

Marine Stewardship Council

MSC-MSCI Vocabulary



V1.1, 20th February 2015

MSC-MSCI Vocabulary – Normative

1 Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This vocabulary defines concepts, terms, phrases and abbreviations used by the MSC and MSCI.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Where possible, definitions in this document are taken from or based on definitions taken from authoritative sources, including: Where possible, definitions in this document are taken from or based on definitions taken from authoritative sources, including:
 - 2.1.1 The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).
 - 2.1.2 The glossary of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.
 - 2.1.3 ISEAL Alliance's Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards – Implementation Manual.
 - 2.1.4 The OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms.
- 2.2 Modifications made to these definitions have been made when necessary to address the specific circumstances of the MSC Certification Requirements.
- 2.3 Where a definition contains bold text, this indicates that the term used is also defined

3 Vocabulary

Table 1: MSC-MSCI Terms and definition

Term	Definition
AAPG	Accreditation Audit Practice Group, a joint project of ISO and IAF
AB	See Accreditation Body .
ABC	See Allowable Biological Catch .
Accreditation	Third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body (CAB) conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.
Accreditation Body	An organisation that assesses whether or not CABs are competent to carry out conformity assessment(s) against specified standards. This includes MSC's contracted Accreditation Body, ASI.
Accurate	Accurate data refers to the Closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.
Achieving its Objective	<p>The measure or strategy is having the consequences that were expected when the measure or strategy was implemented.</p> <p>It is not necessary to have evidence that a long term goal or objective is being or has been achieved. It is necessary to have evidence that the measure or strategy is producing some results with regard to performance of the fishery, and the results are consistent with movement along an identified pathway towards a specific long term goal or objective.</p>
Affiliate	Any direct or indirect holding company or subsidiary company of the relevant entity. A company is a "Subsidiary" of another company, if the latter company: (a) holds a majority of the voting rights in it; or (b) is a member of it and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of its board of directors; or (c) is a member of it and controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders or members, a majority of the voting rights in it. "Company" includes any corporate or any legal entity capable under law of making a contract.
Allowable Biological Catch	A term used by a management agency which refers to the range of allowable catch for a species or species group. It is set each year by a scientific group created by the management agency. The agency then takes the ABC estimate and sets the annual total allowable catch (TAC).
Appeal	Request by a client for reconsideration of any adverse decision made by the CAB related to the client's desired certification status where a response is expected.
Applicant CAB	A CAB applying for MSC accreditation.

Term	Definition
Aquaculture	The farming of aquatic organisms: fish, molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic plants, crocodiles, alligators, turtles, and amphibians. Farming implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated. For statistical purposes, aquatic organisms which are harvested by an individual or corporate body which has owned them throughout their rearing period contribute to aquaculture.
Aquaculture operation	A (commercially managed) operation aimed at farming of aquatic organisms.
Aquaculture Stewardship Council	A certification and labelling programme for responsibly farmed aquatic organisms, which shares the MSC Chain of Custody standards and Certification Requirements.
ASC	See: Aquaculture Stewardship Council .
ASC-Certified	A (commercially managed) operation aimed at farming of aquatic organisms or products resulting from this operation which has been found in compliance with the species specific ASC standard.
Assessment	A process that connects knowledge and action regarding a problem. Review and analysis of information derived from research for the purpose of informing the decision-making process. It may not require new research and involves assembling, organising, summarising, interpreting and reconciling existing knowledge, and communicating it to the policy-maker or other actors concerned by the problem. Assessment is used to refer to the initial certification and re-certifications of fisheries.
Assessment Contract	A contract specifying the terms and obligations on all parties for an assessment.
Assessment Methodology	The methodology followed by CABs when assessing conformity against standards.
Assessment Team	Two or more assessors conducting a fishery assessment, supported if needed by technical experts. NOTE One assessor of the assessment team is appointed as the assessment team leader.
Assessment Tree	The hierarchy of Principles, Components, Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts that is used as the basis for assessment of the fishery for conformity with the MSC fisheries standard. See: Default Tree , Draft Tree .
Audit	Systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the client meets the relevant standard.. Audit refers to all audit activities carried out to

Term	Definition
	assess conformity of fisheries and CoC clients against relevant MSC standards.
Audit Findings	Results of the evaluation of the collected audit evidence against the standard or requirements against which the client is being audited. NOTE: Audit findings can indicate conformity or non-conformity with audit criteria or opportunities for improvement.
Audit plan/planning	The proposed activities and their timing , to be carried out by the CAB to determine the extent to which the standard criteria are fulfilled.
Audit Scope	Extent and boundaries of an audit. NOTE: The audit scope generally includes a description of the physical locations, organisational units, activities and processes, as well as the time period covered.
Audit Team	One or more auditors conducting a CoC audit, supported if needed by technical experts. NOTE 1 One auditor of the audit team is appointed as the audit team leader. NOTE 2 The audit team may include auditors-in-training.
Auditor	Person with the competence to conduct an audit.
Bias (statistical)	An effect which deprives a statistical result of representativeness by systematically distorting it, as distinct from a random error which may distort on any one occasion but balances out on the average. Bias is different from variance; it is a measure of the difference with the true value because the samples are not representative of the data population.
Biologically Based Limit	In the SGs for P2 refers, at a minimum, to the point of serious or irreversible harm.
Board of Trustees	The MSC's governance group.
Bycatch Species	Organisms that have been taken incidentally and are not retained (usually because they have no commercial value).
C1	Criteria 1 (under any of the Principles in the MSC standard).
C2	Criteria 2 (under any of the Principles in the MSC standard).
CAB	See Conformity Assessment Body .
CAG	See Catch and Grow Fisheries .
Cancellation of Accreditation	Voluntary cancellation of an accreditation contract by any party to it according to the contractual arrangements.
Capture-Based Aquaculture	See Catch and Grow Fisheries .
Catch and Grow Fisheries	Production systems that involve wild harvest followed by a grow-out phase (e.g. mussel farming based on wild spat collection).

