



PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

12-13 November 2018, London UK

Attendance (*alphabetical order*)

Co-Chairs: Ms Christine Penney (Clearwater Seafoods), Mr Peter Trott (Fishlistic),

Members: Dr Johann Augustyn (SADSTIA), Ms Heather Brayford (Government of Western Australia), Mr Rory Crawford (Birdlife International), Ms Agathe Grossmith (Carrefour), Ms Yumie Kawashima (Aeon), Mr Tor Larsen (Norwegian Fishermen's Association), Mr Ivan Lopez (Pesquera Ancora), Ms Stefanie Moreland (Trident Seafoods), Ms Louise Heaps (World Wildlife Fund), Dr Darian McBain (Thai Union), Ms Amanda Nickson (The Pew Charitable Trusts), Dr Yorgos Stratoudakis (IPMA), Dr Marco Quesada (Conservation International) on 13th November

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

Observers: Dr Sonke Fischer (Accreditation Services International), Ms Amanda Stern-Pirlot (MRAG Americas)

MSC Staff: Dr Rohan Currey (Fisheries Standard Director) Mr Nicolas Guichoux (Chief Program Officer), Mr Rupert Howes (Chief Executive Officer), Professor Michel Kaiser (Chief Science and Standards 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

Ms Carmen Revenga (The Nature Conservancy)

Monday 12th November 2018

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

The Co-Chairs shared the unfortunate news of the passing of STAC member Mr Aditya Utama Surono in August 2018, extending condolences to his family and friends and thanking him for his significant contributions to the MSC program.

The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the agenda of the meeting and the Council **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record.



The remainder of the morning session was designated for updates from the Executive, broad discussions on intersessional activities since the Council's last meeting in April 2018 and STAC involvement in forthcoming projects.

Members of the STAC committed to participation within a variety of working groups bringing in additional expertise to provide more in-depth stakeholder inputs into the MSC's policy development.

B. MSC Assurance Review

The STAC received the project plan for the forthcoming Assurance Review, a review intended to develop further the MSC's assurance system, bringing together a number of projects to ensure the MSC's assurance system was effective. The Council was presented with a background to the review, objectives, scope, and opportunities for input. The review intended to explore the following areas:

- i. Conditions and other assessment process improvements (including 'Right to reply' mechanism)
- ii. Objections Procedure
- iii. Perceived Conflicts of Interest within the MSC certification process (CAB/Client)
- iv. Perceived Conflicts of Interest within the MSC
- v. Peer Review College
- vi. Assurance system oversight
- vii. Communications
- viii. Assessor training program

The STAC **endorsed** each of the areas outlined for review.

The STAC convened a working group to provide further input on the development of the Assurance Review project plan, which would be made public following Board review and approval in January 2019.

C. Alternative Programs and Labels

The STAC received a presentation which provided an overview of alternative seafood labelling schemes and certification programs. The Council **noted** the presentation and encouraged the MSC to continue to engage with external bodies which would support the delivery of the MSC's vision and mission.



Tuesday 13th November

D. Fisheries Standard Review

The STAC received an update on progress of the preparations for the Fisheries Standard Review (FSR) and was given an opportunity to provide input on key issues and priorities.

The MSC publicly launched the FSR Terms of Reference in September 2018. The FSR would take place until 2021 and contain two stages, review (taking place from January 2018 – January 2020) and, if agreed by the Board, revision (February 2020 and August 2021). The STAC was presented with an update on the scope of the review in various areas, including:

- i. Standard Efficiency
- ii. Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species
- iii. Principle 3

The STAC also **undertook** a broad discussion of primary species and shark finning, the former would be addressed through targeted consultation in line with the FSR timeline. Shark finning, while already addressed within the Standard, would be brought to the MSC Board of Trustees for decision on further safeguarding and guidance.

E. Compartmentalisation (formerly Unit of Assessment)

The Council received a proposal for a new method of addressing compartmentalisation within fisheries, an issue previously discussed by the MSC Board of Trustees at its meeting in June 2018. The method proposed a change in criteria addressed under the Unit of Assessment, which would improve the applicability of the guidance. The Council was broadly supportive of proceeding to public consultation with the proposal, subject to the consideration of the Technical Advisory Board and MSC Board of Trustees. Details of the option would be published on the program improvements website upon commencement of the public consultation.

F. Stakeholder Advisory Council Governance

The Council undertook an in-camera discussion with regards to its governance, including membership, role and process efficiencies.

The Co-Chairs announced the stepping down of Dr Yorgos Stratoudakis, thanking him for immeasurable contributions and long-standing service of the MSC's governance bodies. The Council wished Dr Stratoudakis the best in his future endeavours.

G. Meeting Close

The Co-Chairs thanked Council members for their attendance and valuable contributions to the discussions, and announced the dates of future meetings, which were scheduled to take place in March and October 2019.