

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Policy Advisory

Policy Advisory 14: Publication of Fishery Certificates
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Documents Supplemented or Modified by this Advisory

MSC Scheme Document	Status Change
N/A	N/A

Background

A fishery certificate is the formal document that is issued to a fishery client as evidence that a fishery is certified against the MSC standard. It is issued to the fishery client after the Public Certification Report for the fishery under assessment has been accepted by the client and published on the MSC website.

Currently, fishery certificates are not made publicly available and must be obtained following a request of the certification body or client for each fishery.

The continued growth of the MSC program has generated a need for interested parties to obtain information about each fishery's scope of certification in a quick and efficient manner. Certification bodies responsible for certifying the first link in the supply chain especially must be able to obtain information about which operators/businesses and/or points in the fishery are covered by the fishery certificate, as outlined in Policy Advisory 5 v.2.1.

Intent

This Policy Advisory is being circulated to provide direction on how, when and where to publish a fishery certificate following the certification of a fishery. The existing requirements pertaining to the content of the fishery certificate, as outlined in Appendix 1, remain unchanged.

Direction

1. Certification bodies shall submit to the MSC a copy of each and all fishery certificates issued, for publication by the MSC on its website.
 - a. For all fishery certificates issued before the 8th of March 2010, a copy of the fishery certificate shall be submitted to the MSC by the 1st of May 2010.
 - b. For all fishery certificates issued on or after the 8th of March 2010, a copy of the certificate shall be submitted to the MSC for publication on the MSC website within 10 days from the date it is issued.
2. Certification bodies shall ensure that when any changes to the information contained on a fishery certificate are made (such as changes to the date of expiry, client group details, eligible fishers, the point at which companies can enter into chain of custody), that the updated copy of the fishery certificate is provided to the MSC for publication on its website within 10 days of such changes occurring.

Ends

Appendix 1: Fishery Certificate Content

The information requirements for fishery certificates are described in the Accreditation Manual, v. 5.1 and Fishery Certification Methodology, v.6.1:

Accreditation Manual, version 5.1:

1.17 Information on certificates

1.17.1 All certificates issued by the CB shall include:

- 1.17.1.1 the name and address of the CB and the certificate holder;
- 1.17.1.2 certificate registration code issued by the CB (see note 1);
- 1.17.1.3 the MSC Logo;
- 1.17.1.4 date of issue and expiry of the certificate; and
- 1.17.1.5 signature of the issuing officer.

1.17.2 Additional wording on certificates shall have received the prior, written consent of the MSC.

2.4 Contents of certificates and information about MSC Logo use by fishery certificate holders

2.4.1 The CB shall have procedures to ensure that certificate holders are aware of and understand the requirements regarding the use of the MSC Logo and Fishery Management Certificate Registration Codes.

2.4.2 In addition to the requirement of section 1.17 of this manual all fishery certificates shall contain the following information:

- a. The unit of certification.
- b. A statement that confirms that the fishery meets the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing and that the fishery is well managed and sustainable.

Note: The CB may wish to provide further information on an attached schedule to the certificate if it wishes to clarify further information related to the unit of certification. E.g. The CB may wish to list specific organisations or vessels that are entitled to use the MSC logo.

2.4.3 Certificates shall include a statement to the effect that the named applicant for assessment meets the MSC standard. Where the applicant is made up of many parties, the CB shall clearly identify those parties or categories of parties who have the right to apply for chain of custody certification on the fishery certificate or a schedule to the certificate.

Fishery Certification Methodology, version 6.1:

5.1.4: “ (...) In addition to requirements set out in the Accreditation Manual, the fishery certificate shall identify the scope of the certified fishery certificate, including the unit of certification, the point at which fish and fish products may enter chains of custody, and if relevant, the entities that may be entitled to use the certificate”.