Term	Definition
CB	See: CAB, Conformity Assessment Body .
Central Office	For Group or CFO CoC clients: the central office is the central managing function or entity responsible for managing the CoC certificate and ensuring all sites conform to the relevant CoC standard.
Certificate	A formal document issued by a CAB or accreditation body as evidence that the party (ies) named on the certificate is in conformity with the standard(s) noted on the certificate for the scope given.
Certificate Holder	An entity which holds a certificate issued by an MSC-accredited CAB.
Certificate Sharing Mechanism	The agreement between the client group and any other eligible fishers or other entities detailing the certificate cost sharing mechanism to be used and any other requirements needed to enable the other eligible fishers or entities to access a fishery certificate.
Certification	Procedure by which a third party gives written or equivalent assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements.
Certification Body	See Conformity Assessment Body, CAB .
Certification Requirements	Mandatory requirements applicable to CABs.
Certification Scheme	Rules, procedures, and management for carrying out certification.
Certified	Certificate of conformity to an MSC standard granted by an accredited certification body.
Certified Fishery	A fishery that has been granted a certificate of conformity to the MSC P&Cs by a CAB.
Certified product	Fish or fish products that originate from a certified fishery or certified farm and are identified or labelled as certified.
Certifier	See Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) .
Chain of Custody	The procedures implemented by organisations purchasing or handling certified products in the supply chain. These procedures ensure conformity with the MSC Chain of Custody standard and provide assurance that throughout the supply chain, certified products are segregated from non-certified products and are traceable back to a certified source.
Chain of Custody Standard	The MSC has a Default CoC standard for Chain of Custody certification. The Default standard has two associated variants that are applicable to organisations meeting specific eligibility criteria: the Group version (Group CoC standard) and Consumer-Facing Organisation version (CFO CoC standard).

Term	Definition
	Depending on a client's eligibility, CABs will audit a client against the Default CoC standard or one of the associated versions.
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
Client	The legal entity applying to the CAB for certification or that holds valid MSC certificate.
Client Group	Includes fishing operators within a unit of certification or other entities that the client identifies as being covered by and/or able to access the certificate. In cases where the client group does not fully control all fishing activity on a stock, the members should recognise that the achievement of any conditions placed on the fishery may be dependent on the actions of other parties, and thus outside their control (though some forms of influence may also be possible).
CoC	See Chain of Custody .
CoC Audit Checklist	The audit checklists developed by the MSC which CABs use to record evidence of conformity with the CoC standards, available on the MSC website.
Coefficient of variance/ Coefficient of variation (CV)	The standard deviation of a random variable divided by the mean.
Competence	Demonstrated personal attributes and demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills.
Complainant	Person or organisation filing a complaint.
Complaint	Expression of dissatisfaction, other than appeal or objection, by any person or organisation, relating to the activities of an accreditation body, a CAB a Certificate Holder, the Peer Review College or the MSC, where a response is expected.
Component	The second level of three within the Assessment Tree structure.
Condition	A requirement to achieve outcomes in order to achieve a score of 80 or above.
Conformity	Fulfilment of a need or expectation that is stated, generally implied or obligatory.
Conformity Assessment Body	<p>Body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Whenever the word CAB is used in the text, it applies to both the “applicant and accredited CABs” unless otherwise specified.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The terms Certification Body refer to accredited CABs.</p>
Consensus	General agreement, characterised by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process seeking to take into account the views of interested parties, particularly

Term	Definition
	those directly affected, and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. NOTE: Consensus need not imply unanimity.
Consequence Spatial Analysis	See CSA .
Consumer-Facing Organisation (CFO)	An organisation selling and/or serving seafood to the final consumer in a restaurant, catering, fish counter, or takeaway/takeout environment. Consumer-facing organisations may have a single site or multiple sites. NOTE: Particular eligibility criteria applies for organisations wishing to be certified against the CFO CoC standard.
Consumer-Facing site	For CFO CoC clients: a discrete physical location that sells or serves certified seafood directly to a final consumer (such as a restaurant location or catering site)
Consumer Ready Tamper Proof Packaging	Any single item for presentation as such to the final consumer where the packaging cannot be removed, reused, opened or resealed without altering the integrity of the product. This would include, for example, individual cans or freezer packs of seafood sold in a retail environment.
Contract Processor	An organisation that is contracted by a certified organisation (including a subsidiary or affiliate of the certified organisation) wherein the product is altered in some way. Specifically: the processor does not own the product and the processor processes the product on instruction from the certified organisation (usually the owner of the product). This definition excludes contract processors that take ownership of the product, since they are required to have their own chain of custody certification.
Corrective Action	Action to eliminate the cause of a detected non-conformity or other undesirable situation.
Criterion (Criteria)	A sub-division of an MSC Principle.
CSA	The Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) is a tool within the RBF and is a semi-quantitative approach to examine several consequence and spatial attributes in order to provide a relative measure of the UoA's risk to the habitat. Each habitat (scoring element) is assigned its own CSA score.
Culture-Based Fisheries	See Hatch and Catch Fisheries .
Current CAB	The CAB to which an entity is currently contracted.
Current Requirements	MSC scheme documents that are in force and made available for use to CABs by the accreditation body in accordance with the accreditation contract between the accreditation body and each CAB.
CV	See Coefficient of variance .
Day(s)	Calendar days unless otherwise stated.

