

Aquaculture Stewardship Council and Marine Stewardship Council

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Audit Announcement Template

Initial audit

Version 1.0 (Issued 8 December 2017)



Aquaculture
Stewardship
Council



Scheme documents:

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Standard

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements

This document is to be cited as:

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Audit Announcement Template v1.0

Versions issued

Version no.	Date	Description of amendment
1.0	08 December 2017	N/A - new document



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Production unit details

Name of the production unit	Veramaris LLC. Blair, Nebraska, United States.
Target species common name/s	No common name.
Species Latin name	Schizochytrium spp..
Production system	Production of omega-3 oils from marine microalgae via a fermentation process.
Location of the production unit	Fermentation production facility in Blair, NE located within Evonik of Cargill's BioRefinery campus (Land Based). Blair is >1,000 km from both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
Stock Region	Not applicable. The production unit is not harvesting natural populations of seaweeds (categories A, Bi and Ci).
Receiving water body	Not applicable.
Clients part of the production unit	Evonik of Cargill's BioRefinery campus cultures the target species under contract from Veramaris LLC.
Facilities	Veramaris LLC. fermentation production facility in Blair, NE located within Evonik of Cargill's BioRefinery campus
Unit of Certification (if different)	Not applicable.
Harvest season	First harvest cycle completed in May 2019.
Management system	<p>Production is undertaken, and management measures implemented, in accordance within a legislative framework defined by various international and U.S Federal and State Laws and Regulations including the following (note this is not an exhaustive list).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – International Laws: International Charter of Human Rights, UN Global Compact, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, International Labor Organization (ILO). – United States Laws: US Department of Labor Laws, Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Civil Rights Act, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act. State of Nebraska Labor Laws: Nebraska Wage and Hour Act. – City of Blair Laws: Local building permits & City of Blair ordinances (Noise ordinance).
Seaweed category	C_{ii} – cultivation entirely in land-based systems: supply of seed from wild stocks NOT required or negligible.
Statement that the production unit is within scope	<p>SAI Global confirms that production unit entering assessment meets the scope requirements in Section 2 of the Seaweed Standard as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The 'target species' is a seaweed. – The production unit to be assessed is solely dedicated to seaweed production and does not impact any other production units in scope for assessment under the existing ASC or MSC standards. – While production involves a species of marine algae that is not native to Nebraska, the species is cultured in on-land facilities that are completely separated from the aquatic environment. Even were this not the case the species, being a deep sea marine microalgae, would have no chance of survival if released. – The organisation seeking certification has been in operation for at least 12 months and more than one harvest cycle. – The organisation seeking certification has available records of performance data covering the periods of time specified in the ASC-MSC Standard. – The production unit does not use mutagenic, carcinogenic or teratogenic pesticides, or any other chemicals that persist as toxins in the marine environment or on the farm or farmed seaweeds.
Production unit operators	Evonik of Cargill's BioRefinery campus cultures the target species under contract from Veramaris LLC.

Information to identify Micro family business	The organisation seeking certification is not a micro family business
Harvest/production data	<p>TBD at audit as this is a relatively new facility.</p> <p>The Veramaris facility's initial production capacity of Omega-3 fatty acids rich in EPA & DHA is equivalent to that derived from 1.2 million tons of wild-caught fish and should meet approx. 15% of the annual global demand for Omega-3 fatty acids from the salmon aquaculture sector.</p>
History of the Production unit	The production unit itself has been in operation for many years producing amino acids for the agriculture sector. In recent years a portion of the facility has been given over to the production of Omega 3 oils for use in aquaculture feed which is the production process to be audited here. Veramaris selected Evonik's existing site in Blair, NE to take advantage of the existing fermentative production capacity at the site and the favourable site infrastructure. Veramaris' production is zero-waste with by-products being used in sustainable applications, such as biogas and cattle feed.
Other production unit in the area	Not applicable.
Main commercial market	The main seaweed products resulting from the production unit are Omega-3 fatty acids rich in EPA & DHA. The primary market within which these products are/will be sold is for use in aquaculture feed. Information on relative market share information is not available.
Any other information the CAB wishes to provide (including any specific issues within the production unit that need to be highlighted).	

