1. Contents

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1. Purpose of Document

This document describes the Terms of Reference of the ASC Variance Request Committee for Variation Requests against the ASC Standards.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1. ASC Standards and Policies:
   2.1.1. ASC Standards.

2.2. Procedures, Guidelines:
   2.2.1. ASC Variance Request Procedure;
   2.2.2. ASC Standard Setting Procedure.

2.3. External Guidelines:
   2.3.1. ISEAL Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice;
   2.3.2. ISEAL Assurance Code of Good Practice.

3. TOR - Variance Request Committee

3.1. The VR Committee shall consist of three (3) voting Members, two (2) non-voting Advisors and three (3) non-voting Observers, consisting in wholly of:

   3.1.1. VR Committee Members:
      3.1.1.1. ASC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Chair;
      3.1.1.2. ASC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Member, as elected by TAG;
      3.1.1.3. ASC Director of Standards and Science.

   3.1.2. VR Committee Advisors:
      3.1.2.1. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) member(s) with relevant expertise on the VR topic;
      3.1.2.2. ASC Standards and Science staff member responsible for the technical review.

   3.1.3. VR Committee Observers:
      3.1.3.1. ASC CEO;
      3.1.3.2. ASC Programme Assurance staff member;
      3.1.3.3. ASC Market Development staff member.

3.2. The VR Committee Members are the decision-making body.

3.2.1. If consensus cannot be achieved, majority voting will be conducted.

3.3. The VR Committee Members shall be listed on the ASC website.

3.4. The VR Committee Members (3.1.1) shall automatically be appointed in response to her/his appointment to the position within ASC Standards and Science, or the ASC Technical Advisory Group.
3.5. Membership on the VR Committee shall terminate when:

3.5.1. Employment with ASC ends, or, their position within the ASC changes;

3.5.2. Their TAG-term expires.

3.6. Members of the VR Committee shall have one or more of the following skills and knowledge-areas:

3.6.1. Vision and mission of the ASC;

3.6.2. Understanding of the ASC Certification Programme;

3.6.3. Reputation of the ASC and risks that may jeopardize it;

3.6.4. Understanding of the aquaculture sector, including related environmental and social impacts;

3.6.5. Ability to read and distill scientific information and recommendations.

4. Amendment History

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<td>15 Dec 2020</td>
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Annex 1 - Current VR (Variation Request) Committee Members

- Petter Arnesen, Chair of Technical Advisory Group.
- Peter Cook, Technical Advisory Group member.
- Michiel Fransen, Director of Standards and Science.