Term	Definition
Decision Making Entity	The individual or committee that makes a decision on whether or not to grant, suspend, withdraw or change the certificate or scope of certification(s).
Default tree	The standard assessment tree used as a starting point to develop an assessment tree for each fishery assessment.
Derogation	The suspension of an MSC requirement for a defined term, often only for those in specific circumstances.
Destructive Fishing Practices	Fishing with poisons or fishing with explosives.
Determination	Recommended certification outcome.
Discrete high seas non-HMS	Species or stocks distributed exclusively in the high seas, i.e., in waters beyond the areas of national jurisdiction (which can be 200 miles or less) excluding species fixed on the continental shelf which remain under the sovereign rights of the coastal States, and which are not highly migratory species or stocks.
Draft tree	Proposed assessment tree; modified version of the default tree.
Ecolabel	A label that conforms to the principles described in ISO 14020:2000 Environmental labels and declarations: General Principles. The Type III Environmental Label trademarked by a certification scheme and licensed for use on products and to promote products certified by a certification body accredited to the certification scheme.
Ecological Role	In the context of Principle 1, the trophic role of a stock within the ecosystem under assessment against the MSC standard.
Ecosystem Services	Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services, such as spiritual and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling or waste degradation, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.
Eligibility Date	The date from which product harvested from a fishery or farm under assessment may be eligible to be identified as under-assessment product, subject to specific requirements. For fisheries, the Eligibility Date is determined by the fishery assessment team and can be set as either the publication date of the PCDR or the certification date.
Endangered, Threatened or Protected Species	Species recognised by national legislation and/or binding international agreements to which the jurisdictions controlling the fishery under assessment are party. Species listed under Appendix I of CITES shall be considered ETP species for the purposes of the MSC assessment, unless it can be shown that the particular stock of the CITES listed species impacted by the fishery under assessment is not endangered.

Term	Definition
Enhanced Fisheries	Any activity aimed at supplementing or sustaining the recruitment, or improving the survival and growth of one or more aquatic organisms, or at raising the total production or the production of selected elements of the fishery beyond a level that is sustainable by natural processes. It may involve stocking, habitat modification, elimination of unwanted species, fertilisation or combinations of any of these practices.
Entity	See Legal Entity .
Estimated Length of Full Assessment	The time between commencing an assessment and the predicted date by which an assessment is expected to be completed and certification awarded if the assessment result is positive.
ETP	See Endangered, Threatened or Protected Species .
Expedited Audit	Irregularly timed unannounced or short-notice audits. No more than 24 hours advance notice to be given to the client before the auditor's arrival.
External Influences	A description of external influences (such as environmental issues) that may affect the fishery and its management.
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device.
FAM	See Fisheries Assessment Methodology .
Fisheries Assessment Methodology	Fisheries Assessment Methodology, now superseded by the MSC Certification Requirements.
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.
FAO Statistical Area(s)	FAO statistical area/s – See ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/maps/world_2003.gif .
Final consumer	An individual who purchases or receives a certified product and consumes it directly but does not sell it onward to another party.
Final Report	The Final Report of an assessment of a fishery prepared by the team and the CAB, after public comment, peer review and the determination of the CAB. Includes scores, weightings and special conditions.
Fish and Fish Products	Whole fish or products that are, or are derived from, any aquatic organism.
Fishers	Individuals who take part in fishing conducted from a fishing vessel, a floating or fixed platform, or from shore. Does not include fish processors or traders.
Fishery	FAO defines a fishery as a unit determined by an authority or other entity that is engaged in raising and/or harvesting fish. Typically, the unit is defined in terms of some or all of the following: people involved, species or type of fish, area of water or seabed, method of fishing, class of boats and purpose of the activities.

Term	Definition
	<p>The MSC requirements also use this term to refer to a Unit of Assessment (or a group of such UoAs) that is under assessment or certified against the MSC fisheries standard.</p> <p>In Principle 3, however, it is the management of the wider fleet which denotes the specific “fishery” that is the subject of assessment under the fishery-specific management system PIs (i.e. 3.2.1-3.2.4).</p>
Fishing Operators	Fishing vessels, or other catching units, included within the Unit of Assessment and Unit of Certification.
Fishing Season	The seasonal operation of the fishery.
Fluctuation	Variability over time around the target reference point.
Forced labour	<p>All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily (International Labour Organisation Forced Labour Convention, 1930: Article 2 paragraph 1). This includes other unethical labour practices recognised under law as forced labour, including debt bondage, human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery.</p>
Generation Time	The average age of a reproductive individual in a given fish stock.
Green Weight	The weight of a catch prior to processing.
Grey Literature	<p>Information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e., cannot be found easily through conventional channels such as publishers. It is frequently original and usually recent.</p>
Group	For CoC certification, a central office and its associated individual sites that collectively apply for certification against the Group CoC standard.
Guidance	Examples, explanations, illustrations, background and other information to help users understand MSC certification requirements and standards.
Habitat	The chemical and bio-physical environment, including biogenic structures, where fishing takes place.
Habitat Function	The range of services provided to an organism, including, but not limited to, mediating trophic interactions, reproduction, shelter, and feeding, and influencing the behaviour of organisms.
Habitat Modified	Production systems that involve the modification of habitats to increase production or favour desirable species (e.g. lobster casitas, fish attracting devices – FADs, mussel ropes or other structures).
Habitat Structure	The arrangement of physical and biogenic formations that support plant and animal communities.

