

Dr David J Agnew

Science and Standards Director at the Marine Stewardship Council, UK

Dr David Agnew has been Science and Standards Director at the Marine Stewardship Council since 2011. Prior to taking up his post at the MSC in 2011, he was Fisheries Director of the fisheries consultancy MRAG Ltd, Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London, Chairman of the MSC Technical Advisory Board, and Chairman of Scientific Committee of CCAMLR. He has recently been elected as Executive Secretary of CCAMLR and will take up his post in April 2018.



Dr Agnew holds a PhD in marine biology from the University of Glasgow, UK. is a courtesy Professor (Fisheries Management) at University of Florida Gainesville. He is an experienced stock assessment scientist and modeller and has conducted research on a wide range of that and other fisheries management topics, including ecosystem based fisheries management and global fisheries governance. He is an acknowledged world expert on Antarctic fisheries and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. In his 15-year role as Principal CCAMLR Scientific Advisor to the UK Government he conducted research and advised on management of the South Georgia marine ecosystem and Antarctic fisheries. From 1989 to 1996 he was Data Manager at the CCAMLR Secretariat in Hobart, Australia, and previous to that was a stock assessment modeller with the Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland.

Climate Change and fishery certification

The Marine Stewardship Council is the leading organisation offering certification of sustainable wild capture fisheries. It's Fishery Standard sets a number of criteria and performance indicators for the third party auditors to follow. The Standard is set using international best practice governance and consultation, and follows the principles laid out in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing (1995) as modified by subsequent international developments in scientific understanding and management of marine resources. While fishing was the number one negative impact on oceans in 1995, this has now been clearly overtaken by marine plastics/pollution and climate change (warming/acidification). There appears to be no globally accepted best practice to deal with these impacts on marine ecosystems, but the MSC will have to ensure that its approach to fishery certifications responds to the pressures that climate change brings. This talk will present the MSC's current approach and explore the impacts of climate change on existing certified fisheries.

