

# SSC Steering Group Meeting

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**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 09:00-11:00 (GMT)

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**Attendees:** 11 attendees (7 Steering Group, 3 Secretariat, 1 SEA Alliance).

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## Summary – agenda, notes, decisions

### 1. Governance and membership

**Steering Group (SG):** In line with the Terms of Reference, the two-year term of five SG members concludes at the end of Q1 2024, although members can volunteer to stand again. A ballot will be held if more than five members volunteer for the five places available.

**Membership:** The SG suggested that an introductory PowerPoint and flyer could be developed for recruitment and onboarding, and it was noted that the infographic could be used.

- Fish4Ever's membership application was accepted.

### 2. Strategy and workplan

**Risk Assessment:** A summary of the findings from the Risk Assessment exercise was presented. Risk Assessment examples were received from 20 members for wild capture and 12 members for farmed. The SG discussed how the template could be updated with the suggestion that a tool could be developed or external tools signposted. The SG highlighted the importance of the Guidance in supporting members.

- It was decided that the examples received represent a sufficient sample for the purposes of the exercise.

#### Working Group (WG) Updates:

- **Codes:** There have been two meetings with a third scheduled for March. Members volunteered to work on different sections of the Codes and are currently reviewing their sections and engaging stakeholders to present back to the WG at the March meeting. External stakeholders will be invited for full consultation on the draft updated Codes.
- **Accountability:** There has been one meeting with a second to take place in February at which draft proposals for an accountability mechanism will be discussed.
- **Implementation:** There has been one meeting with a second to take place in February. The focus in the first half of 2024 will be deciding priority topics, the knowledge sharing mechanism(s), and collating materials in collaboration with external partners. In the second half of 2024, the WG plans to focus on updating the SSC Guidance including reflecting the updates made to the Codes by the Codes WG, and revising the Risk Assessment template. It was suggested that specific species could be used to work through the Codes.

### 3. SEA Alliance

It was suggested that a meeting could be held with the SSC to discuss the SEA Alliance's working document on human rights commitments. It was noted that the human rights commitments work will be published for any business to use, and that social requirements in the Codes should also include further action and reporting on progress in addition to commitments.

Mechanisms for resource sharing were discussed, specifically for the SEA Alliance's Fishery Risk Tool. The importance of ensuring all SSC members are at the same level of understanding on social issues was highlighted.

- It was agreed that the SEA Alliance will collaborate with SSC SG on overall alignment and with the WGs on specific content.
- It was agreed that SEA Alliance's involvement with the 2024 review of the Codes will be initially based on advice and contribution as part of the SSC wider consultation with external stakeholders.

### 4. Budget

The workload for 2023 was delivered within the annual SSC budget and a draft budget allocation was presented for 2024. The decision not to run the Implementation Report in 2023 was noted, and it was suggested that those funds could be used towards development of the accountability mechanism in 2024.

- The SG were supportive of the 2024 budget allocation, including the addition of the 2023 Implementation Report budget.

### 5. Stakeholder engagement

The SG suggested events at which it would be valuable for the SSC to be represented, including: Barcelona Seafood Expo, Scottish Skipper Expo, Aquaculture UK, Responsible Seafood Summit, Shellfish Association of Great Britain annual conference.

- It was agreed that Secretariat resource should be prioritised on attending Barcelona and keeping up to date on developments for more challenging FIPs, and attendance of other events should be reviewed later in the year based on budget when the revised Codes have been drafted.

### 6. Communication

- The SG discussed the infographic and it was agreed that feedback would be actioned by the Secretariat.