



MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Policy Advisory

Policy Advisory 9: Information Required for New Fisheries Entering Full Assessment

Documents Supplemented or Modified by this Advisory

MSC Scheme Document	Status Change
Policy Advisory 9 (v1)	Superseded

Background

Paragraph 2.1.1.1 of the Fisheries Certification Methodology (FCM v6) requires certification bodies to notify the MSC in writing of the intent to seek certification for a fishery. As part of this notification and announcement, certification bodies are required to provide the MSC with an indicative timetable for the assessment process (for publication on the MSC website) and a formal Notification Report (not for publication on the MSC website).

Growth in the MSC programme, with a wide range of fisheries in assessment and an increasing number of certification bodies accredited to undertake MSC fishery assessments has led to differences in the format and type of information provided as part of the notification and announcement processes. In order to ensure all information required at the outset of an assessment is provided and to promote consistency across the programme, the MSC has developed a template and guidance for the provision of information at the outset of a fishery assessment.

Intent

The intent of this advisory is to:

- ensure completeness in the information provided at the outset of a fishery assessment;
- ensure consistency in the interpretation of informational needs; and
- facilitate smooth fishery assessment procedures through the identification of potential assessment issues at the outset of an assessment.

Direction

1. The requirements specified in this Policy Advisory shall come into immediate effect on the 12th of February 2009 for all fisheries that enter full assessment or re-assessment on or after this date.
2. The requirements pertaining to the announcement of a fishery entering the full assessment process, as established in Section 2.1 of the FCM v6, remain in force.
3. When informing the MSC in writing of the intent to seek certification for a fishery, as required by paragraph 2.1.1.1 of the FCM v6, the certification body shall also complete the 'Information Required for New Fisheries Entering Full Assessment Template' appended to this policy advisory (Appendix 1).

Ends

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Appendix 1 - Information Required for New Fisheries Entering Full Assessment Template

Name of Fishery	To be determined by the fishery client and the certification body. The name determined should be unique and unambiguous and in addition to specifying the species for which certification is sought, may also incorporate details of the client group for the assessment, geographical location of the fishery and the fishing method employed.
Species Common Name(s)	Common name(s) for the species. This should include common names used in the key commercial markets for the species.
Species Latin Name	Latin name for the species.
Method of Catch	Details of the fishing method(s) employed in the fishery for which certification is sought.
Location of Fishery	<p>Stock name: a textual description of the biological unit stock exploited by the fishery, as commonly used in management and assessment reports (e.g. North Sea spring spawning herring)</p> <p>Stock region: a textual description of the geographic area within which the fishery is undertaken. This may be only a part or all of the full stock unit included under stock name above.</p> <p>Common name of the body of water within which the fishery is undertaken (eg. North Sea).</p> <p>FAO statistical area/s (see Annex 1).</p> <p>Local fisheries management area/s (e.g. ICES divisions VI, VII, and VIIIabc), including a map of the management area if available.</p>
Fishing Season	Details on the seasonal operation of the fishery.
Unit of Certification	TAB Directive D-003 defines the unit of certification (i.e. the potential unit entitled to receive an MSC certificate) as 'The fishery or fish stock(s) (= biologically distinct unit(s)) combined with the fishing method/gear and practice (= vessel/s) pursuing that stock. At its simplest, a single vessel could be the unit of certification, more likely, a number of vessels in the same fishery will probably be assessed.' This is what the Certification Body (CB) and expert team assess during the assessment. This is set at the beginning of the assessment; anything outside this unit will not be eligible to enter the certification at a later date
Client Name and Contact Details	<p>A client¹ is an individual, organisation or group of organisations that makes a formal application for a fishery to be assessed against the standard set by the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing and thereby enters into a contract with a CB for this purpose.</p> <p>A successful assessment results in the CB issuing a fishery certificate to the client for use as specified in the contract, and by extension to fishers who have been identified by the CB as being members of the client group.</p>

¹ The MSC does not specify who may or may not be the client. We do emphasize the importance, however, of the client having some influence over the management of the fishery, or the ability to be able to implement any conditions raised by the certification body after certification. Fishery clients have included government agencies, fishing industry associations, processing companies and producer organisations and local management authorities. Fishing industry associations and NGOs, or different government agencies have also worked together as co-clients in some cases to achieve certification.

