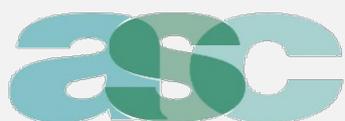


Aquaculture Stewardship Council and Marine Stewardship Council

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Variation Request Template

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) Variation Request Template v1.0

Versions issued

Version no.	Date	Description of amendment
1.0	08-Dec-17	N/A - new document



Variation Request Template

Date submitted to ASC-MSC	
Name of CAB	DNV GL Business Assurance Norway AS (ASI-ACC-025)
Production unit Name/CoC Certificate Number	Wando Eco-friendly Seafood Cooperative (WESC); Certification audit is in progress.
Name of Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Seung Hyun Kwak / Sander Buijs
1. Program requirement/s for which variation is requested	<p>ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements, Version 1.01, 30 April, 2018</p> <p>17.15 Setting the Eligibility Date for under-assessment product</p> <p>17.15.1 During the audit, the CAB shall determine the specific date (Eligibility Date) from which product from the operation is eligible to be sold as ASC-MSC certified or with the MSC and/or ASC labels.</p> <p>17.15.2 The Eligibility Date can be set as either:</p> <p>a. The date of the certification of the UoA as specified on the certificate, or</p> <p>b. The publication date of the PCDR.</p> <p>17.15.3 The Eligibility Date shall be set as the date of the UoA certification where a determination has been made that separate CoC certification is necessary. The CAB shall:</p> <p>a. Record this Eligibility Date clearly in the audit report.</p> <p>b. Communicate this date to the client and the ASC-MSC within five days of the determination being made.</p> <p>17.15.4 If the Eligibility Date is set before the certification date, the CAB shall inform the applicant of the requirements for under-assessment products in clause 5.5 of the Standard.</p>
2. Proposed variation	<p>17.15.2 The Eligibility Date can be set as either:</p> <p>a. The date of the certification of the UoA as specified on the certificate, or</p> <p>b. The publication date of the PCDR, or</p> <p>c. The date of the last day of on-site audit, or</p> <p>d. The date the harvest season begins</p> <p>17.15.3 The Eligibility Date shall be set as the date of the UoA certification where a determination has been made that separate CoC certification is necessary and the Eligibility Date can be set as the date of the last day of on-site audit for certification if the seaweeds are harvested only once per year. The CAB shall:</p> <p>a. Record this Eligibility Date clearly in the audit report.</p> <p>b. Communicate this date to the client and the ASC-MSC within five days of the determination being made.</p> <p>c. Record the harvest cycle clearly in the audit report.</p>
3. Rationale/Justification	<p>The Seaweeds in the audit scope are Hiziki (Hizikia fusiformis) and Kelp (or Sea tangle, Saccharina japonica) under the Bii production unit category. Both are harvested once per year for about 20 days per farm from the end of April to the beginning of June in case of Hiziki and in the end of May to the beginning of July for Kelp in Republic of Korea (The exact and specific harvest period varies from year to year and farm to farm due to environmental condition but the harvest season in Republic of Korea is generally between April and June and the harvest days of each farm are relatively short as 20 days during the season). To comply with requirement on site visit time in the ASC-MSC Seaweed CAR, the site visit is arranged in May. All Hiziki and Kelp are harvested in that period and preserved with salt or dried for sales. If the eligibility date is set up only between PCDR and the certificate issued, farmers may wait for the next harvesting season to sell the certified seaweeds, because in general PCDR can be issued without critical conditions 2-3 weeks later from the date of site visit at the earliest, then the harvesting may already be over. If critical condition is issued during the on-site audit, then the issuance of PCDR would be delayed until corrective actions taken are accepted.</p> <p>Traceability in the Unit of Assessment</p> <p>Wando Eco-friendly Seafood Cooperative (WESC) farmers in the UoA culture seaweeds (Hiziki and Kelp) in the sea during the winter season. Farmers harvest seaweeds from the aquafarm and transport the harvested seaweeds by vessel and truck owned by farmers to his sun-dry field in land. The processed (dried or salted) seaweeds are temporarily stored in each farmer's storage. Each farmer transports the primarily processed seaweeds to buyer (WESC) for sales. Currently the processed seaweeds is sold to local branch of National Federation of Fisheries Cooperation, however all the certified seaweeds is to be sold to WESC exclusively.</p> <p>The batch number (code for primary processing and temporary storage) and the lot number (Code for longline in the farms) is to be recorded in the certificate of receipt issued by WESC and in the certificate of supply issued to the farmers. The lot number consists of the identification code of respective farmers and codes given to a rope in the respective seaweeds farm. For example, K/SJ/KIM/a/1: K-Kelp, SJ-Sinji Island, Kim-Farmer name, a - farm number, 1- rope number</p> <p>K/SJ/KIM/b/(3)/2020-05-31: K-Kelp, SJ-Sinji Island, Kim-Farmer name, b - farm number, (3) - Kelps from 3 ropes are processed, 2020-05-31: date of dried and stored.</p> <p>This batch number is traced back to stored volume in the individual farmer's store and daily harvested volume recorded in the farmer's work log. The farmers record the seedlings planted in the aquafarm with location (rope) and volume and retain the purchasing invoice of seaweed seedling or certificate of purchase. Lot number is given to each line of rope in the aquafarms with farmers' identification code. The volume of seedlings purchased and planted, and the volume of seaweed harvested and primarily processed, stored in the farmer's warehouse are recorded by each farmer so that product can be traced from the first point of sale back to harvesting.</p>
