

44th Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Date: 10 – 11 November 2025

London

The TAB meeting was attended by [members of the TAB](#). Apologies were received from TAB Members Dr **Héctor Fernández Alvarez** and Mr Adam Swan (day 1, PM).

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

Ms Heather Brayford (Stakeholder Advisory Council Chair) observed the meeting.

Ms Michealene Corlett (Sr. Fisheries Program Manager, MRAG Americas, Inc.) and Dr Antonio Hervas (ASI, Program Operation Manager) observed parts of the meeting.

The following MSC staff attended - Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer), Mr Jay Lugar (Head of Fisheries Outreach), 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 TAB 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 MSC Technical Advisory Board (TAB) 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. The MSC Executive may not always immediately consider the TAB'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.

MSC Fisheries Standard

The TAB 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, TAB Members, and Stakeholder Advisory Council Members, as well as external stakeholders, each focus on a different element of the policy development process.

The TAB **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 TAB 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 TAB was updated on 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 TAB welcomed the update on the Chain of Custody Standard Review.

The TAB 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.

[ISEAL Code Compliance](#)

The TAB 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 TAB 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