

38th Meeting of the Marine Stewardship Council's Technical Advisory Board

Public Summary

Meeting Date: 7th December 2022

Virtual meeting

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. 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](https://www.msc.org) will be updated to reflect final decisions, including rationales.

The TAB meeting was attended by [members of the TAB](#). Apologies were received from TAB Members; Dr Tim Essington, Dr Victor Restrepo, and Dr Keith Sainsbury.

The following observers were present for part of the meeting: Mr Rob Blyth-Skyrme (Accreditation Services International).

Dr Werner Kiene (MSC Chair) attended on behalf of the MSC Board of Trustees. External observers were not present for internal governance discussions and Executive updates (and external observers are asked to leave where potential for conflict of interest are identified).

Introductory items

During the session the TAB received an overview of intersessional TAB and TAB working group activities.

Rollout of the Fisheries Standard

MSC recently completed the most comprehensive review of the MSC Fisheries Standard ever undertaken in the 25-year history of the MSC. The new Standard (version 3.0), published on 26 October 2022, includes significant improvements, including better protections for marine life, as well as stronger fisheries management and compliance requirements.

The TAB received a **general overview and update on the rollout of the new Standard** to date. The TAB heard that with the publication of the revised scheme documents, the MSC had moved into the rollout phase, which involved communicating the changes to stakeholders, training Conformity Assessment Bodies, and supporting fisheries as they begin transitioning to the new Standard.

The TAB reflected on the multi-year FSR process, which had been a considerable piece of work and once again acknowledged the extent and quality of the work by the MSC Executive in producing the Fisheries Standard and the importance of introducing improved requirements to the Standard to strengthen evidence and data collection.

The TAB noted that alongside the roll out phase, MSC would consider the **learnings from the FSR process** to apply to the next FSR.

The TAB **welcomed the update** on the rollout of the Fisheries Standard v3.0.

Update on MSC's Climate Change Work

The TAB received an update on MSC's ongoing work on climate change-related issues, including a planned workshop to commence a program of work evaluating climate change impacts and associated resilience of certified fisheries.

The TAB welcomed the opportunity to provide scientific and technical views and advice on this important area of work.

Meeting Close

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