Term	Definition
HAC	See Hatch and Catch Fisheries .
Harvest Control Rule	A set of well-defined pre-agreed rules or actions used for determining a management action in response to changes in indicators of stock status with respect to reference points.
Harvest Strategy	The combination of monitoring, stock assessment, harvest control rules and management actions, which may include an MP or an MP (implicit) and be tested by MSE.
Hatch and Catch Fisheries	Production systems that involve the introduction of fish either as eggs, larvae or juvenile and subsequent recapture (e.g. salmon stocking).
HCR	See Harvest Control Rule .
Highly Migratory Species or Stocks	Marine species whose life cycle includes lengthy migrations, usually through the EEZ of two or more countries as well as into international waters. This term usually is used to denote tuna and tuna-like species, marlins and swordfish.
HMS	See Highly Migratory Species or Stocks .
History of the Fishery	A description of the general history of the fishery, including initial development of the fishery and significant changes within the history of the fishery.
HM	See Habitat Modified .
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
Implemented Successfully	There is objective evidence that the fishery is following the practice(s) required by the measure or strategy, and that some expected consequences of that measure(s) are seen in the performance of the fishery. It is not necessary to have evidence that the measure or strategy has resulted in benefits to the component being modified.
Inform	Provide information to a party, keeping a record of having provided the information.
Informative	Supplemental information such as recommendations, tutorials, commentary, background, and history which is not a requirement.
Input-output reconciliation	For CoC clients: a calculation of the conversion rate between volumes purchased and sold, and between inputs and output volumes into each processing step (where relevant). This may be between two time periods, in relation to one batch, or in relation to one batch within a defined time period. The purpose of the input-output reconciliation is to demonstrate that certified outputs are not greater than the inputs, except as related to added ingredients, and that the conversion rates are accurate and justifiable
Inseparable	Situations where the target stock(s) and non-target stock(s) cannot be distinguished during normal fishing operations. Ability to separate catches of target stock(s) from catches of non-target stock(s) in these cases could require, for example, post-capture genetic analysis.

Term	Definition
Intellectual Property Rights	Any and all rights to copyright, topography, databases, designs, patents, trade or service marks, know-how and all other intellectual property, any and all proprietary or other rights (whether or not any of the same are registered or able to be registered, and including any applications or rights to apply for registration of any of the same) which may exist anywhere and in any form worldwide.
Interested Party	Any person or group concerned with or directly affected by a standard – used synonymously in this procedure with the term ‘stakeholder’.
Interim Certification	The issuance of a temporary CoC certificate in advance of an on-site audit by a CAB. The issuance follows permission being sought by the CAB and granted by the MSC, provided that the risk is low and manageable.
Internal Audit	The mechanism through which a CoC client takes action to verify a site’s compliance with the CoC standard or relevant internal policies. This may include onsite audits, remote paperwork reviews, or other means, and will be appropriate to the size and nature of the site.
International Standard	Standard that is adopted by an international standardising/standards organisation and made available to the public.
Introduced Species Based Fishery	Any fishery which prosecutes a target fin or shellfish species that was intentionally or accidentally transported and released by human activity into an aquatic environment beyond its natural distribution range. Note: Does not include species that are “introduced” into a location due to an expansion in their natural geographic range.
IPI	Inseparable or practicably inseparable.
ISEAL Alliance	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance.
ISBF	See Introduced Species Based Fishery .
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation.
ISO 17021	ISO/IEC 17021: 2011, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.
ISO 17065	ISO/IEC 17065: 2011, General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.
ISO 19011	ISO/IEC 19011: 2011, Guidelines for auditing management systems.
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
Justification	Rationale establishing that no adverse impact on the competence, consistency and impartiality of the certification body’s operation of the certification scheme has resulted.

