Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC)

Sourcing Working Group

Location: British Retail Consortium**,** 21 Dartmouth Street, London, SW1H 9BP.

Date: 3rd July, 2012

Number of attendees: 15 total (including 3 ClientEarth staff: Facilitator, secretariat/minute taker, secretariat/presenter)

Sourcing working group meeting (morning): Summary of agreed points:

1. The sourcing code will contain high level commitments, one of which is to carry out a risk assessment against base criteria, with worked examples in the guidance document. These base criteria will be the "commitments" and "considerations" which are currently in the code, subject to re-drafting. There could be worked examples in guidance, e.g. SFP, MCS and retailer own.

2. Remove ethics from the code. Ethical/social considerations will be considered at a later stage, with expanding membership. The code will focus on *environmental* sustainability.

3. More details in guidance, less in code. A potential format for the code was discussed, with high level principles including a commitment to carry out a risk assessment against base criteria (base criteria outlined in the code). See text for detail.

Welcome and Purpose of today's sourcing meeting

1. Whether the code format and content is heading in the right direction
2. Compare AIPCE-CEP principles with sourcing code, and decide how to build these into the code
3. Discuss ETI and whether a section on ethics is required in the code
4. Add to or edit the existing considerations and guidance

Agenda Item 1. Code Format.

Code format + tone – overview.

1. At this stage the code has 4 main sections. 1. Scope and objectives 2. Influence. 3. Commitments 4. Communicating the Code. At the first working group it was agreed that the code should contain high level commitments with considerations for each and then further detail and suggestions in the separate guidance document.

2. The commitments section has a number of levels: firstly <u>General good practice and Sourcing policies</u>. This is because a number of issues discussed and agreed at the last WG did not fit under sourcing policies specifically, but rather are about general behaviour, hence why they have been separated. Each black bold heading under these, are a commitment with an explanation e.g. 'transparency': Make sufficient

information available. <u>All of these headings are what was agreed at last meeting and are high level commitments in themselves (e.g. being transparent).</u>

3. The next level down in the commitments are 'considerations', these are key issues to consider as part of the commitment (they are still a commitment themselves).

4. The last level is the detailed examples and recommendations of how to deliver the commitments – this is covered in the separate guidance document. E.g. On the fishing method issue, the guidance may say that members should try to source from fisheries with a by-catch of less than 5% total catch. Thus these are only recommendations & example on how to deliver the commitments, but are not commitments themselves (which is why they are in the guidance document)

Figure 1: illustrations of the framework and levels of detail in the code:

1. *Scope and objectives*
2. *Influence*
3. *Commitments*
   a. General good practice
      i. Issues
         1. Considerations
            a. Guidance (separate document)
   b. Sourcing policies
      1. Issues
         a. Considerations
            i. Guidance

4. *Communicating the code*

Code format and tone - Discussion

- It was felt that the length of the code was appropriate, it sticks to principles, the language far more engaging, and allows for appropriate interpretation of the format. A very good starting point. Some of the bullet points possibly need some fleshing out.
- There was some confusion over the use of the term *considerations*. We started to go through all of the commitments and their considerations, but did not finish this.
- A member commented on the word use of the word "minimum" in the code. Implies that the bar is set low… not sure that 'minimum' is the right word choice. It was agreed that "base criteria" is a more appropriate term.
- Concern with the ordering
  o Reorder to put sourcing policies section first, then environmental impact, then good practice
  o We could have commitment relating to best practice in code then all detail in the guidance document, however this needs to be readdressed at the members meeting as the guidance is just recommendations, not actual commitments, and some of the detail under "best practice" should be a commitment.
  o It was also suggested that wild and farmed should be separated out, as in the labelling code. This will make it easier for users of the code to apply the relevant sections.
- It was suggested by a member that in some areas the code could be streamlined and simplified to create a more high-level document. Perhaps a one pager – and flesh it out in the guidance.

- Concern that we ensure we are not just reproducing the AIPCE-CEP document

---

Agenda item 2: AIPCE-CEP Principles – comparison

Figure 2: slide from sourcing presentation comparing AIPCE-CEP commitments in their principles for responsible fish sourcing: covered (✓) partially covered (½) e.g. E.g. FIPs are only mentioned in the guidance; carbon footprint and energy (in AIPCE-CEP) are not in sourcing code, but water and waste are; or not covered (X) by the first draft of the SSC responsible fish sourcing code. Words underlined in orange illustrate commitments that give a recommendation/advice and thus differ from the commitments in the SSC code (advice is only given in the guidance document)

AIPCE-CEP Principles – Discussion points

- Should AIPCE-CEP be a reference? Or integrated?

- Where should AIPCE-CEP Commitments go?

- Where should AIPCE-CEP Annex go?

## AIPCE-CEP Principles – Attendee comments:

- There is a risk of trying to recreate the wheel with writing own code/replicating the AIPCE-CEP doc.
- Concern that the drafted code of conduct is looking more like a set of guidelines rather than a code.
- Need to bear in mind that the AIPCE-CEP doc may change (there is currently no date on the document that can be referenced in the code).
- Need to ensure we recognize and refer to the AIPCE-CEP properly in the code
- There are members of AIPCE-CEP who are also members of the SSC, therefore they cannot commit to anything less than AIPCE-CEP principles.
- Need to explain what the AIPCE code is for those who do not know.