Audit details

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Name of the CAB:	SAI Global
	Name of assessment team leader:	Juan Aguirre
	Name of first point of contact for the assessment:	Elaine O'Donoghue
	Email:	ClientServicesIE@saiglobal.com
	Phone Number:	+353 42 9320912
	Mailing Address:	3 rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk. Co. Louth, Ireland
Client	Name of company :	Veramaris (USA) LLC.
	Name of first point of contact for the assessment:	Neil Leininger
	Position in the client organisation:	General Manager
	Email Address:	neil.leininger@veramaris.com
	Phone Number:	+1 402 237-3624
	Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 197, 650 Industrial Park Drive, Blair, NE 68008, USA
Type of audit	Initial Audit	
Estimated length of the audit and timeline	<p>Note. Dates included herein are indicative only and are contingent on the successful completion of previous steps. Timelines may be extended if critical conditions, requiring closure prior to the publication of the PCDR, are identified.</p> <p>Site Visit: 22nd – 23rd June 2020 Public Comment Draft Report: August/September 2020 Final Report: October/November 2020. Public Certification Report and Certificate Issue: November/December 2020</p>	
Team Leader	<p>Juan Aguirre – Lead Auditor and Technical Auditor</p> <p>Juan will additionally be responsible for technical aspects (i.e. non-social components) of the audit. Juan meets the relevant competency criteria in Annex A of the ASC-MSC CAR as follows; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least a post-high school diploma or equivalent (minimum course duration of two years) in a discipline related to the scope of certification, – Knowledge of the purpose and procedure of conducting audits through extensive auditing experience including in ASC and MSC COC. – Knowledge of the ASC-MSC Standard and the CAR through passing the ASC-MSC lead auditor/team member training course within the last 3 years. – Been trained and is competent in accordance with SAI Global procedures as needed for the role that he is undertake. – Completed well in excess of 25 days of site visit experience in conducting audits. – Undertaken well in excess of 2 satisfactory audits as an acting audit team leader, shadowed by and under the supervision of a competent team leader. – Conducted well in excess of five ASC audits. – Successfully completed a Lead Assessor training course based on ISO 19011 principles with a minimum duration of 37 hours. – Had an audit peer witnessed by a qualified ASC lead auditor within the last three years. – Led no less than 2 ASC audits in the last year. <p>SAI Global confirms that Juan has no conflicts of interest in relation to the production unit under assessment.</p>	

<p>Proposed assessors</p>	<p>Guillermo Ganozo – Social Auditor*</p> <p>Guillermo will be responsible for social components of the audit. Guillermo meets the relevant competency criteria in Annex A of the ASC-MSC CAR as follows; he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least a post-high school diploma or equivalent (minimum course duration of two years) in a discipline related to the scope of certification, – Knowledge of the purpose and procedure of conducting audits through extensive auditing experience including in ASC. – Been trained and is competent in accordance with SAI Global procedures as needed for the role that he is undertake. – Completed a qualifying social audit qualification as specified in ASC CAR §A.4.1. – Participated in at least two audits in agriculture or aquaculture including at least two ASC social audits in the past year. – Knowledge of local labour and human rights legislation, familiarity with local customs, good spoken and written English (i.e. the primary local language) and is able (through his extensive experience) to manage relationships with workers and managers. <p>Note. Guillermo has not yet completed the relevant ASC-MSC training course but will do so in advance of becoming involved in this audit.</p> <p>SAI Global confirms that Guillermo has no conflicts of interest in relation to the production unit under assessment.</p>
<p>Site visit Date</p>	<p>Week commencing 22nd June 2020, likely 22nd & 23rd June 2020.</p>
<p>Location and date of site visit</p>	<p>Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak the site visit will most likely take place remotely between 22nd & 23rd June 2020. If it becomes feasible in the intervening period to conduct some or all of the audit on-site then SAI Global make elect to do so.</p>
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DSM, Evonik: As parent groups of the joint venture - Veramaris VOF (Sales and Marketing group of Veramaris): First customer of the oil we produce who then sells to other customers. - Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce - Washington County Gateway Development Corporation - State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development - WWF: World Wildlife Federation

Stakeholders that do not wish or are not able to be interviewed at the site visit may send written information to the team. [CAR, 17.6.6.1]

Chain of Custody information

Identify if the following risks are currently or potentially applicable	Description of risk factor if present.	Describe any traceability, segregation, or other systems in place to manage the risk.
a. The possibility of mixing or substitution of certified and non-certified product, including product of the same or similar appearance or species, produced within the same UoA.	No risk. The facility only produces the product to be assessed.	
b. The possibility of mixing or substitution of certified and non-certified product, type of production/harvest, including product of the same or similar appearance or species, present during production, harvest, transport, storage, or processing activities.	Possible risk downstream in chains but not prior to entry to Chain of Custody. The facility only produces the product to be assessed.	
c. The possibility of subcontractors being used to handle, transport, store, or process certified products.	Unclear. To be determined at site visit.	
d. Any other opportunities where certified product could potentially be mixed, substituted, or mislabelled with non-certified product before the point where product enters the Chain of Custody.	As above, the facility only produces the product to be assessed such that there are no opportunities for certified product to be mixed, substituted, or mislabelled with non-certified product before entry to the Chain of Custody.	