	<p>All certified seaweeds are exclusively sold to WESC.</p> <p>Only certified seaweeds are sun-dried, processed and stored in the area owned or exclusively used by the farmers within the units of assessment. Uncertified seaweeds are not sun-dried, processed and stored in the same location.</p> <p>At each stage of handling, the farmers put the signboard including name of farmer, telephone number of WESC and the logo of ASC on the batch of certified seaweed to identify it. Subcontractors are not used to handle, transport, store or primary process the certified seaweeds. All activities are performed by the farmers of aquafarms in the units of assessment.</p> <p>All certified seaweeds are transported by the farmers of aquafarms in the units of assessment with product batch identification card to warehouse of WESC which is the point where product enters the Chain of Custody. The ownership of the certified seaweeds goes from the farmers to WESC. The batch number (code for primary processing and temporary storage) and the lot number (Code for production line) is to be recorded in the certificate of receipt issued by WESC and in the certificate of supply issued to the farmers. Further chain of custody is required when the ownership of the certified seaweeds changes.</p> <p>In the warehouse of WESC, all certified seaweeds purchased from the UoA are stored. The certified seaweeds are to be further processed or sold.</p> <p>The harvest of seaweeds began on 25 May 2020. Normally the harvesting season starts from the middle of May, however this year it is delayed due to the weather condition and the certification audit. The quality of seaweeds was not good enough to sell in the mid-May and farmers have decided to wait some more weeks to let the seaweeds grow more and become thicker. In addition, farmers thought that the eligibility date could be applied to 'under assessment product' as set forth in other ASC farm standards as observed from neighbour ASC Abalone farms certified to ASC Abalone certification, if the auditor comes and verify the products and the products are harvested from the date of on-site visit. All farmers in the UoA were ready to kick off the harvest of seaweed and the harvest began from 25 May 2020. Thus, the eligibility date is 25 May 2020. There were no seaweeds harvested before 25 May 2020. During the site visit, the farmers demonstrated harvesting, drying and storage activities.</p> <p>The trimmed blades were harvested from December to following April. December to April for Hiziki and February to April for Kelp respectively but currently there is no stock in the WESC. It was already either sold in fresh condition for salad to other distributors, not to WESC or fed to Abalone. In the book, the inventory of harvested seaweeds is 0 on 25 May 2020 as the harvest began on the day and it takes normally 2-3 days to sell to WESC. In the warehouse for incoming material storage in WESC, no harvested seaweeds were stored. In the storages of respective farmers in the UoA, no seaweeds harvested before 25 May 2020 were stored either. The trimmed blades harvested from December 2020 will only be claimed 'certified'.</p> <p>WESC consists of 11 farms and 3 processors and distributors. 3 members who will be responsible for 2nd processing and distribution will seek the CoC certification in following 2-3 months. 11 farms are in the UoA in this certification audit. Aquafarms operated by 11</p>
4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)	<p>The evidence to prove the harvest interval should be investigated and verified in the certification audit.</p> <p>The evidence shall be clearly recorded in the audit report.</p> <p>It is verified that the harvesting occurs in May through June each year during the site visit.</p> <p>The unit of assessment plans to harvest small volume in February or March during trimming blades to control the number of blades. Some of trimmed blades may be fed to avalaone and some may be sold to WESC. The volume of harvesting in February or March will be very small.</p>
5. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No
6. Further comments	NA

ASC-MSC response

Status	Complete
Decision	Accept The Eligibility Date can be set at the harvest season begins
Date of decision	July-06th-2020
Rationale for decision	<p>1) The risk analysis is provided by DNV for harvest practice and traceability system.</p> <p>2) Every step of labelling, segregation is described and the risk is considered as low.</p> <p>3) The harvest season is very short harvesting window, while the assessment and reporting takes time to publish the PCDR.</p> <p>4) There is no stock for last harvest season including trimmed blades so risk for mixing is low.</p> <p>5) The date is set as the audit visit date, which there is no harvest before the visit date. so the entire harvest season is included, the eligibility date is set as 25 May 2020.</p> <p>With the following conditions:</p> <p>(1) This variation shall not be taken as precedent for similar situations in the future;</p> <p>(2) The MSC reserves the right to revoke or amend this variation at any time within 14 days' notice provided in writing.</p>