



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO THE MSC ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

This document details the methods and data sources for the figures and graphs included in the Annual Report 2021-22, as well as providing supplementary figures and tables.

If using any data, kindly acknowledge the MSC as the source and provide a download date and website link. When citing elements of this report, please cite as:

MSC (2021) Supplementary Information to the MSC Annual Report 2021-22. Marine Stewardship Council, London, UK.

FOR GENERAL QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT: info@msc.org

FOR TECHNICAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE DATA PLEASE CONTACT: standards@msc.org



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INDEX AND DATA SOURCES

Where external data sources are cited, data can be independently verified by accessing those sources. For internal MSC datasets, these are generated by the MSC Research team and Business Intelligence Team extracting information from MSC Fishery and Chain of Custody certificate reports and provided by label license holders. Accuracy of the data extraction is assured by the MSC with sample-based verification. Details on this process are available on request.

Reports are authored by and based on assessments carried out by accredited third party certification bodies, and as such the certification bodies take full responsibility for the accuracy and truthfulness of their contents, including fishery assessment scores given.

LIST OF OUTPUTS AND DATA

All data used to generate the plots and maps in the report are downloadable from:

- [MSC202122_Annual_Report_Supplementary_Information_data.xlsx](#)

OUTPUT	EXCEL TAB	DATA SOURCE(S)
Progress on the water: MSC engaged catch at the end of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial (Page 14)	msscatch	MSC 2022
Progress on the water, proportion of all wild marine catch engaged with MSC (Page 14)	msscatch	MSC 2022, FAO. Global capture production 1950-2020
Progress on the water MSC engaged catch at the end of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years by different species groups (Page 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 - 34)	msscatch	MSC 2022
Map of MSC certified marine catch compared with total marine catch in each FAO major fishing area (Page 15)	faomap	MSC 2022, FAO. Global capture production 1950-2020, FAO, 2020
Improvements made in MSC fisheries by the end of March 2022 (Page 16, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 - 34)	improvement	MSC 2022
Principle scores for MSC fisheries at initial assessment and first reassessment (Page 16)	scoreimprove	MSC 2022
Chain of Custody certificate holders (Page 18)	chainofcustody	MSC 2022
Volume sold by product type Year (Page 19)	liveproductvolume	MSC 2022
Number of Live MSC labelled consumer Products (Page 19)	liveproductcount	MSC 2022

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED THROUGHOUT THE REPORT

ACRONYM - TERM	DEFINITION
Assessment	Assessment is used to refer to the initial certification and recertifications of fisheries.
ASI - Assurance Services International	Assurance Services International, provider of accreditation services for the MSC program.
CAB - Conformity Assessment Body	Organization that performs conformity assessment services against the MSC Fisheries and CoC standards.
Catch	In this annual report, the total live weight of a target species caught. The weight at the time of catch, before processing, for the species that can carry the MSC ecolabel.
Certificate holder	An entity which holds a certificate issued by an MSC accredited CAB.
CoC - Chain of Custody	The procedures implemented by organisations purchasing or handling certified products in the supply chain. These procedures ensure conformity with the MSC Chain of Custody Standard and provide assurance that throughout the supply chain, certified products are segregated from noncertified products and are traceable back to a certified source.
Condition	A requirement to achieve outcomes in order to raise a Performance Indicator score to 80 or above.
Default tree	All versions of the MSC Fishery Certification Requirements since FAM v1 was released in 2008.
Enhanced fishery	A fishery that includes in its operations some aquaculture methods such as ‘catch and grow’, i.e., juveniles are captured from the wild stock in the same geographic region and allowed to settle and grow in a relatively controlled environment, such as rope-grown mussels, or ‘hatch and catch’, i.e., juveniles reared in a hatchery and then released in the wild for sport fishing, such as hatchery-reared salmon.
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FAM – Fishery Assessment Methodology	The methodology followed by CABs when assessing conformity against the Fisheries Standard.
Farm	Seaweed farm or production unit is the harvesting unit or farm from which the seaweed is produced (the extent of the production unit is defined explicitly as the UoA).
Fishery	The group of harvesters associated with an MSC fishery certificate targeting one stock with a certain gear type/method/vessel type in a specified area. Note that an MSC certificate may include more than one species or harvest method, and thus more than one fishery, according to this definition, and the term ‘fishery’ may be used differently in other MSC publications or external sources.
Improvement	An improvement is counted when the score of a fishery component (stock, method/gear, practice/vessels) is increased to a minimum score of 80 through closing a condition.
ISSCAAP	International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants Error! Bookmark not defined.
ISSCAAP Division/Group	Grouping of commercial species based on their taxonomic, ecological and economic characteristics.



