MarinTrust Fisheries Development Oversight Committee (FDOC)

Terms of Reference (ToR)

AGR-007 – Version 3.0

Issued September 2026 – Effective September 2026

Prepared by: Fisheries Manager

Validated by: Assurance & Risk Manager

Approved by: Governing Body Commitee

Introduction

MarinTrust utilises the skills of a Fisheries Development Oversight Committee (FDOC) to assist with the development, revision, and implementation of the fisheries assessment criteria of the MarinTrust Standard for the Marine Ingredient Industry.

The FDOC is representative of the marine ingredient value chain, fishery science, management and environment, fisheries and aquaculture management sustainability standards and civil society. Representation is sought from both seafood specific and relevant stakeholder interests. An objective-based approach is central to the committee's operation.

The Terms of Reference of the FDOC are as follows:

The function of the FDOC is to discuss and agree technical matters relating to the development, revision, and implementation of the fisheries assessment criteria of the MarinTrust Standard, including the technical relevance and appropriateness of the programme for use as a third party, accredited certification programme.

Main Objective:

- To support the development and implementation of credible and robust standard requirements and assessment methodology for the Marine Ingredients Industry that will provide assurance to the global supply chain that all facilities certified to this Programme source raw materials responsibly for the production and manufacturing of responsible marine ingredients.

Key Activities:

- **Rigour:** Develop the Fisheries Peer Review Process, raw material approval and fishery verification mechanisms based on applicant fishery, member, and environmental insight of the Marine Ingredient Industry. Provide knowledge and guidance that will contribute to accurate interpretation and alignment of MarinTrust fishery criteria for assessment and approval purposes.

- **Relevance:** To develop the MarinTrust raw material approval mechanism procedures so they remain relevant to current practice and market requirements and approval by the MarinTrust Governing Body Committee (GBC).

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

- **Improvement:** Provide advice by way of decisions, proceedings, and meeting minutes to the MarinTrust GBC, via the FDOC, on any amendments considered to be necessary or desirable to ensure the accuracy, relevance, and credibility of the programme.

- **Credibility and legitimacy:** Provide input and advice on documents prepared on the MarinTrust Fishery Peer Review and approval process, technical interpretation and guidance documentation used during raw material assessments as the MarinTrust programme develops and evolves.

- Incorporate improved **scientific understanding** and fisheries management practice into the standard, monitor any changes to the relative normative documents or newly issued FAO guidance relevant to fishery assessments, other relevant fishery standards and legislative documentation that are used in the MarinTrust Programme and incorporate the required amendments into the MarinTrust raw material assessment criteria.

Constitution

Members of the FDOC shall be nominated by the MarinTrust Secretariat and submitted to the Appointments Committee (AC) for approval. The identification of candidates for FDOC membership shall be based on advice, consultation, and nominations put forward to the AC from the MarinTrust Secretariat, Marine Ingredient Industry, MarinTrust GBC, and identified stakeholders associated directly or indirectly with the MarinTrust Programme.

The FDOC will be composed of at least 4 voting members, including the Chair. The membership of the FDOC will be comprised of sufficient representation of broad policy/management: fishery, environmental science and operational aspects of fishmeal and fish oil manufacturing industry. It is not a requirement to appoint all members of the FDOC from the outset.

The FDOC's representation may be adapted from time to time to ensure it continues to represent the interests of the marine ingredient regions and areas of broader certification and assessment interest. This review may be conducted every 12 months by the Secretariat in consultation with the existing FDOC members.

The FDOC'S chair shall be selected by the appointed members of the FDOC and shall be a voting member of the committee. The chair shall have one vote, consistent with all other FDOC members. In the event of a tied vote, the chair shall have a casting vote. The chair shall have a term of 24 months, after which the FDOC may re-elect the serving chair or choose a new chair. As a Scheme Owner, MarinTrust shall act as the secretariat to the FDOC.

Rules of Procedure for the FDOC

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

The normal term of office for the members of the Committee shall be three (3) years. A member of the FDOC shall cease to hold membership if:

- They cease to be employed by, or otherwise represent, the organisation or company if appointed to serve on its behalf.

