

**Aquaculture Stewardship Council and Marine Stewardship Council**

**ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Variation Request Template**

**Version 1.0 (Issued 8 December 2017)**



**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



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<b>Date submitted to ASC-MSC</b>	Tuesday, 13 June 2023
<b>Name of CAB</b>	LRQA
<b>Production unit Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	Veramaris LLC., Blair, Nebraska, USA
<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</p> <p>17.23 Surveillance Surveillance audit timing</p> <p>17.23.1 The CAB shall carry out a surveillance audit, which includes a site visit, to monitor the certificate holder's continued conformity with the Standard at least annually from the date of certificate issuance.</p> <p>17.23.2 The CAB shall not conduct the annual surveillance audit earlier or <b>later than six months from the anniversary date of the certificate issuance.</b></p>
<b>2. Proposed variation</b>	<p>LRQA proposes to vary from the above requirement by conducting the second annual surveillance of this certificate holder outside the permitted plus 6 months from the anniversary date of certification. 1 additional month's grace is requested, and the surveillance will instead be conducted within plus 7-months of the anniversary date of certification.</p>
<b>3. Rationale/Justification</b>	<p>This certificate holder was required to transfer their ASC- MSC certificate due to their previous CAB's voluntary withdrawal from the ASC- MSC programme. Their transfer to LRQA went through late in their current surveillance audit 'window' on 04 June 2023 leaving insufficient time to properly prepare for, announce and conduct the required surveillance audit within the specified +6 months from certificate anniversary window which closes on 07 July 2023 while also respecting the required 30-day stakeholder comment period.</p> <p>LRQA and the certificate holder have agreed on a site visit in the week of 17 July 2023 but need to vary from the +/- 6-month requirement to do so.</p> <p>This request permits additional time only and does not alter the certificate holder' conformity with the ASC- MSC seaweed standard.</p>
<b>4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)</b>	<p>There are no particular impacts on the certificate associated with this request.</p>

<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>	Approved
<b>Date of decision</b>	14/06/2023
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	Delay has been caused by a CAB change, which occurred as a result of a voluntary withdrawal of the previous CAB from the program.
<b>Condition for acceptance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAB shall inform stakeholders on the delay in the scheduling of the surveillance site visit.</li> </ul>