



PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday 12 – Thursday 13 November 2025, London

The Stakeholder Advisory Council (STAC) meeting was attended by [members of the STAC](#).

Mr Giles Bolton (MSC Board Chair) attended the meeting on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees.

Dr Victor Restrepo (Technical Advisory Board Member) observed the meeting.

The following MSC staff attended – Mr Simon Cripps (Head of NGO Engagement), Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Ishbel Matheson (Chief Communications Officer), Ms Amanda Stern-Pirlot (Chief Standards Officer), Ms Tanya van Niekerk (Governance Secretary), Dr Alene Wilton (Chief Operating Officer).

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

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

MSC Fisheries Standard

The STAC was updated on the **progress of the work to develop a package of revisions for Version 3 of MSC's Fisheries Standard** - now known as the Fisheries Program Revisions – in order to resolve key concerns and ensure the MSC Program continues to drive real and lasting progress towards ending overfishing.

The MSC formally announced its Fisheries Program Revisions in July 2025 following MSC Board approval in June 2025. Since then, the MSC established four expert panels to contribute to the process. These groups, composed of MSC Standards and MSC Outreach staff as well as external stakeholders, each focus on a different element of the policy development process.

The STAC **welcomed the update on the work of the four expert groups** comprising the Product Development Panel, whose function it is to draft policy solutions; the Impact Assessment Panel, whose function it is to consider the impacts of proposed solutions on the MSC Program and MSC's stakeholders; the Testing Panel, whose function it is to undertake testing of proposed solutions; and the (internal) Engagement Working Group, whose function it is to plan proactively internal and external engagement in relation to the Fisheries Standard Revisions. The STAC recognised and welcomed the significant amount of work undertaken by the expert groups and the important contributions of the members of the groups.

MSC Chain of Custody Standard Review

The STAC was updated on the **progress of the MSC Chain of Custody Standard Review**, with a focus on overall progress of the Standard Review; progress on the related Fraud Protection Project, which involved research to identify options that could enable MSC and ASC Chain of Custody certificate holders to protect themselves from food fraud; and traceability proposals aimed at strengthening the traceability systems across the MSC Programs.

The STAC welcomed the update on the **progress of the Chain of Custody Standard Review**.

The STAC was pleased to hear to the progress made in **engaging with Chain of Custody certificate holders** about the proposed changes and plans being developed to test thoroughly and allow partners ample opportunity to provide feedback on the restructured Standard.

The STAC also welcomed **alignment between testing and public consultation** on fishery-facing traceability proposals and the Fisheries Program Revisions.

[MSC Stakeholder Survey](#)

The STAC welcomed the opportunity to hear and hold a broad discussion about the results of the **2025 MSC Stakeholder Survey**, designed to gauge the perceptions of MSC's stakeholders in different countries and different sectors.

[ISEAL Code Compliance](#)

The STAC welcomed the opportunity to consider and provide views on the **proposals to formalise Program risk management** in line with the revised ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems introduced in March 2024 and subsequently updated in September 2025.

The STAC agreed it was supportive in principle of the proposed approach to risk management, which presented a good starting point and showed MSC taking an active approach to risk management.

[Meeting Close](#)

ENDS