- Resigns by providing no less than two (2) months written notice to the chair and MarinTrust Secretariat.
- Has more than two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from the duly constituted FDOC meetings.

- Is removed from the FDOC by resolution of the Appointments Committee or Governing Body Committee

Any member whose term of membership expires shall be eligible for re-appointment to the FDOC.

FDOC meetings shall be notified in writing (e-mail), together with the agenda, to each member at least 1 month in advance by the MarinTrust Secretariat responsible.

All relevant committee papers and supporting documents (information pack) shall be shared with each member via email no less than 7 days prior to the meeting.

It is anticipated that members of the FDOC will be asked to meet, either in person or via remote platform, between 2-4 times in a calendar year, but not less than once.

A Quorum at such meetings shall consist of no less than 3 voting members of the FDOC and shall be noted by the Chair at each committee.

Observers in attendance of FDOC meetings shall speak but have no vote and shall be invited to meetings at discretion of the MarinTrust Secretariat.

At every meeting of the Committee the Chair shall confirm there are no conflicts of interest. Any conflicts of interest raised and shall be recorded in the minutes.

In the absence of the Chair at any meeting, the Chair shall be taken by a member of the FDOC selected in advance by the Chair, or, failing that, elected by a majority of those present.

All draft minutes shall be shared with the members via email by the Chair or MarinTrust Secretariat no later than 30 calendar days after the meeting. These minutes will be approved at the next meeting, providing a quorum is present.

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest:

Members of the FDOC are appointed to support in the development objectives of the MarinTrust Programme and to ensure it is robust and transparent. Members should be:

- Willing to contribute to an oversight process and lend their time and/or expertise without promise of remuneration, and able to attend meetings as required;
- Unaffiliated with any public or private entity that will try and leverage decisions based on a corporate, private, or public agenda;
- Committed to neutrality, transparency, and fairness in all dealings.

All prospective FDOC members will be asked to provide a CV outlining their relevant experience, together with a short biography and photograph. If appointed, the members biography and photograph may be published on the MarinTrust website. CVs will be used solely for the purpose of assessing suitability for FDOC membership and will not be published.

Appointed members will also be required to sign a Conflict of Interest Declaration and confidentiality undertaking. Should a conflict of interest arise, the member is required to notify the Chair and MarinTrust Secretariat as soon as reasonably possible. The Chair and MarinTrust Secretariate together shall determine, agree and implement any appropriate action. All reported conflicts of interest and follow up actions agreed shall be recorded in the FDOC files.

Member Agreement of Participation

This document constitutes a non-binding agreement of participation for the signatory and shall remain in effect for the normal term of their membership. By signing this document, the individual confirms their agreement to serve as a member of the FDOC for the MarinTrust Programme.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Appendix 1 – Chair Responsibilities and Requirements

Role

The Chair is responsible for providing effective leadership to the Committee, ensuring that it fulfils its responsibilities in accordance with its Terms of Reference, and supporting fair, transparent, and effective decision-making.

Time commitment

The Chair is expected to commit sufficient time to fulfil the responsibilities of the role, including attendance at Committee meetings, review of meeting materials, liaison with the MarinTrust Secretariat, and participation in any additional activities required to support the Committee's work and objectives.

The anticipated commitment is approximately **35-45 hours per year**, based on 2 – 4 committee meetings annually. This includes preparation, chairing, follow-up, records review or records, Secretariat coordination and ad hoc governance matters. The time commitment will typically fall within this range, with variation depending on the Committee's work programme, including periods of Standards development or significant Quality Management System (QMS) activity.

Responsibilities

The Chair shall:

- Chair meetings in an impartial, fair, and efficient manner.
- Encourage active participation from all members and ensure all viewpoints are considered in discussions and decision-making.
- Work with the MarinTrust Secretariat to agree meeting agendas, review meeting materials, and support the effective functioning of the Committee.
- Ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference and that quorum requirements are met before decisions are taken.
- Facilitate constructive discussion and support consensus-building.
- Work with the MarinTrust Secretariat to ensure that actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest are declared, assessed, and managed appropriately.
- Declare and manage their own conflicts of interest in accordance with MarinTrust requirements.
- Ensure that accurate records of Committee proceedings, decisions, and actions are maintained.
- Represent the Committee and communicate its recommendations, decisions, and activities to relevant MarinTrust bodies and stakeholders, where appropriate.
- Act in the best interests of the MarinTrust Programme and uphold the principles of transparency, integrity, impartiality, confidentiality, and professionalism.

