



PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday 13 – Tuesday 14 May 2024, London

The Stakeholder Advisory Council (STAC) meeting was attended by [members of the STAC](#). Apologies were received from STAC Members Ms Bernadette Butfield, Mr Marcelo Hidalgo, and Dr Tom Pickerell.

Mr Giles Bolton (MSC Board Chair) attended (Day 1) on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees.

Dr Rebecca Lent (Technical Advisory Board Chair) observed the meeting (Day 1 and 2), and Dr Keith Sainsbury (Technical Advisory Board) observed the meeting (Day 2).

Dr Antonio Hervás, ASI Program Manager observed part of the meeting (Day 1 & 2), and Mr Tristan Southall, Consultant, observed the part of the meeting (Day 2)

The following MSC staff attended; Dr Rohan Currey (Chief Science and Standards Officer), Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Ishbel Matheson (Chief Communications Officer), Ms Tanya van Niekerk (Governance Secretary), Dr Alene Wilton (Chief Operating Officer)

The STAC 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 STAC 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 or MSC's work. The Executive may not always immediately consider the STAC'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.

Fisheries Standard v3.0

The MSC launched [Version 3 of its Fisheries Standard](#) in May 2023. Since its release, MSC has engaged in an intensive roll-out program, testing the new requirements with fisheries partners and gathering extensive feedback from independent assessors and fishery partners at workshops held around the world. This process highlighted areas that need to be amended. The STAC welcomed the opportunity to consider and provide input on stakeholder views of the proposed amendments to Version 3 of the Standard which are proposed to be released in July 2024.

There will also be an independent review of the new Evidence Requirements Framework (ERF), which is part of the MSC toolbox providing support for implementing the Standard. The ERF is a new approach to the assessment of evidence in the MSC program and the MSC Board of Trustees agreed at launch that it would be reviewed to ensure it is working as intended. This review will begin in July 2024, led by experts in fisheries assessment. The STAC had the opportunity to note and discuss the plan for the independent review of the ERF, and to provide initial views on stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout the process.

The STAC also welcomed the opportunity to provide advice and insights about how MSC was responding to feedback from its partners about the new Standard, and to recommend suitable communication approaches moving forward.

MSC's Traceability Enhancement Program

The STAC received a general update on the MSC's **Traceability Enhancement Program**, which seeks to strengthen traceability requirements and over time to digitise data collection throughout the MSC Program and to use this enhanced traceability to reinforce the integrity of the MSC ecolabel further.

As part of this session, the STAC had the opportunity to see a live interactive demonstration and function of the new digital audit tool for added supply chain integrity in over 60 countries, the MSC Online Transaction Solution (MOTS).

Meeting Close

The STAC thanked the MSC Executive for the informative updates on the aforementioned topics.

ENDS