

SSC Steering Group Meeting

Date: 31st October 2024 09:00-11:00 (BST)

Attendees: 12 attendees (10 Steering Group, 2 Secretariat).

Notes and decisions

1. Governance and membership

Governance: There was support for evolving governance. The SG discussed the role of a potential 'critical advisor' – Codes Working Group (WG) members noted input from stakeholders had been valuable on the Codes. The role of the Secretariat was discussed for potential re-visiting within the ToR to clearly define roles. SG members discussed a potential 'Head of' function re the SEA Alliance model with differing opinions as to need and suitability.

- Models will be proposed for a complaints mechanism and stakeholder involvement in governance.
- The Secretariat will update the ToR and SG ToR as part of the annual revision for SG review.

FishWise and US organisations: The SG discussed potential engagement with FishWise and US organisations regarding the work on forming a new coalition.

- It was agreed to have a call to understand progress and exchange learnings.

Membership: The Secretariat updated the SG on recent calls with potential new members.

2. Strategy and workplan

Accountability WG update: The Implementation Survey was finalised and responses gathered through August and September. The Secretariat analysed results and finalised the report. The key findings and recommendations were discussed, with follow up actions proposed to be led by WG members. A public report will be published in early 2025.

- The SG agreed to the Accountability WG's proposed follow up actions.

Implementation WG update: The glossary, example risk assessment with high level guidance, and one-pager document are being finalised and will be shared with all members. Next steps include finalising a stakeholder matrix, and targeted workstreams for updating the Guidance, external stakeholder webinars and implementing a buddy system. The Implementation Report suggested provision of support for certain members would best sit with this WG.

The SG discussed possible options for the WG to consider developing, such as a 10-minute introduction video, an online version of the Risk Assessment, onboarding for change in personnel and others in a member's business.

Codes WG update: Member feedback was used to finalise V2 of the Codes and revise the risk assessment template. The V2 draft Codes were shared with key stakeholders identified through the consultation process for written and verbal feedback. During November the WG will review all stakeholder feedback and finalise V3 of the draft Codes as well as the risk assessment template and a revised decision tree. A public consultation on the Codes is planned for December. The Codes and risk assessment template will be published with a summary of decision-making during Spring 2025.

The Codes WG highlighted key areas for decision following stakeholder feedback including the inclusion of additional topics such as carbon and welfare, timeframes for timebound action plans within the Codes and claims during transition periods. It was suggested that certain elements such as carbon be included in the Guidance rather than the Codes themselves due to challenges with defining and gathering data.

- It was confirmed that Codes WG members will seek legal advice on the Codes.

3. Budget

The agreed 2025 membership fees should close the funding gap for core activities in 2025. The stakeholder engagement project is running to budget.

4. Member engagement

Next communication to members will be sent out following the SG meeting. Next steps and workplan for 2025 will also be shared with members once agreed by SG.

5. Stakeholder engagement

Longer-term engagement with some stakeholders engaged as part of the Codes review was discussed and the potential role in governance/support provided to the SSC.