

**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	8-Dic-17	N/A - new document



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Variation Request Template

<b>Date submitted to ASC-MSC</b>	Friday 01 September 2023
<b>Name of CAB</b>	LRQA
<b>Production unit Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation
<b>Name of Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Sam Dignan
<b>1. Program requirement/s for which variation is requested</b>	<p>ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements v1.01  17.13 Critical conditions  17.13.1 If a scoring issue does not meet the minimum level, the team shall:  b. Require that at least the minimum level is met within three months from the date that the Critical Condition Reporting Template is sent to the client.  i. The team may extend the timeline for a critical condition to a maximum of six months if it determines that achieving the target level may take longer than three months even if the best possible actions are taken.</p> <p>Guidance 17.13.1 (...) (f)ailing to close the critical conditions within the specified timeline will mean that the production unit must be withdrawn.</p>
<b>2. Proposed variation</b>	LRQA proposes to vary from the above requirement by allowing the auditee in excess of 6 months to close a number of Critical Conditions while not withdrawing the production unit from assessment.
<b>3. Rationale/Justification</b>	<p>The auditee here is a new applicant to ASC-MSC. The onsite portion of this initial audit took place from 30 January 2023 to 01 February 2023 and a Condition Summary was provided to the client on 09 February 2023 within the required 10 days.</p> <p>The audit resulted in 26 Critical Conditions and 13 Conditions.</p> <p>The farm has worked hard since to address these findings and improve conformity to where they would be certifiable against the ASC-MSC Standard.</p> <p>By 05 May, the auditee had made substantial progress and had closed a large number of findings (18 Critical Conditions and 4 Conditions). On this basis it was agreed to afford them a further 3 months to address the remaining findings.</p> <p>Since the auditee has continued to work hard as evidenced by the further progress made in June (6 Conditions closed) and early-August (4 Critical Conditions and 2 Conditions closed).</p> <p>As of today, the auditee has 4 remaining open Critical Conditions (from 26) and 1 Condition (from 13); unfortunately however, they are now at the maximum extension permitted under the ASC-MSC requirements.</p> <p>On the basis of the substantial progress to date, LRQA would like to request to be permitted to allow the auditee a further 3 months (so 9 months in total or a 3-month extension of the requirement) to address their remaining open NCs.</p>
<b>4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)</b>	Granting this request will allow the assessment of this production unit to continue. Not granting it will result in this production unit being withdrawn from assessment.
<b>5. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	No. This is not a fisheries assessment variation.
<b>6. Further comments</b>	

**ASC-MSC response**

<b>Status</b>	Closed
<b>Decision</b>	Accept
<b>Date of decision</b>	22nd September
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous progress appears to have been made over the last several months</li><li>• Only a small portion of the conditions remain open</li><li>• Low risk as operation is not yet certified</li></ul>
<b>Conditions for accepting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Another audit (remote or in person) must be conducted to verify that the conditions have been closed.</li><li>• The extended deadline is 3 months.</li><li>• The overall assessment cannot exceed the 12-month limit, per CAR 17.2.1.</li></ul>