

SSC Steering Group Meeting

Date:	19 April 2023 09:00-11:00 (BST)
Attendees:	10 attendees (7 Steering Group; 3 Secretariat)

Summary – agenda, notes, decisions

1. Introductions

The new Steering Group members introduced themselves. The Secretariat updated on actions since the last meeting.

2. Decision making models

- The proposed decision making models were approved with minor amendments, and should be added to the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Statements should be prepared on advocacy issues of importance to the SSC, once these are agreed, which can be used for external communications.

3. Terms of Reference

The role of SSC associates/affiliates was discussed, and it was decided that this needs to be defined. It was noted that it could be useful to engage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to understand their position on certain issues. Regarding interest in some affiliation/association with the SEA Alliance, there is overlap in Steering Group membership with a representative who could act as a conduit for information.

An action is currently recorded in the Steering Group ToR to 'Develop an internal policy of best practice with regard to the public disclosure of which fisheries SSC members source from.' It was noted that it should be agreed whether this is a requirement or best practice recommendation. There are options for disclosure such as FishChoice, FishWise and Ocean Disclosure Project. It was agreed to discuss with the wider membership.

There was a wider discussion regarding monitoring and reporting use of the Codes. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of each member company to implement the Codes, but there needs to be some system to monitor their use. The Implementation Report raises the profile of the Codes within each member's business which can help build capacity. There were mixed views on actioning the Implementation Report before updating the Codes. It was proposed that the Implementation Report and review of the Codes should be seen as separate.

- Draft tracked changes to the ToR were agreed, including a two-year term for Steering Group members, with 2022 members serving for one more year to enable staggered turnover. The terms 'responsible' and 'sustainable' should be reviewed and defined as part of the Codes, including considerations of the wider pillars of sustainability (e.g. social aspects), and referenced in the ToR.
- A role definition for associates/affiliates should be developed for discussion at the July meeting. Potential associates/affiliates (including NGOs) should be asked about expectations, benefits, aims and intentions of being part of the SSC to inform this.
- Collaboration and potential affiliation/association should be clarified with the SEA Alliance.
- Public disclosure of fisheries should be discussed with the wider membership.
- Overall, the Steering Group were in favour of a 2023 Implementation Report on the current Codes. Further details on the report and timelines should be agreed at the July Steering Group meeting, with the aim of actioning in H2 2023. To inform this discussion, questions, outputs, and outcomes from the 2017 and 2020 Reports should be reviewed.

4. Roadmap and strategy plan

The suggested proposal for the roadmap and strategy work was approved, encompassing an all member workshop in summer, external stakeholder engagement and creation of a designed infographic summarising the vision for sustainable seafood and priority areas for the SSC and a 2023-2024 strategic workplan.

- The roadmap and strategy workplan and budget were agreed, as was the overall costed workplan for 2023.
- It was agreed that communications could be more of a focus later in the year to increase external awareness of the SSC.

5. AOB

Deep sea mining market statement

A number of stakeholders have produced a seafood market statement which supports a pause on deep-sea mining until there is clear understanding on the marine environment and strong scientifically grounded regulations are in place.

- It was agreed that the Secretariat should circulate the statement to all members, and if there are no objections, the SSC will sign.