



PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

12-13 March 2019, London UK

Attendance (*alphabetical order*)

Co-Chairs: Ms Stefanie Moreland (Trident Seafoods), Mr Peter Trott (Fishlistic),

Members in attendance: Dr Johann Augustyn (SADSTIA), Ms Heather Brayford (Government of Western Australia), Dr Louise Heaps (World Wildlife Fund), Mr Tor Larsen (Norwegian Fishermen's Association), Mr Ivan Lopez (Pesquera Ancora) on 13 March, Ms Carmen Revenga (The Nature Conservancy)

MSC Governance: Dr Werner Kiene (Chair of MSC Board of Trustees)

Observers: Dr Ghislaine Llewellyn (World Wildlife Fund)

MSC Staff: Dr Rohan Currey (Fisheries Standard Director) Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Suzi Keshavarz (Head of Standards Governance), Ms Karolina Walkowicz (Governance Secretary), Dr Alene Wilton (Chief Operating Officer)

The Council was also joined by a number of MSC staff on a project-by-project basis.

Apologies

Rory Crawford (Birdlife International), Ms Agathe Grossmith (Carrefour), Ms Yumie Kawashima (Aeon), Dr Darian McBain (Thai Union), Ms Amanda Nickson (The Pew Charitable Trusts), Ms Christine Penney (Clearwater Seafoods)

Tuesday 12th March 2019

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Co-Chairs, Ms Stefanie Moreland¹ and Mr Peter Trott, welcomed Stakeholder Advisory Council (STAC) members, MSC staff and the Chairman of the MSC Board of Trustees to the meeting.

During the session the STAC received updates from the Chief Executive, held broad discussions on MSC work undertaken since the Council's last meeting in November 2018, and forward planning of intersessional STAC activities.

¹ Ms Stefanie Moreland was appointed as the Co-Chair of the STAC and Trustee of the MSC Board following the stepping down of Ms Christine Penney in January 2019. Ms Penney will remain on the Council in a member capacity until the end of her term.



B. MSC Assurance Review

The STAC received an update on preliminary work undertaken for the MSC Assurance Review, a review intended to build upon evolution of the MSC's assurance system since the MSC Standards were first developed, bringing together a number of projects to ensure the MSC's assurance system remained effective.

The Council received the timeline for the Assurance Review, an overview of input received from targeted stakeholder consultations, as well as an overview of priority areas within the review, including:

- i. Assessor Training
- ii. MSC to Certification System Conflict of Interest
- iii. Assurance Communications Plan
- iv. Assurance System Oversight (ASI oversight, QMS control procedure and gap analysis)
- v. Peer Review College (Revised tools and QA program)
- vi. CAB to Client Conflict of Interest (Focus on improvements to existing model)
- vii. Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- viii. Conditions and FCP Improvements

The Council had a broad discussion of these issues and agreed that in order for each issue to be adequately discussed, an Assurance Working Group of the STAC should be formally constituted, with a report-back to the full STAC as necessary. The details of the Working Group were agreed to be established out of session and would require Board approval.

The Council made clear that whilst the MSC should undertake due diligence in ensuring each area was explored, changes to the MSC's Assurance processes were unlikely if these areas already operated in line with best practice.

C. Policy Development Process

The STAC received an overview of the MSC's policy development process and timelines, as well as an update on five topics currently out for public consultation from February and March 2019. These topics were:

- i. Conditions
- ii. Addressing Persistent Disagreement
- iii. Expedited Audits
- iv. Shark Finning
- v. Compartmentalisation (previously Unit of Assessment)

The STAC was encouraged to share the consultations within its networks to facilitate stakeholder engagement. The STAC also agreed that moving forward it would take a more substantive role in the planning and drafting of public consultations.

Consultations for each topic can be found on the [MSC Program Improvements](#) website.



Wednesday 13th March 2019

D. Fisheries Standard Review

The Council was presented with the proposed communications and stakeholder engagement strategy for the Fisheries Standard Review (FSR). The presentation included timelines, engagement plans for 2019 and a proposal for an active role for the STAC in facilitating stakeholder engagement. The discussion focussed on key milestones in the Review, with STAC input into the planning of stakeholder workshops to ensure effective consultation on policy recommendations and decisions.

E. STAC Forward Planning and Working Groups

The Council undertook a prioritisation exercise to determine the level of STAC engagement required for a number of Standard and other policy development topics. Topics which were ranked highest in priority for engagement were designated STAC Working Groups to enable the Council to dedicate sufficient time and resource to the issues. Membership of each Working Group would be confirmed out of session, for Board approval.

F. STAC Governance

The Council held an in-camera discussion on governance issues.

G. Meeting Close

Closing remarks were shared and the date of the forthcoming Stakeholder Advisory Council meeting was announced (week commencing 14 October 2019).

ENDS