Term	Definition
Key elements	Aspects of the fishery which are essential to determining how the fishery performs against the MSC P&Cs.
Key Information	Key information is defined as all information used by the assessment team for scoring and in rationales that is not considered confidential information under FCR4.3, and that would be required to enable a stakeholder to be able to properly review the logic used by the team in their conclusion about a particular PI score.
Key personnel	Staff within an organisation that make decisions or carry out procedures related to MSC certification or conformity with MSC standards. Within a CAB, key personnel will include staff that make decisions on certification, and top management.
Lead Assessor / Lead Auditor	Assessor / Auditor who is given the overall responsibility for specified assessment/ audit activities related to management systems conformity assessment / audit.
Legal Entity	Any individual, partnership, proprietorship, corporation, association or other organisation that has, in the eyes of the law, the capacity to make a contract or an agreement and the abilities to assume an obligation and to pay off its debts. A legal entity, under the law, is responsible for its actions and can be sued for damages.
Legal Requirements	Any present or future law, regulation, directive, instruction, direction or rule of any competent authority including any amendment, extension or replacement thereof which is from time to time in force.
Legal Ownership	Organisations are considered to take legal ownership if they issue invoices related to the sale of certified products and collect payment for the sale of certified products, or are able to demonstrate their financial ownership of certified materials based on other documentation (such as internal transfer slips, contracts, or deeds).
Level	Layer within the assessment tree hierarchy: principle; component; performance indicator; or scoring issue.
Licence Agreement	The “Licence”, which when signed incorporates the Terms & Conditions of the Agreement and its Annexes and which together with MSCI approval constitute the Agreement.
Limit Reference Point	The point beyond which the state of a fishery and/or a resource is not considered desirable and which management is aiming to avoid.
Local Fisheries Management Areas(s)	Local fisheries management area/s (e.g. ICES divisions VI, VII, and VIII a, b, c), Preferably the area is marked on a map.
LRP	See Limit Reference Point .
Main Commercial Market	The main markets within which fish and fish products resulting from the fishery are sold.

Term	Definition
Management Procedure	The combination of pre-defined data, together with an algorithm to which such data are input to provide a value for a TAC or effort control measure; this combination has been demonstrated, through simulation trials, to show robust performance in the presence of uncertainties. Additional rules may be included, for example to spread a TAC spatially to cater for uncertainty about stock structure.
Management Review	Review carried out by the top management of an entity on its own organisational units to determine the on-going suitability of its management systems to meet its desired objectives.
Management Strategy Evaluation	Usually synonymous with MP approach; often used to describe the process of testing generic MPs or harvest strategies.
Management System	The framework of processes and procedures used to ensure that an organisation can fulfil all tasks required to achieve its objectives. In a fisheries context includes agencies involved in the management of the fishery, the legislative framework within which the fishery is undertaken and the core management measures implemented (including the TAC for the fishery for which certification is sought).
Maximum Sustainable Yield	The highest theoretical equilibrium yield that can be continuously taken (on average) from a stock under existing (average) environmental conditions without affecting significantly the reproduction process.
May	A permitted course of action, within the limits of the standard.
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance.
Method of Catch	The fishing method(s) employed in the fishery.
MP	See Management Procedure .
MP (Implicit)	A set of rules for management of a resource that contains the elements of an MP, but has not yet been evaluated through simulation trials.
MP Approach	Management of a resource using a fully specified set of rules incorporating feedback control; the approach is explicitly precautionary through its requirement for simulation trials to have demonstrated robust performance across a range of uncertainties about resource status and dynamics.
MSC	The Marine Stewardship Council.
MSC Accredited Certification Body	A CAB which is accredited by the MSC's accreditation body to undertake certification audits of applicants for the MSC certification scheme, issue MSC certificates and the conduct surveillance within the scope set by the accreditation body.
MSC Certification	See Certified .
MSC P&Cs	See MSC Principles and Criteria .
MSC Principles and Criteria	The MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

Term	Definition
MSC Representative	For Group CoC: The individual who has the responsibility to ensure the group's conformity with all MSC Group CoC requirements. Appointed by the group central office.
MSC Requirement	An element mandated by MSC for CABs or for certified entities.
MSC Standard	A document established by consensus and approved by a recognised body that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context. MSC has 2 standards: one fisheries standard and one CoC standard
MSC-eligible fish	Whole fish or products that are, or are derived from, any aquatic organism harvested in a certified fishery, as defined in the Unit of Certification of a valid MSC certificate.
MSCI	Marine Stewardship Council International Ltd.
MSCI Licensing Requirements	MSCI Licensing Agreements, together with the Terms and Conditions, and all Rules for ecolabel use.
MSE	See Management Strategy Evaluation .
MSY	See Maximum Sustainable Yield .
Multi-site	Two or more sites that are individually audited against the Default CoC standard and that share a chain of custody certificate
Name of Fishery	To be determined by the fishery client and the certification body. The name determined must be unique and unambiguous and in addition to specifying the species for which certification is sought, may also incorporate details of the client group for the assessment, geographical location of the fishery and the fishing method employed.
Non-conforming product	Fish or fish products that are identified as certified or labelled with trademarks, but which cannot be proven to come from a certified source
Non-conformity	Failure of a CAB to conform to one or more MSC Certification Requirements, or failure of a certificate holder to conform to any requirement of an MSC standard.
Normative	A prescriptive element; a requirement.
Notification Report	Report from the certification body formally notifying the MSC of a fishery client's intent to undergo a full assessment.
Objections Procedure	Procedure as described in Annex PD
Objective Evidence	Verifiable information or records pertaining to the quality of an item or service or to the existence and implementation of a quality system element, which is based on visual observation, measurement or test that, can include independent witnesses, peer-reviewed scientific research, or otherwise verifiable and credible information.

