



41st Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Date: 15 – 16 May 2024

London

The TAB meeting was attended by [members of the TAB](#). Apologies were received from TAB Members Mr Héctor Martín Fernández Álvarez, Dr Florian Baumann, Dr Tim Essington, Mr José Augusto Pinto de Abreu.

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

Ms Heather Brayford (Stakeholder Advisory Council Chair) observed the meeting (Day 1)

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

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 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.

Fisheries Standard v3.0

The TAB was updated on the MSC launch of [Version 3 of its Fisheries Standard](#) in May 2023. Since its release, MSC has engaged in an intensive roll-out program, performing additional testing of the new requirements with fisheries 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. As a result, the MSC announced on 31 January 2024 that an updated Standard will be released in July 2024 to ensure its requirements are applied consistently and deliver the intended sustainability outcomes.

This will be followed by 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.

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The TAB welcomed the opportunity to provide technical advice on the appropriateness, practicability and feasibility of the proposed amendments to Version 3 of the Standard.

The TAB also welcomed the opportunity to provide advice and insights about how MSC was responding to feedback from its partners about the new Standard.

Finally, the TAB had the opportunity to note and discuss the plan for the independent review of the ERF, and to provide initial views on the ERF.

MSC's Traceability Enhancement Program

The TAB received a general update on the MSC's **Traceability Enhancement Program**, which sought to strengthen traceability requirements and 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 TAB 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 TAB thanked the MSC Executive for its informative updates on the aforementioned topics.