ACRONYM - TERM	DEFINITION
Live Products	Products sold that have sales recorded against them for the reported year.
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
N - Number	Number of elements or sample size.
P1 - Principle 1	Principle 1 of the MSC Fisheries standard, i.e. stock status.
P2 - Principle 2	Principle 2 of the MSC Fisheries standard, i.e. environmental status.
P3 - Principle 3	Principle 3 of the MSC Fisheries standard, i.e. fishery governance.
PCR - Public Certification Report	The final version of the assessment report, after stakeholder comments to the PCDR have been taken into account.
Production unit	The harvesting unit or farm from which the seaweed is produced (the extent of the production unit is defined explicitly as the UoA).
Stock	A wild population of a marine or freshwater species that is harvested by fishers. A stock ideally corresponds to a biological unit that has distinctive demographic dynamics and thus is assessed separately from other populations belonging to the same species. In reality, exact information on the genetic structure of the catch is often missing, which sometimes leads to erroneously aggregating more than one population of the same species under the same stock. As more knowledge is accumulated, stock definitions can be revised, and consequently their stock assessments.
UoA - Unit of Assessment	The sum of all the elements that are assessed for awarding a given certificate. For fisheries evaluated against the MSC Fisheries Standard, this includes the target stock(s) being certified, combined with any fleets, or groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators or other eligible fishers pursuing that same stock using different methods/gears/practices, as well as the species and ecosystem in the area where the fishery is active.
UoC - Unit of Certification	The target stock(s) and any fleets, groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators, defined by the fishing method/gear/practice for pursuing that stock, covered by an MSC fishery certificate.
Year	Calendar year from 1 st January of the year to 31 st December of the same year
Fiscal year	from April 1 st of the year to March 31 st of the following calendar year

METHODS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

If any interpretative issues arise in relation to the MSC Fisheries and Chain of Custody Standards, the text of the English MSC scheme documents will prevail in all instances:

- [MSC Fishery Certification Requirements.](#)
- [MSC Chain of Custody Certification Requirements.](#)

PROGRESS ON THE WATER

MSC ENGAGED CATCH AT THE END OF THE 2020-21 AND 2021-22 FINANCIAL YEARS AS A TOTAL AND BY DIFFERENT SPECIES GROUPS (PAGE 14,23,25,27,29,31,32,33,34)

To show change in time and scope of what MSC fisheries catch, all MSC engaged catch was extracted and summed from the most recently available data for each snapshot in time. The total sum of engaged catch for each year included all UoA/ UoC that were either Certified, Suspended or In Assessment. A single MSC fishery can have many UoA or UoC that target one or many different species. When extracting catch data, it was assigned against the UoA/UoC for that fishery to enable different aggregation to be applied (e.g. against the target species, the fishing method/gear or major ocean area(s)). In cases where a report provided a grouped catch, such as a single figure for many species, the catch was divided equally.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹, FAO GLOBAL CAPTURE PRODUCTION 2022²

OF ALL WILD MARINE CATCH ENGAGED WITH THE MSC

To understand the reach of MSC and provide a sense of scale, MSC engaged marine catch is shown relative to the latest FAO Global Capture Production dataset (2020) to measure proportion of MSC global marine catch by species and major ocean areas. Using the certificate status of the MSC UoA/UoC, the total MSC proportion of FAO is shown along with a breakdown by status. (Page 14,23,25,27,29,31,32,33,34)

When assigning catch from MSC reports to all UoA/UoC, it was matched to the target species and major ocean areas. In cases where a report provided a grouped catch, such as a single figure for many species, the catch was divided equally. To provide a comparable snapshot in time, catch from MSC fisheries was associated with the date a report was submitted. To make a comparison between MSC and FAO data, several rules were applied to each dataset, and both contain only:

- Marine catch. As a marine Standard, the MSC program would not be expected to grow in reach and have the same impact on freshwater seafood sustainability.

¹ Marine Stewardship Council, Supplementary Materials to the MSC Annual Report 202122.xlsx, 2022.
<http://www.msc.org>

² FAO. Global capture production 1950-2020. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Extracted from:
https://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics-query/en/capture/capture_quantity. Data of Access: 20-06-2022.

Inland and freshwater species are excluded as they dilute the ability to measure progress on the program's goals and key strategies.

- Wild capture. Enhanced MSC fisheries that report at a country level as aquaculture and would exist in the FAO Global Aquaculture Production dataset are excluded.
- ISSCAAP division/groups: Those that are not measured by MSC are excluded from the FAO Global Capture data, these are '*Aquatic plants*', '*Freshwater fishes*', '*Miscellaneous aquatic animal products*', '*Miscellaneous aquatic animals*' & '*Whales, seals and other aquatic mammals*'.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹, FAO GLOBAL CAPTURE PRODUCTION 2022³

PROPORTION OF GLOBAL CATCH THAT IS MSC CERTIFIED

MAP OF MSC CERTIFIED MARINE CATCH COMPARED WITH TOTAL MARINE CATCH IN EACH FAO MAJOR FISHING AREA.

To show where MSC certified fisheries operate around the world compared against FAO global capture, MSC certified catch was mapped to each FAO major ocean area⁴ alongside pins indicating the approximate location of each MSC fishery. (Page 15)

The method for handling data was the same as used in the indicators for all wild marine catch engaged with the MSC at the end of the 2020-21 financial year. The data was filtered to include only MSC Certified and Suspended catch; in assessment catch was excluded.

