

45th Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Date: 14 May 2025

London

The TAB meeting was attended by [members of the TAB](#). Apologies were received from TAB Members Ms Celeste Leroux and Dr Héctor Fernández Alvarez

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

Dr Antonio Hervas (ASI, Technical 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 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 **of MSC's Fisheries Standard v3** – now known as the Fisheries Program Revisions – in order to resolve key concerns identified following the publication of the Standard in October 2022.

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 also considered an **update on the first round of policy development** which had been completed in February 2026, reflecting on the multi-stakeholder approach to developing the proposals and extensive consultation being undertaken. The second round of policy development had begun in March 2026.

The TAB noted the **six-month extension to the timeline for publishing the updated Fisheries Standard**, which had been agreed by the MSC Board in March 2026. MSC now anticipated the

updated version of the Fisheries Standard, Fisheries Standard Toolbox, and Fisheries Certification Process would be published in mid-2027. All revised documents would come into effect six months after publication (likely early 2028).

The TAB welcomed the fact that the extension would ensure MSC could incorporate all revisions and test the revised Standard and related documents and noted that stakeholders were notified of this change on 16 April 2026.

The TAB reflected on the importance of **delivering training for the updated Fisheries Standard** and welcomed the fact that this had been built into the project from the outset. Alongside more formal training for assessors, a series of workshops was planned, which would be held around the world to engage with partners and stakeholders on the Fisheries Program Revisions.

[MSC Chain of Custody Standard Review](#)

The TAB was updated on the **progress of the MSC Chain of Custody Standard Review**.

Public consultation on the revised Chain of Custody Standard was open, running from 31 March to 30 May 2026 to gather feedback on proposed changes to the Chain of Custody Standard and the Certification Requirements. The TAB noted that in parallel with the consultation, MSC was **undertaking mock audits** which were designed to test all proposed changes within a traditional audit setting and assess cumulative impacts on certificate holders and Conformity Assessment Bodies.

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