



37th Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Dates: 19th & 20th May 2022

London

This summary contributes to the transparency of MSC's governance. Readers should note that recommendations made by the MSC Technical Advisory Board 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. The Board may not always immediately consider the TAB'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.

The TAB meeting was attended by [all members of the TAB](#).

The following observers were present for part of the meeting: Dr Antonio Hervas (Accreditation Services International), Dr Andrew Hough (assessor/consultant), Mr Hugh Jones (Control Union).

Ms Amanda Nickson represented the MSC's Stakeholder Advisory Council (STAC), and Dr Werner Kiene (MSC Chair) attended on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees. External observers were not present for internal governance discussions and Executive updates and were asked to leave where potential for conflict of interest was identified.

Introductory items

During the session the TAB received an overview of intersessional TAB and TAB working group activities.

Consolidated Fisheries Standard and Guidance

The TAB was provided with the consolidated Fisheries Standard and Guidance.

The Fisheries Standard Review (FSR) started in September 2018 and had involved a comprehensive policy development process bringing together stakeholders' and partners' expectations; incorporating new science and widely-adopted fisheries management best practices; and working on simplification and clarifications to deal with accessibility concerns.

The proposed revised Standard presented to the TAB for consideration contains significant improvements which, if implemented, would ensure that MSC certified fisheries continue to be recognised as world leaders in sustainability.

The TAB Fisheries Sub-Group had had a thorough discussion of the FSR topics on the TAB agenda at its meeting on 17th and 18th May 2022, including ensuring the risk-based framework continued to deliver precautionary and consistent assessments for data limited fisheries; clarifying best practice for reducing impacts on endangered, threatened and protected species; harvest strategies; the proposed evidence requirements framework; and revisions to scope requirements within the Fisheries Standard.

The TAB considered the proposed draft consolidated Fisheries Standard and Guidance, including impact assessment reports, consultation reports and constancy reports, as well as the processes undertaken in conducting the Review.

The TAB acknowledged the extent and quality of the work by the MSC Executive in producing the consolidated Fisheries Standard and the importance of introducing improved requirements to the Standard to strengthen evidence and data collection.

The TAB **endorsed and recommended to the MSC Board of Trustees for decision the proposed consolidated Fisheries Standard and Guidance.**

Consolidate Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance

The TAB was provided with the consolidated Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance.

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

The TAB welcomed the opportunity to provide advice to the MSC Board of Trustees on the suitability of the consolidated FCP and Guidance.

The TAB **endorsed and recommended to the MSC Board of Trustees for decision the proposed Fisheries Certification and Guidance.**

MSC Labour Policy and Procedures

The TAB considered a scheme document on MSC's labour policies. The proposed document collated all MSC's labour requirements into a single document and ensured alignment of MSC's labour requirements across its Fisheries and Chain of Custody programs as appropriate.

The TAB **endorsed and recommended to the MSC Board for decision the revised MSC Labour Policy and Procedures v0.1.**

Climate Change

The TAB received an update on MSC's planned work on climate-related issues.

The TAB welcomed the opportunity to provide scientific and technical views and advice on this important area of work.

What happens next?

The MSC Board of Trustees will be asked to make the final decision to approve the new Fisheries Standard and Guidance and the Fisheries Certification Process and Guidance at its meeting in June 2022.