

SSC Steering Group Meeting

Date:	1 March 2023 16:00-17:30 (GMT)
Attendees:	9 attendees (6 Steering Group; 3 Secretariat)

Summary – agenda, notes, decisions

1. Introductions

The new Secretariat and Steering Group members introduced themselves.

2. Secretariat update

The Secretariat updated on the first two months in the role.

3. Consultation results and discussion

The Secretariat outlined the consultation process – a survey was sent out to all members covering: purpose of joining the SSC and perceived benefits; what the core areas and activities should be, which topics should be focused on; importance and understanding of the Codes and their implementation and lastly on communications preference. The results of the consultation were discussed.

Purpose

The role of the SSC needs to be further defined and there is support for a sustainable seafood roadmap

Member support and advocacy were highlighted as core aims for the SSC. Survey respondents ranked 'focusing on topic areas as part of working groups' as the highest priority SSC activity. It was suggested that some topics may need to be embedded into the Codes e.g. climate action, human rights. It was noted that 'sustainable seafood' needs to be defined, for example in relation to the three pillars (social, economic and environmental) versus the current focus on environment only. From consultation discussions, the idea was put forward of creating a roadmap to outline a shared vision of sustainable seafood and steps to achieve this.

- The SSC should act beyond the Codes (the original rationale for its creation) which could be seen as minimum requirements.
- It was agreed that what members mean by 'advocacy' needs to be understood further.
- Membership of other seafood organisations needs to be understood.
- A roadmap should be created for sustainable seafood and the role of the SSC within this.
- Horizon scan and gap analysis exercises should be performed for topic areas to determine where the SSC can add value.
- More detailed discussions on topic areas should take place at future meetings.

The Codes need to be updated and implementation reviewed

The consultation demonstrated that the Codes are seen to be very important, but there is a lack of understanding regarding some aspects of interpretation and compliance. It was suggested that there could be additional membership requirements. It was suggested that an external report on wider actions could be considered as a separate activity to the Implementation Report.

- Further work should be undertaken to understand what aspects of the Codes are difficult to understand. This should identify what additional support is needed.
- The Codes should be reviewed, simplified, and made more accessible.
- The content of the Codes should be refreshed, perhaps with a more in-depth review to ensure that they are fit for purpose e.g., within the context of new legislation and wider sector advances.
- Monitoring of the Codes, membership requirements, the Implementation Report and further reporting should be discussed at a future Steering Group meeting.
- In cases where non-members are using the Codes, recognition needs to be given to the SSC.

International membership is a priority activity, but should be pursued following updates to the SSC role and Codes

- International membership should be revisited when the SSC role has been further defined and the Codes have been updated.

Governance

- Individual names and organisations on the Steering Group should be made public on the website. The number of Steering Group members should be reduced to 8-10, with the quorum for meetings remaining at 6.
- Draft changes should be made to both Terms of Reference and circulated for comment.
- The Secretariat should provide examples of governance decision making models to the Steering Group for discussion.
- The action in the Terms of Reference regarding disclosure of fisheries should be discussed with the Coalition.

Communication

- As per the consultation results, email should be the main form of communication.
- Once SSC aims and direction are clearer, the website should be updated and redesigned. This could include a members' area.

4. AOB – Risk Assessment Master Sheet and RASS profiles

The Risk Assessment Master Sheet was designed to illustrate best practice for new members. Regarding a question on RASS profiles, it was noted that these are not used in the same way as before.

- The Risk Assessment Master Sheet should be updated, circulated to all members and made available for new members.