CVs of audit team

Proposed Team Leader - JUAN XAVIER AGUIRRE

Expertise

More than twenty-five years of experience in the commercial aquaculture of shrimp and fish in Ecuador, five years of experience certifying aquaculture operations plus formal business management training and experience in agribusiness. Recent work in certification of sustainable aquaculture practices all over the world. Wide range of skills in aquaculture, including hatcheries, raceways, nurseries and grow-out. Practical knowledge in the management, design, construction and equipment installation of aquaculture facilities.

Education

B.S. Zoology, with Honors, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. Emphasis on aquatic biology and ecology.

Underwater research summer course, University of California, San Diego. 1979

Marine algae summer course, Stanford. Hopkins Marine Station, Monterey, CA. 1979.

M.A. Zoology, University of Texas at Austin. 1984. Research and training in ecology and biological oceanography.

Shrimp hatchery training program in Galveston. Texas A&M, June 1984.

International course on the use of Artemia in Aquaculture, University of Ghent, Belgium, August- September 1987. Sponsored by Govt. of Belgium.

Business Administration Program, with Honors, ESPOL, Guayaquil, Ecuador. 1998.

Experience

Professional

ASC farm Auditor, MSC/ASC CoC auditor. November 2018- present.

Conducted Salmon, Cobia, 2 Seriola, several Mussel farm audits and several ASC/CoC audits, in Iceland, Panama, Japan, Chile, Peru and Ecuador.

Manager. Blue Green Farms. May 2018 – November 2018.

Sturgeon, black bass, carp and catfish farm in Northern California.

Project Manager, Aquaculture, Sustainable Seafood certification. SCS Global Services, Emeryville, California. Oct.

2013- present. Job responsibilities include managing the ASC certification program and conducting MSC/ASC Chain of Custody Audits. Have audited aquaculture operations in Chile, USA, Australia, Japan, India, Indonesia, Panama, Iceland and Ecuador. Grew ASC client base from zero. Have also conducted more than 80 MSC/ASC CoC audits in USA, Mexico, India, and Iceland.

Latin America Sales representative for sustainable seafood certification. (MSC and ASC) Scientific Certification Systems (SCS). Nov 2011 – Sept 2013.

Sales and technical representative. ABA feed mills. EMPAGRAN. August 2008- 2013. Sales and technical support for customers of shrimp and tilapia feed. Ecuador.

Consultant. BIOMIN probiotics technical consultant for Ecuador. June 2009- June 2011.

Technical representative. AQUABOUTY Technologies. September 2006-April 2008. Responsible for field trials, sales, technical and logistic support for AQUABOUTY products in shrimp farms in Ecuador.

Hatchery Manager. AQUAGEN. January 2004 – August 2006. Managed a large maturation facility and selective breeding program as well as hatchery for *P. vannamei* in Ecuador.

Aquaculture Consultant. December 2002- present. Intensive shrimp nurseries, raceways, greenhouse grow-out, hatchery and grow-out feeds.

Shrimp Farm Manager. EMPAGRAN-CAMACONGO. November 2001- November 2002. Managed 400-hectare shrimp and tilapia farm and supervised transition to shrimp and tilapia polyculture. Gulf of Guayaquil.

Shrimp Hatchery Manager. EMPAGRAN-SEMACUA.1999-October 2001. One of the largest shrimp hatcheries in Ecuador. Achieved production records (773 million pl's year). Supervised 70+ employees. Built and run new raceways, doubled maturation facilities and output, undertook major changes in infrastructure and started genetic improvement program.

Technical Assistant. EBNSA. 1995-1999. Largest agricultural exporting firm in Ecuador. Supervised commercial and experimental farms. Production management, market development, grower assistance, budgeting, technical liaison.

General Manager. KURKO S.A. 1989-1994. Managed a 72-hectare semi intensive shrimp farm in the Gulf of Guayaquil. Faced sea-gull syndrome, and the beginning of Taura syndrome. Supervised all technical and administrative duties.

Manager. PENAEUS.1988. Manager of a sixty million post larvae/month shrimp hatchery in San Pablo, Ecuador. Supervised larviculture and administration.

Biologist. AQUALAB.1985-1987. Helped build and startup one of the oldest running, largest and most technologically advanced shrimp hatcheries in Ecuador. Achieved production records and developed technology for larviculture, maturation, breeder transport, algal culture, and disease management.

Manager-chief biologist. CASAPESCA. 1985. One of the first shrimp hatcheries in Ecuador. Helped build, design and start up the hatchery and implemented and developed technology for modular, low cost larvae production.

ACADEMIC

Teaching assistant. University of Texas at Austin. Vertebrate physiology, 1980.

Teaching assistant. University of Texas at Austin. Vertebrate physiology, 1981.

Teaching assistant. University of Texas at Austin. Biology, 1982.

Teaching assistant. UT at Austin. **Marine Science Institute.** Estuarine ecology.1983

Research assistant. UT at Austin. **Marine Science Institute.** Biological oceanography.1983.

