

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	18th January 2023
Name of CAB	LRQA 로이드 인증원
Production unit Name/CoC Certificate Number	Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation : Assessment in Progress
Name of Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Che King Lee / Eilidh Milligan
1. Program requirement/s for which variation is requested	<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>
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><u>c. The date the harvest season begins if the seaweed is only harvested once per year.</u></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 <u>and the Eligibility Date can be set as the date the harvest season begins if the seaweed is only harvested once per year.</u></p> <p>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><u>c. Record the harvest cycle clearly in the audit report, and ensure that the traceability is assessed/recorded for the entire harvest season.</u></p>
3. Rationale/Justification	<p>The Seaweeds in the assessment scope are Laver (Pyropia yezoensis) under the Bi production unit category. Harvesting season is from the the begining of December to the end of April (Once per year) 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 December to April). To comply with the requirement of the on-site visit time in the ASC-MSC Seaweed CAR, the site visit was arranged in December which is at the start of the harvesting season. All Lavers for Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation are harvested in that period and preserved dried for sale. If the eligibility date is set as the publication date of the PCDR, Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation will be required to wait until the next harvesting season to sell</p>

certified product as the harvest is likely to be complete or almost complete by the PCDR publication date.

Traceability in the Unit of Assessment

Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation Fishery Corporation in the UoA culture seaweeds (Laver) in the sea during the winter season. The company harvests seaweed from the aquafarm and transports the harvested seaweed by vessel and truck owned by the company to the harbour. Daily harvested Laver will be transported to processing factory to be dried. Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation Fishery Corporation (processing factory for dried laver) is in the UoC and Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation applied for ASC Chain of Custody certification and the initial audit was conducted on Dec 6, 2022. The processed (dried) seaweeds are temporarily stored in Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation's storage. The batch number (code for primary processing and temporary storage) and the lot number (Code for longline with Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation's harvesting date and laver net location) is to be recorded in the certificate of receipt issued by Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation. This batch number is traced back to stored volume and daily harvested volume is recorded in the seaweed farm work log.

Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation record the seedlings planted in the aquafarm with location (rope) and volume and retain the purchasing invoice of seaweed seedling or certificate of purchase. A lot number is given to each line of rope in the aquafarms within the farm layout location. The volume of seedlings purchased and planted, and the volume of seaweed harvested and primarily processed, stored in the warehouse are recorded by seaweed farm so that product can be traced from the first point of sale back to harvesting.

All certified seaweed is exclusively sold from Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation Fishery Corporation (Laver Aquafarm + Processing factory for dried lavers). Only certified seaweed is harvested and transported exclusively used by Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation within the units of assessment. At each stage of handling, the farm includes the ASC Logo. Subcontractors are not used to handle or transport product. All activities are performed by the workers of aquafarms in the units of assessment. All certified seaweed is transported by the workers of aquafarm in the units of assessment with product batch identification card to buyers at the harbour and this is the point where product enters the Chain of Custody. The ownership of the certified seaweed then transfers from Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation off-shore farm to drying processing factory owned by Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation. The batch number (code for harvesting date and farm location) and the lot number (Code for production date) is recorded. Further chain of custody is required when the ownership of the certified seaweed changes. In the warehouse of Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation, all certified seaweed purchased from the UoA are stored, identified and separated. The certified seaweed are then further processed or sold. Namhae operates a process to dry lavers. All finished products must be labelled laver material identification notes which are attached to each product package boxes. The factory operates only during the laver harvest season (Dec – April) , and the drying process must be carried out immediately after the seaweed harvest to extend the distribution period in the future. Live laver goes bad quickly, if it is not dried immediately. All dried laver product must labelled with identification notes at each packages. Package label contains (Farm origin, Harvesting dates, Drying processing date, volume of product package).

4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)	The harvesting season was verified as December to April during the audit, and this will be recorded in the report.
5. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No, N/A
6. Further comments	N/A

ASC-MC Response

Status	Complete
Decision	Accept
Date of decision	January 31st 2023
Rationale for decision	<p>1) The risk analysis is provided by LRQA for harvest practice and traceability system.</p> <p>2) The traceability system from Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation is sufficient to prevent mixing of different laver farm origin. The supply chain is detailed described and there is no mixing of laver materials from other origin in the production process.</p> <p>3) All certified seaweed is exclusively sold from Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation (Laver Aquafarm + Processing factory for dried lavers). Only certified seaweed is harvested and transported exclusively used by Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation within the units of assessment. Subcontractors are not used to handle or transport product. All activities are performed by the workers of aquafarms in the units of assessment. All certified seaweed is transported by the workers of aquafarm in the units of assessment with product batch identification card to buyers at the harbour and this is the point where product enters the Chain of Custody. The ownership of the certified seaweed then transfers from Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation off-shore farm to drying processing factory owned by Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation. The batch number (code for harvesting date and farm location) and the lot number (Code for production date) is recorded.</p> <p>4) The harvesting season was verified as December to April during the audit, and this will be recorded in the report. The factory operates only during the laver harvest season (Dec – April) , and the drying process must be carried out immediately after the seaweed harvest to extend the distribution period in the future.</p> <p>5) To comply with the requirement of the on-site visit time in the ASC-MSC Seaweed CAR, the site visit was arranged in December which is at the start of the harvesting season. All Lavers for Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation are harvested in that period and preserved dried for sale. If the eligibility date is set as the publication date of the PCDR, Nongsusanmul Fishery Corporation will be required to wait until the next harvesting season to sell certified product as the harvest is likely to be complete or almost complete by the PCDR publication date.</p> <p>With the following conditions: (1) This variation shall not be taken as precedent for similar situations in the future.</p>

(2) The MSC reserves the right to revoke or amend this variation at any time within 14 days' notice provided in writing.