- Despite several citations of the AIPCE-CEP risk assessment; there is actually no AIPCE-CEP risk assessment tool. Therefore the risk assessment should be against an appropriate risk assessment against relevant criteria.
- Different businesses could be comfortable with different levels of risk. Possibility that low, med, high risk means different things to different businesses.
- Important that considerations are not prescriptive.

AIPCE-CEP Principles – Agreed points:

- Commitment to risk assessment: against base criteria, with worked examples in the guidance document (e.g. SFP, MCS, Retailer minimum criteria)

Figure 3: Outcomes of discussions on the AIPCE-CEP principles and risk assessment process, showing how this will be integrated
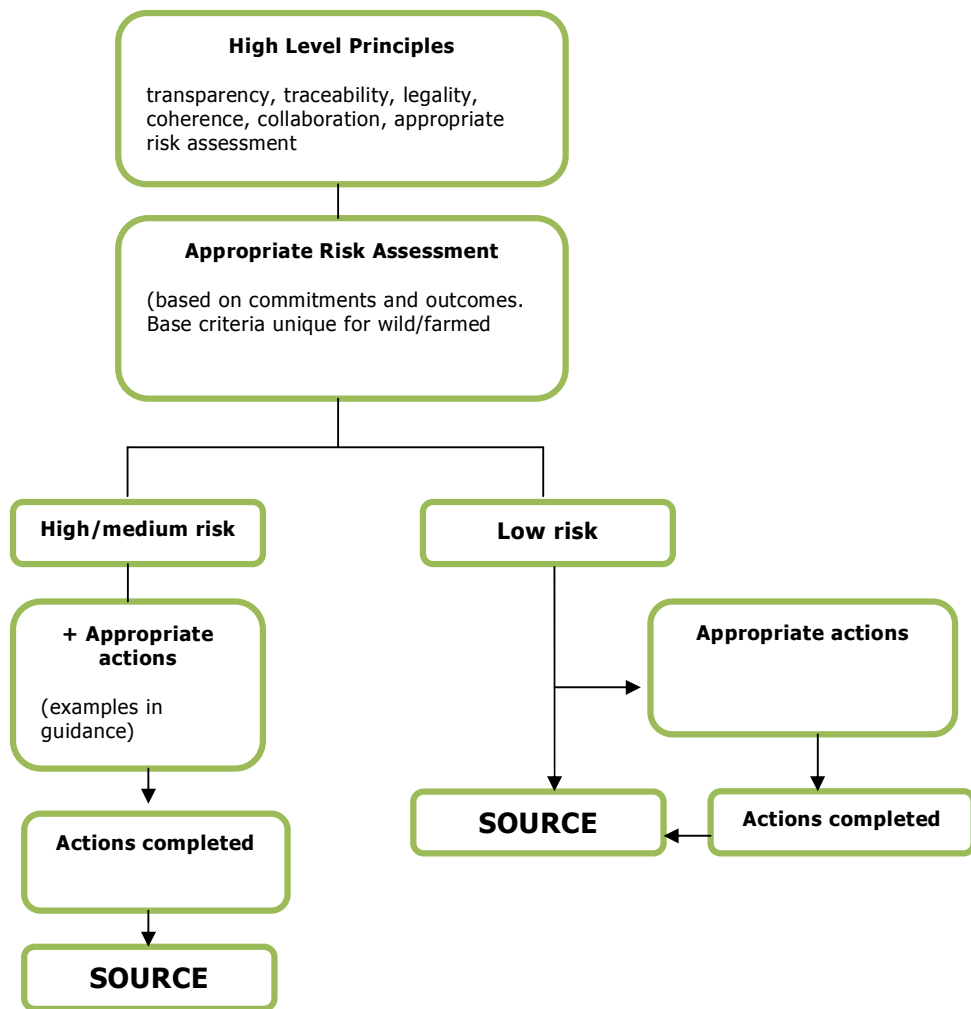
Agenda item 4: Ethics - Attendee comments:

- Several issues with considering ethics in wild capture fisheries versus aquaculture. At this stage there is no tool kit to deal with ethical issues in wild capture. Whereas, aquaculture is at a stage where ethics is already being considered.
- While ethics is an important issue, it was agreed that there must be equivalency between the codes and that it should be removed from all. This does not preclude members addressing these issues, just recognises that they are not currently under the scope of the SSC codes.
- It was felt that we need to reframe the scope of the code and clarify that the code is focussed on *environmental* responsibility.
- The issue of fish welfare was not discussed – to be considered at the members meeting.

Agenda item 4: Ethics – Agreed points:

- Remove ethics from the code. Ethical/social considerations will be considered at a later stage, with expanding membership. The code will focus on *environmental* responsibility.

Recap/Next steps

- ClientEarth to re-draft format of code in light of agreed points.

- Discussions on commitments/considerations ("base criteria) to be continued at the next working group

Guidance Documents – discussion and agreement

- Helpful if you can pull out the main principles of referenced documents as a basis. Issue of having to go back and forth b/w an annex.
- Include extracts/inboxes next to relevant sections.
- Arrows/bubbles: good. Readable/breaks up the page.

Agreed points:

- The format of the guidance documents works well.
- There should be relevant extracts from referenced documents within the guidance documents, rather than as annexes at the end.
- Further work will be needed to decide what goes in the code and what goes in the guidance.