



42nd Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Date: 11 – 12 November 2024

London

The TAB meeting was attended by [members of the TAB](#). Apologies were received from TAB Members Dr Victor Restrepo (both days) and Mr Adam Swan (day 2)

Mr Giles Bolton (MSC Board Chair) and Ms Maria Damanaki (Board Member) attended on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees

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

Dr Stephanie Good (ASI Program Technical Manager), Ms Hannah Norbury, Fisheries Conformity Body Assessment Representative and Mr Tristan Southall, Consultant, observed parts of the meeting

The following MSC staff attended - Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer) (part), 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 Implementation

The TAB was updated on the **MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0 Implementation project**.

The release of [version 3.1 of the MSC Fisheries Standard](#) in July 2024 contained a series of amendments that addressed technical issues that became apparent during assessments and testing of version 3.0 of the Fisheries Standard, with the release of version 3.1 of the Fisheries Standard ensuring requirements are applied consistently and deliver the intended sustainability outcomes.

With version 3.1 of the Fisheries Standard marking the end of the amendments phase, the TAB was updated on the next phase of work, which included the ongoing MSC Toolbox Review and roll out of version 3.1 of the Fisheries Standard.

The Terms of Reference for the Toolbox Review had been [published](#), and two stakeholder webinars had been held on 11 September 2024 to cover the amendments to the Fisheries Standard and future review processes. The morning session attracted 210 attendees and the afternoon 264 and both featured excellent, technical questions from the audience. Members of the MSC would be attending the Association for Sustainable Fisheries west coast meeting in Seattle in November 2024, and the

West & Central Pacific Commission meeting in December 2024 to talk about version 3.1 of the Fisheries Standard and future plans. New training modules for assessors are in development and would be published by the end of the year (2024), and the TAB welcomed the plans for testing that were currently underway.

The TAB was also updated on the independent review of the new Evidence Requirements Framework (led by experts in fisheries assessment) which was part of the MSC Toolbox providing support for implementing the Standard, and welcomed the opportunity to discuss and provided technical feedback on the proposed direction of the review of the Evidence Requirements Framework.

MSC Objections Procedure

The TAB was updated on the ongoing work to develop and test **proposed revisions to the MSC Objections Procedure**, with MSC working closely with Assurance Services International in developing these revisions and noted the proposed implementation plan and timelines.

The TAB welcomed the opportunity to provide advice and insights about the proposed revisions to the MSC Objections Procedure.

MSC Chain of Custody Review

The TAB was updated on the **progress of the MSC Chain of Custody Review**, with a focus at this TAB meeting on the MSC Supply Chain Standards team's approach to using formal impact assessment tools for evaluating individual policy changes in the Chain of Custody Standard review.

The TAB provided feedback and direction on the proposed methods for assessing the net cumulative impact of the proposed changes and recommended that MSC run some case studies/simulation trials with individual fisheries with the TAB Chain of Custody Sub-Group to understand how the methodology would be applied in practice.

Meeting Close

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