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

Authority

The Chair shall:

- Be elected by the members of the Committee.
- Serve as a voting member of the Committee.
- Hold one vote, consistent with all other Committee members.
- Exercise a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
- Serve a term as defined within the Committee's Terms of Reference and be eligible for re-election where permitted.

Requirements

The Chair shall:

- Act impartially, objectively, and in the best interests of the MarinTrust Programme.
- Maintain the confidentiality of Committee discussions and documentation, where applicable.
- Comply with MarinTrust policies, procedures, governance requirements, and conflict of interest requirements.
- Commit sufficient time to fulfil the responsibilities of the role

Skills and Experience

The Chair should demonstrate:

- Effective leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Strong communication and facilitation skills.
- The ability to manage discussions constructively and build consensus among diverse stakeholders.
- Sound judgement and decision-making capabilities.
- An understanding of good governance principles.
- Appropriate knowledge of the Committee's remit and the MarinTrust Programme.

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

Amendment Log

DATE	ISSUE	AMENDMENT	AUTHORISED BY
July 2021	V2.0	MarinTrust Header and Footer inserted	Libby Woodhatch
July 2021	V2.0	Wording throughout document in reference to IFFO RS updated to MarinTrust or Marine Ingredients Certification as applicable.	Libby Woodhatch
March 2022	V2.1	Update of main objective, key activities and constitution to ensure relevancy and alignment with all MarinTrust governance ToRs	Governing Body Committee
March 2022	V2.1	Wording in Rules of Procedure for the FDOC in reference to timeframes and responsibilities for meeting management (Agenda, Minutes and Pack timeframes submissions) for MarinTrust Secretariat and Chair where applicable	Governing Body Committee
March 2022	V2.1	Update of the Conflicts of Interest Declaration form	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Minor improvements to wording throughout for improved readability, clarity, and consistency with no change to intent	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Introduced a standardised front page to align with MarinTrust document management requirements, including logo, document title, document identification and numbering conventions, and version control details.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Scope of responsibilities broadened from MSC-specific verification mechanisms to all applicable fishery verification mechanisms.	Governing Body Committee

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

August 2026	V3.0	Updated the FDOC appointment process to reflect current governance arrangements. Appointments are proposed by the MarinTrust Secretariat for approval by the Appointments Committee.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Updated FDOC Chair provisions to establish the Chair as a voting member and extend the Chair's term of office from 12 months to 24 months. Clarified re-election arrangements following the completion of the term.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Updated FDOC membership provisions to clarify member terms, resignation requirements, attendance expectations, cessation of membership, and eligibility for re-appointment.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Removed the provision allowing the Chair to replace members following repeated unexcused absences, reflecting the Chair's revised status as a voting member of the FDOC.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Removed the Chair from the observer invitation process, clarifying that attendance by observers at FDOC meetings is determined by the MarinTrust Secretariat.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Extended the deadline for issuing draft FDOC meeting minutes from 14 to 30 calendar days after the meeting.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Clarified member information requirements to specify that CVs are collected for assessment purposes only and will not be published. Confirmed that only member biographies and photographs may be published on the MarinTrust website following appointment.	Governing Body Committee

Controlled Copy No unauthorised copying or alteration permitted
© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only

August 2026	V3.0	Revised conflict of interest provisions to clarify that the Chair, together with the MarinTrust Secretariat, is responsible for determining and implementing appropriate actions where conflicts of interest are identified.	Governing Body Committee
August 2026	V3.0	Transferred the Conflict of Interest Declaration from Appendix 1 to standalone form FRM-007 to improve document control and maintenance. Updated Appendix 1 to instead document Chair responsibilities and revised associated references throughout the ToR.	Governing Body Committee

© Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., for authorised use only