

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

<b>Name of CAB</b>	DNV GL Business Assurance Norway AS (ASI-ACC-025)
<b>Production unit Name</b>	Wando Eco-friendly Seafood Cooperative (WESC): Certification audit is in progress.
<b>Name of Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Seung Hyun Kwak / Sander Buijs
<b>1. Program requirement/s for which variation is requested</b>	<p><b>Derogation to allow remote audits for initial and surveillance audits in response to Coronavirus pandemic (27 March 2020)</b></p> <p>The decision has been taken to allow remote audits for initial and surveillance audits. In addition, where the initial audit is done remotely, the onsite surveillance audit should be conducted six months earlier from the anniversary date of the certificate issuance.</p> <p><b>ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements, Version 1.01, 30 April, 2018</b></p> <p>17.23 Surveillance Surveillance audit timing</p> <p>17.23.1 The CAB shall carry out a surveillance audit, which includes a site visit, to monitor the certificate holder's continued conformity with the Standard at least annually from the date of certificate issuance. The site visit can take place at the location where the production unit takes place, but it can also be where the client is based. Either location is sufficient if the necessary information can be collected through face to face meetings with stakeholders, including scientists, managers, client employees and community members.</p>
<b>2. Proposed variation</b>	The decision has been taken to allow remote audits for initial and surveillance audits. In addition, where the initial audit has been undertaken during the harvest season and one auditor was onsite and another one remotely (assisted audit) the onsite surveillance audit can be conducted following the default requirements (17.23.1) in ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements (Version 1.01, 30 April, 2018) .
<b>3. Rationale/Justification</b>	<p>DNV GL is to conduct the initial audit on WESC in Republic of Korea. The audit team consists of 2 auditors. The lead auditor is Mr. Huy from Vietnam and team member is Mr. Seung Hyun Kwak from Korea who will cover both the Environment and social parts.</p> <p>Due to the travel restriction, Mr. Huy can't travel to Korea for the initial audit. He will conduct the audit remotely, while Mr. Seung Hyun Kwak will be on site to conduct the environment and social audits.</p> <p>Although both auditors cannot be present on site, the auditor who is on site will complete the audit with remote instruction from Mr. Huy as necessary. The audit team meets the competency requirement as a team.</p> <p>This audit can be considered assisted audit given that one auditor was onsite and not remote audit.</p> <p>Shorten audit interval may cause a financial burden to farmers.</p>

	The recognition of this case as an onsite audit will ease the financial burden.
<b>4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)</b>	The clear statement how the on-site audit is performed should be recorded in the audit report.
<b>5. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	No
<b>6. Further comments</b>	NA
ASC-MSC consideration	
<b>Consideration</b>	<p>This is a variation submitted for the <a href="#">derogation</a> that allows remote audits due to COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The derogation released due to the COVID states that when a remote audit is done, then the surveillance audit should be done onsite six months earlier from the anniversary of the certificate</li> <li>• The CAB has done an assisted audit, where one auditor was onsite, and the other auditor was remotely.</li> <li>• This requirement implies that the client will have 2 audits in the same year, which is a significant cost for the client.</li> <li>• The farm is highly seasonal, which an onsite visit six months later would not have any workers or activities onsite.</li> <li>• The derogation issued is stronger than the derogation issued by ASC and MSC and does not consider assisted (remote) audits.</li> <li>• The CAB will follow the surveillance requirements outlined in the Seaweed CAR and follow the 'default' surveillance schedule.</li> <li>• There is no reason to believe that varying the target eligibility date will have implications on the assessment of the fishery and thus the sustainability status of the fishery is not believed to be affected by this change.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve this VR

#### ASC-MSC response

<b>Status</b>	
<b>Decision</b>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Surveillance audit should be scheduled following the requirements outlined in the Seaweed CAR 17.23</p>
<b>Date of decision</b>	
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	With the following conditions:

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveillance schedule will be outlined in PCDR and stakeholders are informed</li></ul> |
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