Term	Definition
OP	See Objections Procedure .
Operations site	For CFO CoC clients: a discrete physical location that is involved in processing, storage, distribution, packing or repacking of certified products. A CFO CoC client may have both operations and consumer-facing sites included in their CoC certification.
Other Eligible Fishers	MSC fisheries standard as part of the Unit of Assessment; and are not currently part of the Unit of Certification but are potentially eligible to join the Unit of Certification under a certificate sharing arrangement. This group will be defined by the CAB and would normally comprise fishers targeting the same stock using the same methods/gear and operating under the same management regime as the fishers included in the Unit of Certification. It might also include other situations, for instance the catches of a stock defined in the Unit of Assessment that are taken as incidental catch in another certified fishery.
Other Fisheries in the Area	A description of other fisheries in the vicinity not subject to the certification that may interact with the fishery being assessed.
Overfished	The stock may remain overfished (i.e. with a biomass well below the agreed limit) for some time even though fishing pressure might be reduced or suppressed.
Overlapping assessment	An assessment of Overlapping Fisheries
Overlapping Fisheries	Two or more fisheries which require assessment of some, or all, of the same aspects of MSC Principles 1, 2 and/or 3 within their respective units of certification.
P1	Principle 1 of the MSC Principles and Criteria.
P2	Principle 2 of the MSC Principles and Criteria.
P3	Principle 3 of the MSC Principles and Criteria.
Partial audit	An audit focussing on the area of non-conformance ,or on areas where information is deficient
Peer Review Draft Report	The draft report of the assessment of the fishery prepared by the team and the CAB submitted to peer reviewers. Follows preliminary draft report, precedes Public Comment Draft Report.
Performance Indicator	The lowest level of sub-criterion of a MSC Criterion in the decision tree; the level at which the performance of the fishery is scored by the team.
PI	See Performance Indicator .
PISG	Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts.
Practicably Inseparable	Situations where the ability to separate catches of target stock(s) from catches of non-target stock(s) requires significant modification to existing harvesting and processing methods employed during normal fishing operations.

Term	Definition
Pre-Assessment Report	Report to a client from the CAB following a pre-assessment.
Precautionary approach	The precautionary approach shall be interpreted to mean being cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and that the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures
Precision	Precision is a quality associated with a class of measurements and refers to the way in which repeated observations conform to themselves; and in a somewhat narrower sense refers to the dispersion of the observations, or some measure of it, whether or not the mean value around which the dispersion is measured approximates the “true” value. It is the inverse of uncertainty.
Pre default tree PI equivalents	Prior to the use of the default tree (FAM v1) CABs developed their own trees unique to each fishery. Each tree had performance indicators which can be considered similar to those in the default tree.
Preliminary Draft Report	The draft report of the assessment of the fishery prepared by the team and the CAB provided to the client prior to peer review. Precedes peer review draft report.
Preventive Action	Action to eliminate the cause of a potential non-conformity or other undesirable potential situation.
PRI	Point of Recruitment Impairment – the stock level below which recruitment may be impaired.
Principle	A fundamental element, in the MSC’s case, used as the basis for defining a well-managed and sustainable fishery.
Probability	<p>Probability interpretations of terms such as “Highly likely” are provided for general guidance and for when quantitative measures are available, not to imply that a quantitative measure is required.</p> <p>Probability interpretations are intentionally defined differently in the default tree for Principle 1, for the Retained and Bycatch Species Components for Principle 2, for the ETP Component for Principle 2, and for the Habitats and Ecosystem Components for Principle 2. They reflect differences in understanding about these components, legal requirements or past MSC practice.</p>
Processes and Production Methods Standard	A standard that sets out criteria for the processes and/or production methods by which a product or service is produced, in pursuit of specific social and/or environmental objectives.
Product authentication testing	The use of DNA analysis or other product authentication tools which identify seafood by species, catch area or farm of origin.
PSA	The Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) used as the ‘Level 2’ analysis in the RBF. This semi-quantitative approach examines several attributes of each species that contribute to

Term	Definition
	or reflect its productivity or susceptibility, in order to provide a relative measure of the risk to the scoring element from fishing activities. The PSA is required when using the RBF to score target species in P1, and may also be triggered for retained species or bycatch species in P2. Each species (scoring element) identified within a given PI is assigned its own PSA score.
Public Certification Report	The report of the fishery assessment accepted by the MSC for publication on the MSC website; includes the Final Report and any written decisions by the CAB and/or independent Objections Panel arising from any objections raised about the fishery assessment outcome or process.
Public Comment Draft Report	The draft report of the assessment of the fishery prepared by the team and the CAB released for public comment. Follows peer review draft report. Precedes final report.
Public Surveillance Report	Surveillance report without the inclusion of any confidential annexes.
Qualitative data	Qualitative data are data describing the attributes or properties that an object possesses. The properties are categorized into classes that may be assigned numeric values. However, there is no significance to the data values themselves, they simply represent attributes of the object concerned.
Quantitative data	Quantitative data are data expressing a certain quantity, amount or range. Usually, there are measurement units associated with the data, e.g. metres, in the case of the height of a person. It makes sense to set boundary limits to such data, and it is also meaningful to apply arithmetic operations to the data.
Quarter	One of four 3 month periods of a calendar year.
RBF	See Risk Based Framework .
Re-assessment	Assessment of a fishery within two years of the expiration of a valid fishery certificate.
Reduced Surveillance	For fisheries: Surveillance level that requires on-site surveillance audits on the 2nd and 4th anniversaries of certification.
Reduction of scope of accreditation	Process of suspending or withdrawing accreditation for part of the scope of accreditation.
Reference Points	Biological reference points; Stock Status Reference Points used to define management action in response to stock status.
Reinstatement	Re-activation or lifting by written approval of the suspended part(s) of the scope of certification or accreditation following successful implementation of corrective action.

