



Working Group Minutes

Date: 16 June 2021

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Total number

4	Members	1	Technical Advisor
1	Secretariat	1	Steering Committee

Agenda

1. Update on progress
2. AFCD assessment requests
3. Species considered but covered elsewhere
4. Next steps on assessment
5. Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP)
6. Next steps on AIP

1. Update on progress

- Technical Advisor provided overview of new assessment team with three members of the team continuing from last year and one new aquaculture assessor from HKU.
- Technical Advisor provided recap of wild catch and farmed species to be assessed this year:

Wild caught

- Antarctic toothfish - *Dissostichus mawsoni* – Southern Ocean (not the MSC certified stocks in Ross Sea – i.e. Amundsen Sea Region (ASR))
- Sweetwater fish - *Araipama* (*Araipama gigas*) – Brazil
- Sea cucumber (4 species; 6 countries):
 - 豬婆參-急凍 *Holothurie blanche mamelles* (Frozen and Dried) - Cites listed species from last COP, most likely from Australia (note also common from South Pacific including Fiji, Solomon and Tonga)
 - 禿參 *Holothurie de sable* – most likely from Indonesia
 - 關東及關西遼參 *Stichopus japonicus* – most likely from Japan (note also farmed in mainland China)
 - *Holothuria Tubulosa*, wild caught from Turkey, Algeria and Morocco
- Soft-shell crab - *Scylla serrata* (mud crab) - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand

Farmed

Soft-shell crab - *Scylla serrata* (mud crab) - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand

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Pearl oysters – Hong Kong (*still to be confirmed*)

Scallops – Hong Kong (*still to be confirmed*)

- M&C shared opportunity to connect the assessor with the supplier of sweetwater fish (*Araipama gigas*)
- HongKong Shanghai Hotel group shared images of different sea cucumber species to help with the identification process
 - **Action item:**
 - M&C to connect TA with the supplier of sweetwater fish (to assist with the assessment process)
 - Stan Shea to connect with risk assessment team on confirming sea cucumber species using images

2. AFCD assessment requests

- AFCD has expressed interest for SRA to assess two farmed species in Hong Kong: pearl oysters and scallops, both AFFS accredited
- Likely need to go through a tendering process
- Useful to see broader stakeholder interest in the SRA platform and assessments

3. Species considered but covered elsewhere

- Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides* - Southern Ocean, Australia, New Zealand etc. *Already covered by Monterrey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch*
- Red King crab *Paralithodes camtschaticus* - Norway, Russia, Alaska etc. *Alaska and Russia (Northeast Atlantic - pots/traps) and Russia (North Pacific) already covered by WWF Hong Kong*

Action item:

- TA to reach out to WWF Hong Kong to explore if interested member could assess the Red King crab assessment report

4. Next steps on assessment

- Assessment team has started the research – preliminary wild catch profiles to be completed by September; farmed profiles to be completed by August
- Profile review, quality control, updates, peer review and website upload to be completed by November
- Potentially host a webinar on species of interest (e.g sea cucumber) in November / December

5. Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP)

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- TA introduced aquaculture improvement team (Dave Garforth, RS Standards; Arthur Chung, HKU)
- Aim is to localise the assessment teams and aquaculture improvement team by training them up using external experts e.g. from RS Standards
- TA provided overview of aquaculture improvement project (AIP) frameworks and how it relates to the aims of the HKSSC Codes. AIP's are seen as mechanisms to support improvements at farm, at sector and at supply chain level. They connect multi-stakeholders and supply chains with aquaculture sectors to incentivize sustainable and good aquaculture practice
- Where risks are identified in the SRA species assessments, the HKSSC Codes recommend buyers to support/encourage improvements to be implemented and to continue sourcing and placing these products on the market with confidence and with responsibility
- TA shared detailed information on the development of a preliminary AIP for farmed grey mullet in Hong Kong, based on member recommendations. Three HKSSC members have commercial interest in the species. Aim will be to try and fill the information gaps in terms of seed and feed, while addressing other areas of interest and concern. AFCD are the best channel through which to access farms given the AFFS scheme. Details of the approach are set out in slides which are available to members in the Sustainability Risk Assessment folder of the Member Portal (file name HKSSC SRA WG 16 June 2021)
- M&C raised point that currently the government is raising awareness on sustainable Giant grouper in Hong Kong via public transport modes
- TA and M&C recommend doing public communications and outreach to NGOs and other relevant organisations to provide an orientation on the AIP work following the first year of development

6. Next steps on AIP

- Revise project proposal for AFCD to be more focused on capacity building for farmers in terms of delivery of a workshop and value add – to submit this week
- Explore with relevant members:
 - Relationship with grey mullet farmers
 - Do they source via traders, wholesalers or direct from FMO or farmers to purchase product?
 - What type of relationship do they have with their suppliers? Any intel at farmer level that they can share with us? If source directly, can they share details or introduce us?
 - Better understanding product specifications:
 - What do they look for in the product, sizes and formats (fresh, frozen, whole, gutted etc.) and do they source roe?
 - Any comments about texture, flavour, handling quality, etc. we can translate these into items that drive improvement for market purposes.
 - Do they have documented product specifications?

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