



Technical Workshop: “The MSC certification program for sustainable fisheries: tools and opportunities”

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international, independent and non-profit organisation, whose mission is to use its eco-label and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world’s oceans by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood, and working with a range of partners to transform the global seafood industry on to a more sustainable trajectory. To this aim, MSC establishes two standards: i) one aimed at fishery certification and ii) one for chain of custody certification.

The MSC environmental standard for sustainable fisheries is based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international conservation instruments and consists of 28 performance indicators grouped into three principles:

1. sustainable fish stocks;
2. minimising environmental impacts;
3. effective management.

Any legal entity can formally request an assessment of the fishery. The evaluation process is carried out independently by certifiers accredited by a third organisation. In this way, MSC ensures an objective and independent system. Products from certified fisheries that want to sell their products with the MSC logo can only do so if all links in the distribution chain (from ship to dish) have been certified with respect to the standard for the MSC chain of custody. This chain of custody is the method that MSC uses to follow the traceability of the products and assure the consumer that the items that carry the MSC eco-label are effectively products that come from a MSC certified fishery.

Objective of the workshop:

The objective of the workshop is to introduce participants to the MSC programme, providing an overview of how the MSC programme works. In particular, at the end of the workshop training, participants should have:

- a general understanding of the MSC program;
- a basic understanding of MSC fishery standard

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