Term	Definition
Remote audit	For CoC clients: an initial, surveillance or recertification audit that is performed without the auditor being on-site. This option is only open to companies that meet specific criteria.
Remote surveillance	For fisheries, surveillance level that requires annual audits alternating on-site and off-site audits ('non-consecutive off-site audits').
Retained Species	Species that are retained by the fishery (usually because they are commercially valuable or because they are required to be retained by management rules).
Responsible personnel	Individuals within an organisation that are that are responsible for making decisions or carrying out procedures related to the MSC standards. For a certified organisation, this would typically include the MSC representative as well as any staff developing procedures related to MSC or handling or labelling certified products.
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.
Risk Based Framework	A framework of assessment tools for scoring 'outcome' Performance Indicators in cases where insufficient information is available to score the UoA using the default Scoring Guideposts. See CSA , PSA and SICA .
Root Cause	The source or origin of non-conformity, as well as any contributing factors involved.
Scale Intensity Consequence Analysis	See SICA .
Scheme Database	A collection of records on the fishery, farm and CoC certification programme that is updated by CABs and held by the certification scheme.
Scheme Document	Official documents setting out rules and procedures for accreditation, certification, assessment and audit relevant to the MSC certification scheme.
Scope of Certification	Specific activities and products for which certification is sought or has been granted.
Scope of MSC Accreditation	Specific tasks for which accreditation is sought or has been granted.
Scoring Elements	A list of matters that are to be taken into account when determining the performance score on an indicator; also the matters used in determining a SG benchmark. In the case of Principles 1 or 2, used to mean a sub-division of individual parts of the ecosystem affected by the fishery, such as different species/stocks/sub-stocks or habitats within a Component.
Scoring Guidepost	The benchmark level of performance established by the team in respect of each numeric score or rating for each indicator sub-criterion.
Scoring Issues	The different parts of a single scoring guidepost, where more than one part exists and covering related but different topics.

Term	Definition
SDO	See Standard Development Organisation .
Seafood sampling procedure	The procedure provided by the MSC to organisations and individuals taking seafood samples on their behalf for product authentication testing.
Semi structured interviews	Formal interview based on questions prepared in advance but with sufficient flexibility that allows the questioner to adapt to the specific situation on hand by probing emerging themes with additional questions that may deviate from those planned in advance
SG	See Scoring Guidepost .
Shall	Denotes a requirement.
Shared Stocks	Stocks of fish that migrate across the boundaries of adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of two or more coastal States.
Shark finning	The practice of removing any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) while at sea and discarding the remainder of the shark at sea.
Should	Denotes a requirement that shall be followed unless there are reasons not to. If the requirement is not followed, the justification shall be recorded.
SICA	The Scale Intensity Consequence Analysis used as the 'Level 1' analysis in the RBF. This qualitative approach identifies the activities mostly likely to be associated with 'worst case' impacts on any species, habitat or ecosystem. A SICA is best conducted with the participation of a diverse group of stakeholders who are able to provide a range of knowledge about the fishery under assessment.
Simulation Test	See Simulation Trial .
Simulation Trial	A computer simulation to project resource dynamics for a particular scenario forward for a specified period, under controls specified within an MP, to ascertain performance; such projections will typically be repeated a large number of times to capture variability.
Site	A discrete physical location.
Species Common Name(s)	Common name(s) for the species. This should include common names used in the key commercial markets for the species.
Stakeholder	Any person or group (including governmental and non-governmental institutions, traditional communities, universities, research institutions, development agencies and banks, donors, etc.) with an interest or claim (whether stated or implied) which has the potential of being impacted by or having an impact on a given project and its objectives. Stakeholder groups that have a direct or indirect "stake" can be at the household, community, local, regional, national, or international level.

Term	Definition
Stock	The living resources in the community or population from which catches are taken in a fishery. Use of the term stock implies that the particular population is a biologically distinct unit. As noted in the FAO Fisheries Glossary, some species form a single stock (e.g. southern bluefin tuna) while others are composed of several stocks (e.g. albacore tuna in the Pacific Ocean comprises separate Northern and Southern stocks).
Stock Assessment	An integrated analysis of information to estimate the status and trends of a population against benchmarks such as reference points.
Stock Name	A textual description of the biological unit stock exploited by the fishery, as commonly used in management and assessment reports.
Stock Region	A textual description of the geographic area within which the fishery is undertaken.
Straddling Stocks	Stock which occurs both within the EEZ and in an area beyond and adjacent to EEZ.
Stratification	The process of dividing a population into sub-populations, each of which is a group of sampling units, which have similar characteristics.
Subcontractors	An entity that is contracted to carry out work for a third party or affiliate (this could include contract processors, transportation companies, distribution and storage companies)).
Sub-criterion	A criterion below the level of the MSC Criteria; the assessment tree may contain any number of levels of sub-criteria.
Succeeding CAB	The CAB to which a client wishes to transfer their certificate.
Superseded	MSC certification scheme documents that have been withdrawn and replaced with a new version.
Supply Chain Reconciliation	The reconciliation of purchases and sales of MSC certified seafood between buyers and sellers over a defined period of time. These reconciliations are carried out by the MSC to monitor conformity with CoC standards.
Surveillance	Set of activities, except re-assessment, to monitor the continued fulfilment by accredited CABs of requirements for accreditation, or of certificate holders of requirements for certification.
Surveillance Audit	The periodic or random review and assessment of a certificate holder's activities in order to determine on-going conformity with standards and compliance with conditions and/or non-conformities raised.
Surveillance level	Audit type (remote or on-site audit) and frequency of Surveillance. See Normal , Remote and Reduced Surveillance .