Other Skills

Languages: English, Spanish, working knowledge of French, basic German.

Computing: Spreadsheets and word processing.

Scuba diver

Additional training

ISO 9001 Lead Auditor

ASC Auditor, Shrimp, Salmon, Tilapia, Seriola/Cobia, Bivalves

Chain of Custody Auditor ASC/MSC

Fish culture workshop, HBOI 2012

Recirculating aquaculture workshop, HBOI 2012

Environmental compliance training.

Environmental packaging.

Organic agriculture seminar.

Pesticide handling and disposal.

Organic aquaculture seminar.

Environmentally responsible aquaculture workshop.

PROPOSED SOCIAL AUDITOR – GUILLERMO GANAZO**Professional Profile****Forest Engineer/Lead Auditor in Sustainable Agriculture, Chain of Custody and Social Responsibilities.**

Graduate of the National Agriculture University at “La Molina” in Peru. External consultant for various certification organizations. Since 2007, for the Rainforest Alliance Certified non-profit organization working closely with farmers and associations involved in sustainable programs in coffee, cocoa, grapes, blueberries in various regions of Peru and Latin America. For the Scientific Certification Systems - SCS in Fair Trade USA, Sustainably grown, EFI, Veriflora certifications in Peru (small coffee farmers) Ecuador (Flowers), Chile (grapes, hazelnuts, berries, apples), Colombia (Coffee National Federation–FNC), Honduras, Brazil (honey), Bolivia (small quinoa farmers). Deep understanding of the internal management and the social & environmental management systems of approximately 150 producer organizations in Peru and abroad. Knowledge and good relationship with current local stakeholders of the national environmental, agriculture and foreign trade sectors. Social audit on the Aquaculture Stewardship Council- ASC standard with Control Union. Auditing Salmon, Cobia, Shrimp, Tilapia, Mussel at Chile/Patagonia, Ecuador, Honduras, and Panama.

Competences

Good Interaction management with the major cooperatives, producer associations and private cocoa, coffee, grapes, onions Peruvian and Latin America companies. 12 years’ experience of continuous travel. Excellent awareness of the local culture and good relations with coffee and cocoa farmers from the most important producing regions in Peru. As a result of these contacts, 150 new partners (cooperatives, associations and private companies) have been accredited with Rainforest Alliance and the FairTrade USA Seal.

Pioneer in the introduction of the social principles of the ASC standard with the Salmons, visiting more than 50 farms of 10 Chilean salmon companies.

Professional Experience**2014- Currently Control Union – PERU & ECUADOR**

Responsibilities: Social Auditor, Senior Consultant in Green House Gases – Climate Change.

Position: Social Auditor ASC in Latin America. Salmon, Shrimp, Tilapia, Cobia, Mussels.

External Consultant in South America for new projects following the Carbon Balance Standards. Last process: Banana in Ecuador (OMORBANO) applying for the Carbon Balance Seal.

2013- Currently SCS Global Services – USA

Position: Lead auditor in Fair Trade USA, Veriflora, Sustainably grown, Equitable Food Initiative - EFI, Smeta, ASC standards in Latin America.

Responsibilities: In charge of certification, verification, research and diagnostic processes in Latin America and Brazil.

2012 -2014 Global Environment facility- GEF/ Latin America Development Bank- CAF Project, executed by PROMPERU

Position: Lead auditor in Sustainable Tourism and Bio trade standards of the United Nations.

Responsibilities: In charge of verifying processes of Ecotourism against the policies and standards of the bio trade regulations in Peru.

2007- Currently Rainforest Alliance Certified - USA

Position: Lead auditor in Sustainable Agriculture and chain of custody RA-Cert, South America.

Responsibilities: In charge of certification, verification, research and diagnostic processes in South America.

2007-2009 Agronomy and Veterinary without frontier – International Funds Center of Agronomic Development VSF – CICDA. France

Position: Coordinator of the “Jungle Fruits” projects.

Responsibilities: Responsible for execution of projects with cacao and coffee cooperatives in reforesting degraded areas, developing agro forestry as shade for coffee and cacao, wind barriers, and reforesting primary forests following methodology of Clean Development Mechanism –CDM directed to the Voluntary Carbon Market. Other activities with the groups included promotion of the FairTrade certification.

Professional Studies**Post Graduate:**

2017 Lead Auditor ISO 9001 Course – IRCA Bureau Veritas

2006 Environmental auditing and quality management specialization

2009 Designer and monitoring Clean Development Mechanism projects in forestry. Tropical Agriculture of Investigation and Learning Centre- CATIE Costa Rica.

Undergraduate:

2000-2005 Bachelor in Forestry Engineering, National Agriculture University “La Molina”. Lima, Peru

Languages: Spanish: High level, English: High level, Portuguese: High level

Computer skills: Microsoft Office, Arc GIS 9

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