



**Working Group Minutes / Steering Committee Minutes / Members Meeting
Minutes**

Date: 27 September 2021

Location: Zoom

Attendees: 7

4	Members	1	Technical Advisor
1	Secretariat	1	Steering Committee

Agenda

1. Assessment update
2. Preliminary Aquaculture Improvement Process (AIP)
3. AOB

1. Assessment update:

Wild caught

- Antarctic toothfish - Southern Ocean (not the MSC certified stocks in Ross Sea – i.e. Amundsen Sea Region (ASR) - initial assessment complete, undergoing review
- Sweetwater fish - Araipama - initial assessment complete, awaiting summary profile, review to follow
- Sea cucumber (6 countries):
 - Australia - 豬婆參-急凍 *Holothurie blanche mamelles* (Frozen and Dried) - this is the trade category name, so three species included in assessment. Initial assessment completed, awaiting summary profile and review
 - Indonesia - 禿參 *Holothurie de sable* - this is a trade category name linked to many species; DNA profiling needed to identify species
 - *Stichopus japonicus* - most likely wild caught from Japan, but also farmed in Japan and China. Need to further research origin (HSH to help)
 - *Holothuria Tubulosa* - wild caught from Turkey, Algeria and Morocco - assessment underway
- Soft shell crab - *Scylla serrata* (mud crab) assessment complete, undergoing review
- **Action item:** [HSH] *Procurement team to reach out to suppliers to determine whether *Stichopus japonicus* sourced is wild or farmed and from which country. DNA testing could help determine species, but not whether wild or farmed. Sample to be arranged for *Holothurie de sable* DNA testing.*

Farmed



- Soft-shell crab - *Scylla serrata* (mud crab) - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand - assessment completed, undergoing review
- AFCD have confirmed for SRA to go ahead with Pearl oyster and Noble scallops assessments both farmed in Hong Kong at O Pui Tong. One is organic certified and the other is undergoing certification.
 - M&C has previously visited an oyster farm in Shenzhen Bay via a tour organised by The Nature Conservancy - assess whether Hong Kong oyster found in the mouth of the Pearl River is the same species put forward by AFCD

Next steps

- All wild catch profiles to be completed by October; internal and external (peer review process) to be completed by November
- All farmed profiles to be completed by November depending on AFCD assessment start date; internal and external (peer review process) to be completed by December
- Website upload to be completed by December 2021 / January 2022
- Potentially host a webinar on species of interest (e.g sea cucumber) in January / February 2022 to market website and new profiles

2. Preliminary Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP)

- Three HKSSC members interested in focusing on grey mullet
- FIPs typically have a 5-year time frame. Year 1 – strategy and scoping year. Getting buy-in and concrete actions
- Aim will be to try and fill the information gaps in terms of seed and feed:
 - the sourcing of juveniles
 - the sourcing and profile of feed
- Note that likely wild fry is being imported into Hong Kong (mostly from Mainland China and some from Taiwan), we need to ensure these are from sustainable sources
- Also aim is for HKSSC members to learn from this improvement type journey / AIP framework
- Status:
 - Project team had a call with AFCD in June 2021 to introduce the project and following this we submitted a more detailed proposal
 - AFCD suggested capacity building workshop for farmers prior to conducting the farmer survey
 - AFCD briefly discussed the project with the Chairman of the Hong Kong New Territories Fish Culture Association and suggested HKSSC / project team contacts them
 - SY has reached out to the Chairman and has arranged a meeting for October
 - Still very much at the beginning stages – ideally we can get go-ahead for the workshop / survey before the end of 2021
 - AC to start providing SRA team and WG members ongoing updates to the AIP process so we can all learn from this journey

3. AOB



- **Supplier questionnaires and Member Support Tool:**
 - M&C confirmed it will focus on both artisanal suppliers as well as larger seafood traders to test out the revised tools, with limited scope initially, expanding scope in future. Expected completion time = 2 wks.
 - Indoguna to focus on products sourced from Singapore and Hong Kong
 - If translation to traditional Chinese needed, members to inform TA
- **Next meeting:** Monday 22nd November, 3:00-4:00pm