Suspended was included in the sum of certified catch, as the fishery can still reacquire their certificate if they address the causes of their suspension. Each pin on the map provides an approximate location of the fishing activity for each MSC certified fishery.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹, FAO. GLOBAL CAPTURE PRODUCTION 1950-2020², FAO, 2020³

FISHERIES IMPROVING,

PRINCIPLE SCORES FOR MSC FISHERIES AT INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND FIRST REASSESSMENT

To measure how the scores of MSC certified fisheries change through a certificate cycle (i.e., 5 years in the program), Principle 1, 2 and 3 scores received at initial assessment and first re-assessment were contrasted using boxplots for all currently certified and suspended fisheries (Page 16).

While fisheries might still be making improvements to close conditions by the 5th year surveillance report (end of the certification cycle), comparing scores at the start of a second certification cycle ensures most improvements are complete, except for particular cases for which additional time is allowed. This provides a conservative

³ FAO. Global capture production 1950-2020. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Extracted from: https://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics-query/en/capture/capture_quantity. Data of Access: 20-06-2022.

⁴ FAO, 2020. FAO Statistical Areas for Fishery Purposes. In: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department [online]. Rome. [Accessed 1 Dec 2020] <http://www.fao.org/fishery/area/search/>

estimate of improvements accomplished by the fishery as there could be new conditions opened at re-assessment due to improved information available or new Standard requirements.

To ensure the same fisheries were represented in both the initial assessment and first re-assessment data, only fisheries that passed certification at both assessments were included. However, this is an imperfect match due to changes to Units of Certification in some fisheries over assessment cycles and current difficulties tracking scores in MSC databases across assessment cycles. For details of sensitivity testing for this analysis, see the [Annual Report 2020/21 supplementary information](#).

FISHERIES IMPROVING

IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN MSC FISHERIES BY THE END OF MARCH 2022

To demonstrate the changes MSC fisheries have made to reduce their environmental impacts, all conditions closed, and associated improvements have been counted. To highlight the areas of improvement, the number of these closed in the last 3 years has been counted by elements. (Page 16)

Conditions are set whenever a Performance Indicator (PI) is scored between 60 and 79 during the assessment of a fishery, requiring the fishery to improve the score for that PI to a minimum of 80 within the period of the 5-year certification cycle. A condition is applied to all fishery components (i.e. target stock(s), the fishing method/gear, and practice (including vessel/s) pursuing that stock) that do not meet a score of 80 for each PI. It is a requirement for a fishery to take action to improve performance in order to maintain certification. One condition can impact multiple species and generate multiple improvements.

An improvement is counted when the score of a fishery component (stock, method/gear, practice/vessels) is increased to a minimum score of 80 through closing a condition. One condition can therefore have multiple improvements as numerous fisheries components have made changes to lift their score. Improvements are only counted when a condition has been fully closed.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹.

SALES REMAIN STABLE BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN

CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

The year-on-year change in the number of Chain of Custody Holders for each certificate type is shown on Page 19. Additional sites of Multisite, Group, or Consumer Facing Organisation certificates were excluded in this calculation so that only main certificate holders were considered. Certificate holders were filtered to those that were valid in the given year, and then grouped by the certificate type. The country associated with the certificate is the country where the company's main office is based. For example,



McDonald's Europe certificate is associated with the UK, where it has its main office, although the certificate validity extends to McDonald's restaurants all over Europe. For this reason, the actual number of locations with active certificate-holders is under-estimated, with a bias towards regions where large companies have based their headquarters. The global number of Chain of Custody site locations is instead listed separately alongside the chart on Page 19.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹.

VOLUME SOLD BY PRODUCT TYPE YEAR

The weight of seafood products sold by an MSC licence holder is based on reports by the licence holder to the MSC. This was summed together for the full 2021/22 financial year and then broken down by the type of product. Product weight includes all other ingredients and excludes packaging. (Page 19)

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹.

NUMBER OF LIVE MSC LABELLED CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Plot showing the number of products sold that carry the MSC label by country over a period of 13 years. (Page 19)

The country breakdown is where the products are sold, rather than where the licence holder is located. To report on different markets, products were counted as a unique item in each country. E.g. a tin of tuna sold in France and Germany was counted as 2 distinct products. Live products are products described in the MSC licence and signed by the Licensee to be sold as MSC-certified that have sales recorded against them for the reported year. Products with no reported sales in the latest year are excluded. This was done to avoid cumulative overestimation over time, as products drop out of the market and are replaced by others, ensuring the values more accurately reflect products 'on the shelf'.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹.

RETAIL SALES VALUE

The figure is calculated using the total net wholesale value of all consumer-facing MSC labelled product sales or purchases (GBP) declared by all label licence holders for the 2021/22 financial year. (Page 18)

GBP converted to USD using the exchange rate as at 1st April 2022 and an average percentage increase is applied to arrive at a representative retail sales value.

DATA SOURCE(S): MSC 2022¹, OANDA CURRENCY CONVERTER