



Fisheries Standard Review (FSR)

List of topics prioritised for review

Last updated: 22 January 2019

To find out more about the FSR, participate in consultation and learn more about the topics prioritised for review, please visit the MSC's Program Improvements website. <https://improvements.msc.org/>

	Project – Project Lead	Summary	Likely next engagement	Proposed release
Fishery Standard Review (split into three workstreams: Standard efficiency, standard effectiveness, and standard evolution)				
1	Standard efficiency - Hannah Norbury	This workstream is focussed on a review of the structure and logic of the Fisheries Standard with the aim to reduce complexity and redundancy.	Targeted consultation (with assessors, ASI and MSC) in early 2019	Aug-2021
	Standard effectiveness	This workstream is focussed on the application of the current Fisheries Standard. A review of how the Standard is applied by assessors, to ensure consistency. This will also involve reviewing existing tools for assessing data limited fisheries, such as the MSC's risk-based framework, and supporting the development of new tools.	N/A (see specific projects below)	Aug-2021



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2	Implementation review of the Fisheries Standard - Megan Atcheson	Identify, prioritise and, where required, conduct research to address aspects of the implementation of the default and modified trees within the Fisheries Standard that have been noted by stakeholders and logged by MSC since the release of the most recent version of the Fisheries Standard in 2014.	Targeted consultation in late 2019	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
3	Outcome evaluation of the Fisheries Standard - Tim Davies	Detect any issues or inconsistency in application of the default and modified trees within the Fisheries Standard to determine if it is continuing to meet its sustainability objectives.	Targeted consultation in late 2019	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
4	Risk Based Framework - Kate Dewar	Review of the Risk Based Framework (RBF) to address aspects of implementation and outcome of the RBF. This will include investigations into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness and efficiency in enhancing accessibility, which includes an option to develop a tools annex to the standard and consideration of using other risk-based methods in MSC fisheries assessments). A technical review of RBF, including species specific investigations for possible Productivity Susceptibility Analysis revisions & process requirements. Review of potential areas for clarification and identification of potential redundancy within RBF requirements. Review of RBF to ensure it is aligned with the MSC Fisheries Standard (revisions as required) and global best practice in risk-based data-limited approaches to assessing fisheries. 	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review



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5	Harvest strategy and responsiveness (Performance Indicator 1.2.1) - Adrian Gutteridge	There have been ongoing discussions about what the term 'responsive' means at the SG80 level for Performance Indicator 1.2.1 scoring issue a. We recently undertook a consultancy to investigate this term, with some recommendations being made. One of these recommendations was to simply remove 'responsive' from Scoring Guidepost 80.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
6	Inseparable or practically inseparable stocks (Annex PA) - Tim Davies	A review of application of 'Inseparable or Practically Inseparable' requirements to ensure that they are meeting the intent.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
7	Habitat Performance indicators (2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3) - Shaun McLennan	A review of the clarity of the Habitats Performance Indicator requirements and guidance to improve consistency of assessments.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
8	Shark finning - Adrian Gutteridge - Kate Dewar	A review of implementation and outcome of the shark finning requirements in the standard. Note there is another shark finning project on a shorter timeline associated with scope in the Fisheries Certification Process.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review



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9	Ghost gear - Shaun McLennan	A review of ghost gear exploring how and whether the standard should strengthen requirements and or guidance with respect to ghost gear impacts.	Public consultation in late 2019	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
10	Yoyo fisheries - Phillipa Kohn	Yoyo fisheries, stocks that vary considerably over temporal scales, could prove problematic for some MSC assessments leading to uncertainty with regards to their status in the program. Consideration is needed of how the standard applies to these highly dynamic, environmentally driven fisheries noting where there may be challenges and potential modifications and/or guidance.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
11	Key Low Trophic Level stocks - Phillipa Kohn	A review of the current key Low Trophic Levels (LTL) requirements (Performance Indicators 1.1.1A) and development of appropriate tools for use in identifying connectedness to support key LTL assessments.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
	Standard evolution	This workstream focusses on the review of the intent and application of the standard for five priority topics to ensure the bar is set appropriately to achieve sustainable outcomes.	N/A (see specific projects below)	Aug-2021



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12	Endangered, Threatened, Protected species review - Matt Gummery	To determine whether improvements can and should be made to streamline the designation and assessment of Endangered, Threatened and Protected species (ETP species) to incentivise data collection and implementing mitigation methods in fisheries. Focus areas identified for review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the designation of ETP species. Review global best practice of the intentional harassment of marine mammals as directed by the MSC program scope and assurance working group. • A review of the application and intent of ETP Performance indicators to ensure achieving sustainable outcomes. • A review of the designation of ETP species. 	Targeted consultation in early 2019 (on ETP designation with assessors and environmental NGO representatives)	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
13	Ecosystems Performance Indicator review - Gonzalo Banda-Cruz	Review of the Ecosystem component of Principle 2. Ecosystem Performance indicators are not seen to be driving the MSC theory of change through fishery improvements and are not being consistently applied by CABs. Ecosystem Performance indicators have not been reviewed since Fisheries Assessment Methodology v1, indicating the need to review global best practice and to confirm intent of the requirements with MSC original Principles and Criteria.	Targeted consultation in late 2019	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
14	Primary species project - Shaun McLennan	Several stakeholders have raised concerns where the majority of the catch is constituted by fish stocks (Primary species) which perform poorly against P1 level of performance (though conforming to P2 requirements). In particular, there are concerns that the persistence of the scenario over time (e.g. over reassessments) represents a failure of the MSC Theory of Change. We plan to review this concern by undertaking an analysis of the prevalence of the issue, as understood, in certified and in assessment fisheries.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review



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15	Principle 3 review - Tim Davies	<p>Ensure requirements reflect best practice, are applicable for priority jurisdictions, and consider alternative approaches. Focus areas identified for review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to determine if and how Principle 3 Governance requirements impacts programme accessibility. • Review of programme scope with respect to illegal fishing, controversial unilateral exemptions and disputes. • Review of scoring evidence requirements and data gathering protocols. Review of current fisheries management best practice to determine if Principle 3 reflects all elements of existing best practice. • Clarification of definition, intent and scope in the language used in Principle 3. 	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review
16	Species strategies for octopus, squid and crab - Philippa Kohn	To determine whether the default standard creates any barriers for entry for squid, crab and octopus and whether a species-specific assessment tree and/or additional guidance is required.	To be confirmed	TBC dependant on outcomes of review