



## PUBLIC SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE MSC STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Wednesday 13 – Thursday 14 November 2024, London**

The Stakeholder Advisory Council (STAC) meeting was attended by [members of the STAC](#). Apologies were received from STAC Members Mr Damien Bell, Mr Christian Haller, Ms Bernadette Butfield (Day 2)

Mr Giles Bolton (MSC Board Chair) and Ms Maria Damanaki (Board Member) (Day 1) attended on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees

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 STAC was also joined by a number of relevant MSC staff on a project-by-project basis.*

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*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 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 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 STAC 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).

The STAC 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 provide stakeholder feedback on the proposed direction of the review of the Evidence Requirements Framework.

## MSC Objections Procedure

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

## MSC NGO Strategy

The STAC was presented with an **outline of a proposed new four step approach to MSC's engagement with NGOs**. This strategy was important for all elements of the MSC theory of change, and STAC welcomed the opportunity to provide multi-stakeholder perspectives on the implications of, and relevance to, different sectors in helping to further develop, implement and focus the MSC's NGO engagement strategy.

## MSC Traceability Enhancement Program

The STAC received a general informational 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.

## Meeting Close

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

ENDS