Client Group	<p>The client group includes those fishers within the Unit of Certification that the client identifies as being covered by the certificate. The client group may also include other entities² that the client extends use of the certificate to. The client group is wholly and exclusively covered by the certificate.</p> <p>It remains the responsibility of the CB to determine who should or should not be allowed to use the fishery certificate they have issued. Only fish caught by those fishers that are identified by reference to or on a valid fishery certificate by the CB shall be eligible for chain of custody certification and subsequent use of the logo.</p>
Other Eligible Fishers	<p>Those operators who have been fully assessed against the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as part of the Unit of Certification; and are not currently part of the client group but may become eligible to join the client group under a certificate sharing arrangement. This group will be defined by the CB and would normally comprise fishers targeting the same stock using the same methods/gear and operating under the same management regime as the fishers included in the client group. It might also include other situations, for instance the catches of a stock defined in the unit of certification that are taken as incidental catch in another certified fishery.</p>
Fishing Operators	<p>In cases where the client group includes a small number of named fishing vessels (as compared to a group of vessels being eligible by virtue of their characteristics or by membership of a named client group, etc), the vessel names, registration numbers, tonnages and lengths should be provided, along with any distinguishing gear use capabilities of each vessel. In cases where the fishing vessels are not named individually, the number of vessels or other 'catching units' currently included in the client group (and in the full unit of certification, if larger) should be provided. The term 'fishing operator' is used here as an alternative to 'fishing vessels' so as to include fisheries that operate using static gears or other means of fish capture, where equivalent information should be provided as appropriate.</p>
Certificate Sharing Mechanism	<p>The proposed agreement between the client group and other eligible fishers (where these exist) detailing the cost sharing mechanism to be used and any other requirements to enable the other eligible fishers to join the fishery certificate. For further details see TAB Directive D-010 v2.</p>
Risk Based Framework	<p>An indication as to whether the 'Risk Based Framework' is likely to be used during the assessment, and to the extent known, the performance indicators against which it is likely to be used.</p>
Enhanced Fisheries	<p>A description of any human interventions in the natural production system associated with the fishery and, where enhancements occur, details as to the determination that the fishery is within scope of the MSC program, as guided by any future policies issued by MSC.</p>
Management System	<p>A general description of the management system, including information on the agencies involved in the management of the fishery, the legislative framework within which the fishery is undertaken and the core management measures implemented (including the TAC for the fishery for which certification is sought).</p>
Catch Data	Total TAC established for the fishery in the most recent fishing year.
	Unit of Certification share of the total TAC established for the fishery in the most recent fishing year.
	Client share of the total TAC established for the fishery in the most recent fishing year.
	Total greenweight ³ catch taken by the client group in the two most recent calendar years ⁴ .

² Entities in this case may include any processing companies or producer organisations or other bodies, that the client wishes to make the certificate available to, at the exclusion of other non client group members.

³ The weight of catch prior to processing.

⁴ So as to enable the MSC to monitor the scope and growth of the program, the MSC requires data on the level of catch taken by the client group. Information provided will not be published to the MSC website or released publicly, but will

History of the Fishery	A description of the general history of the fishery, including initial development of the fishery and significant changes within the history of the fishery.
Other Fisheries in the Area	A description of other fisheries in the vicinity not subject to the certification that may interact with the fishery being assessed.
External Influences	A description of external influences (such as environmental issues) that may affect the fishery and its management.
Main Commercial Market	A description of the main seafood products resulting from the fishery and the main markets within which those products are sold (including relative market share information if available).
Estimated Length of Full Assessment	A predicted date by which the assessment is expected to be completed and certification awarded if the assessment result is positive. Please note a separate assessment timeline is still required.
Target Eligibility Date	Determined in accordance with TAB Directive D-021, the targeted date from which product from a certified fishery is eligible to bear the label.
Certification Body	Name of the certification body for the assessment, including contact details for the assessment team leader and the first point of contact for the assessment (if different to the assessment team leader).
Stakeholders	A list of the major stakeholders in the fishery and the nature of their interest.
Chain of Custody	Information for any subsequent Chain of Custody certification including an indication about the point in the chain at which the certification body and its fishery assessment team can ensure chain of custody.

be securely stored and used as a basis to calculate the market share of MSC certified fisheries (eg. 40% of whitefish production is in assessment or certified to the MSC standard).

Annex 1 – Map of FAO Statistical Areas

