MSC Board of Trustees. The Council also recognised that the Working Groups of the Council and the Technical Advisory Board had made a significant contribution in helping to shape the FSR proposals.

The Council explored the MSC Executive's proposed policy options with respect to some of the 16 FSR projects to resolve the issues under review in the FSR. The supporting documentations provided to the Council included an overview of the FSR; an update on the respective FSR projects in the form of project summaries; impact assessment reports, consultations reports and consultancies reports; and the consolidated draft Standard and Guidance.

## Consolidated draft Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance

The Council was provided with the consolidated draft **Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance**.

The [Fisheries Certification Process \(FCP\) Review](#) commenced in 2020 and the objective of this program of work is to clarify MSC's intent and improve understanding and implementation of existing requirements and processes. The **scope of the FCP revision** is to incorporate changes resulting from the Fisheries Standard Review; changes resulting from the FCP harmonisation project; and changes that will clarify and improve existing requirements and processes.

The Council again acknowledged the extent of **consultation and engagement on the proposals** to date, which had included focus group discussions with members of the Association of Sustainable Fisheries (ASF), members of Accreditation Services International (ASI), and CABs; a three-day targeted consultation workshop with CABs, lead assessors and ASI; as well as one-to-one interviews with a selection of CABs. The transition timelines project had had three workshops with 10 certificate holders (ASF) and 11 individuals representing nine CABs. All policy options had been subject to an impact assessment.

The Council welcomed the opportunity to provide advice to the MSC Board of Trustees on the **suitability of the consolidated draft Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance to proceed for public review in 2022**. This public review phase would provide a further opportunity for refinement of requirements and guidance prior to these documents being finalised and tabled for final Council and Technical Advisory Board review ahead of final MSC Board signoff being sought in mid-2022.

## Chain of Custody Standard Review – Terms of Reference

The Council considered **draft Terms of Reference for the Chain of Custody Standard Review**.

The Chain of Custody Standard Review was one element of a broader strategic program review being undertaken by the MSC. Interdependencies between the Chain of Custody Standard Review and existing elements of the MSC and Aquaculture Stewardship Council programs were also being considered.

The Council **supported the Chain of Custody Standard Review Terms of Reference and the project moving forward.**

### Meeting Close

The Council welcomed the presentation of the Fisheries Standard Review, Fisheries Certification Process Review, and Chain of Custody Standard Review topics.

Closing remarks were shared.

ENDS