Term	Definition
Surveillance Report	The report of a Surveillance Audit.
Surveillance cycle	All surveillance audits and activities carried out within the timeframe of a certificate.
Suspension of Accreditation	Process of temporarily making MSC accreditation invalid, in full or in part of the scope of accreditation.
TAB	See Technical Advisory Board .
TAC	See Total Allowable Catch .
Target Reference Point	The point which corresponds to a state of a fishery and/or resource which is considered desirable and which management is trying to achieve.
Target Stock(s)	Those fish stocks which have been assessed under Principle 1 of the MSC fisheries standard for Sustainable Fishing. Only the Target stock(s) from the UoC shall be eligible to carry the MSC logo.
Team	The team leader and team member(s) working on a conformity assessment of one organisation. While a team for a CoC audit may be one person, a team for a fishery audit will always be two or more persons.
Team Leader	A person who manages assessment activities.
Team Member	A person who performs assessment activities.
Technical Advisory Board	A body appointed by the MSC's Board of Trustees.
Termination	Voluntary cancellation of the certification contract by either party according to the contractual arrangements. See Cancellation .
Testing	The involvement of some sort of structured logical argument and analysis that supports the choice of strategy. In the context of fishery, it can include the use of experience from analogous fisheries, empirical testing (for example practical experience of performance or evidence of past performance) and simulation testing (for instance using computer-intensive modelling such as management strategy evaluation).
The MSC Claim	MSC-approved text which must accompany the MSC ecolabel when displayed on products, menus or catering lists. Can also refer to the claims alongside ecolabels or logos trademarked to recognised certification schemes sharing MSC CoC.
Tools	Mechanisms for implementing strategies under Principles 1 or 2. For example, total allowable catches, mesh regulations, closed areas, etc. could be used to implement harvest control rules.
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The TAC is the total catch allowed to be taken from a resource in a specified period (usually a year), as defined in the management plan. The TAC may be allocated to the

Term	Definition
	stakeholders in the form of quotas as specific quantities or proportions.
Traceback	An activity carried out to trace a product back to its origin based on collecting and reviewing traceability documentation. The MSC carries out periodic tracebacks to verify that certified products sold with trademarks originate from a certified fishery, through verifying records of each CoC-certified organisation in the supply chain.
Trademarks	Refers to either the MSC ecolabel as per the MSCI Licence Agreement, the words 'Marine Stewardship Council', the initials 'MSC', or all copyright, design rights and any other intellectual property rights in or relating to any of the above Can also apply to trademarks of recognised certification schemes sharing MSC CoC, such as ASC.
Agreed Transfer Date	Date on which all rights and obligations for maintaining the certificate shall be passed from the current CAB to the succeeding CAB.
TRP	See Target Reference Point .
Type III Environmental Label	Quantified environmental life cycle product information, provided by a supplier, based on independent verification, (e.g. third party), (critically reviewed) systematic data, presented as a set of categories of parameter (for a sector group).
Uncertainty	Lack of perfect knowledge of many factors that affect stock assessments, estimation of biological reference points and management, and the consequence of this lack of perfect knowledge.
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
Uncontrolled Copy	Any copy of a controlled document not on the MSC server (e.g. used for audits, training, revisions or public information) will be considered as an uncontrolled copy and will not be updated. Users should ensure that any copy they have is the latest version.
UNFSA	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
Under-assessment product	Fish or fish products harvested from a fishery or farm that is under assessment for certification against the MSC standard or against another recognised certification scheme that shares MSC CoC (e.g. ASC). Under-assessment product must be harvested on or after the Eligibility Date specified in the fishery or farm report, and must originate from the Unit of Certification for that fishery or farm.

Term	Definition
Unit of Assessment (UoA)	The target stock(s) combined with the fishing method/gear and practice (including vessel type/s) pursuing that stock, and any fleets, or groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators or other eligible fishers that are included in an MSC fishery assessment. In some fisheries, the UoA and UoC may be further defined based on the specific fishing seasons and/or areas that are included.
Unit of Certification (UoC)	Target stock(s) combined with the fishing method/gear and practice (including vessel type/s) pursuing that stock, and any fleets, or groups of vessels, or individual fishing operators that are covered by an MSC fishery certificate. Note that other eligible fishers may also be included in some Units of Assessment but not initially certified (until covered by a certificate sharing arrangement).
Unpublished Information	Does not include peer-reviewed, published or grey literature.
Unwanted catch (of species)	The part of the catch that a fisher did not intend to catch but could not avoid, and did not want or chose not to use.
Variance	The variance is the mean square deviation of the variable around the average value. It reflects the dispersion of the empirical values around its mean.
Visit	One component of audit activities in which an auditor carries out an in-person check to evaluate a site's conformity with selected requirements from the CoC standards. Visits may be carried out for subcontractor locations used by a CoC client, or for sites within a CFO CoC client.
Withdrawal Accreditation	Process of terminating a certification, in full or for part of the scope.
Withdrawn	Tier 1, 2 & 3 MSC certification scheme documents that are no longer in force and are not to be used.
Writing	Includes e-mail and fax but not SMS.
Year	12 months commencing 1st April.

End of Vocabulary
