Candidate Brief: Member of the Board of Trustees

About the Marine Stewardship Council

The Marine Stewardship Council’s vision is for the world’s oceans to be teeming with life, and seafood supplies safeguarded for this and future generations. Through our internationally-recognised certification and ecolabeling program well-managed sustainable fisheries are recognised and rewarded in the market place, through the leadership of our partners. Critically, other fisheries are incentivised to improve their performance to meet the growing demand for certified sustainable and traceable seafood choice. Over 400 fisheries around the world, representing almost 16% of the annual global marine catch, are now engaged in the MSC program and over 1700 documented improvements to the way our oceans are being fished have been recorded. MSC certified and labelled seafood products are now available in over 100 countries.

Within the wider ocean landscape, MSC plays an important role in contributing to the United Nations’ Strategic Development Goals. Set out in our Integrated Strategic Plan 2017-20, our strategic priorities are underpinned by ambitious goals aligned to SDG 14 – Life Below Water: we are aiming to engage 20% of the world’s fisheries in our program by 2020, and 30% by 2030.

Employing approximately 250 staff, the MSC has a presence in 28 countries around the world and a current turnover of £30m per annum.

MSC’s Multi-Stakeholder Governance Model

Independence, transparency, impartiality and multi-stakeholder governance are central to the MSC’s values and commitment to continually maintain and strengthen world-leading standards.

We work hard to ensure our standards, strategy and decision-making take account of the views, expertise and experience of a wide range of stakeholders, from academia and government, the fishery and market sectors, and the environmental NGO community. Our governance structure involves a wide range of stakeholders with different perspectives to ensure that the MSC’s decisions are balanced, reflecting many sectors and interests.

The MSC Board of Trustees is our governing body. With advice from the Technical Advisory Board and Stakeholder Advisory Council, it sets the strategic direction of the MSC, monitors progress and ensures the MSC meets its objectives.

The Board of Trustees is also supported in its work by a number of Board Committees, which meet throughout the year to reflect in detail on specific areas of the MSC’s activities and operations. Their membership is primarily drawn from the Board of Trustees.

Our governance structure is depicted in the diagram below, and more information is available on our website.
Role of the Board of Trustees

As MSC’s governing body, the Board of Trustees is collectively responsible for ensuring the success of the MSC and ensuring its compliance with all legal and regulatory obligations by directing and supervising the MSC’s affairs. The Board has the following responsibilities:

- ensuring the MSC meets its charitable aims
- providing leadership of the MSC by setting the strategic direction of the MSC, and monitoring progress in delivery of strategy
- ensuring that the MSC is financially secure
- publicly accounting for expenditure and income
- ensuring the MSC operates in a legally compliant manner in relevant jurisdictions
- appointing new Board members and key MSC staff
- appointing members of the Technical Advisory Board and Stakeholder Advisory Council.

Expectations of Board Members

MSC Board Members are each required to exercise the general fiduciary duties and duties of care and confidentiality typically expected of trustee board members, and to act in accordance with the MSC’s Articles of Association and principles outlined in the MSC’s Code of Conduct for Board Members.
Trustees must be able to demonstrate their empathy and interest in the MSC’s mission and objectives, and act in the best interest of the MSC at all times.

MSC Board Members are chosen for their knowledge, expertise and support for the MSC. Membership is balanced with representatives from different sectors and geographical regions (as well as other relevant demographic criteria) to reflect the broad mix of stakeholders who have a stake in the MSC’s mission.

We appoint trustees for an initial period of three years; the appointment may be renewed for a second three-year term, subject to approval of the Board of Trustees and depending on MSC’s strategic priorities at the time.

Members are required to attend two in-person meetings (held by video during the COVID-19 pandemic) and two video conferences a year, and also contribute as a member of at least one of the Board Committees, which meet by video conference.

MSC’s Trustee positions are unremunerated, but reasonable and appropriate expenses will be paid.

**Further Information**

For further information, please consult the [MSC website](#), or contact the Chief Operating Officer, [Alene Wilton](#).

October 2020