

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

CAB NAME AND LOGO

Variation Request Template

Date submitted to ASC-MSC	18 September 2024
Name of CAB	DNV Business Assurance
Production unit Name/CoC Certificate Number	UOC02517 - Victory International Co., Ltd. ASC02563
Name of Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Prasad Roy Puspendra
1. Program requirement/s for which variation is requested	17.10.1
2. Proposed variation	<i>DNV proposes to conduct part of the audit remotely for the witness audit for Culture and Harvest during the first week of November 2024.</i>
3. Rationale/Justification	<i>According to the notification provided by the government, we have to delay the cultivation of seaweed due to the rapidly rising sea temperatures in South Korea. Consequently, the verification of the production culture will not be available during the audit days, but all other processes can be verified by you during the audit. According to the government's instructions, the installation is to be carried out in the first week of October 2024 and the harvest can be organized in the first week of November 2024.</i>
4. Implications for assessment (required for production unit assessment variations only)	<i>The direct timing is influenced by the fact that the audit will be completed remotely (if VR is approved) in November 2024</i>
5. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	<i>Not yet. The communication will be published once approved by ASC MSC seaweed team</i>
6. Further comments	<i>Please include any further relevant information.</i>

ASC-MSC response	
Status	
Decision	Accepted
Date of decision	30/10/2024
Rationale for decision	According to the South Korean government, seaweed cultivation had to be delayed due to rapid sea temperature change. Consequently, the assessors were not able to witness the harvesting process during the onsite assessment audit, which took place earlier. Harvesting and culture production will take place next month.
Additional information from the CAB:	<p>Activities already audited onsite for both sites date 11-14th September 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i). Stake holder's interview, ii). Verification of all document/records for all applicable clauses from principle 1 to principle 5, including applicable legal requirements and traceability procedures, iii). Environmental and Social applicable documents and records as applicable for the ASC Seaweed standard, iv). Site visit to both the farms to check the facilities other facilities as transport from shore to the culture site, safety measures, employee facilities, GPS coordinate verification, v).Employee's interview. <p>Remaining activities to be audited by remote/request for an approval for the VR for the below activities. No announcement required as these activities are part of the IA activity which was already announced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i). Witness harvest operation, ii). Verification of Seaweed culture activities as per the applicable ASC Seaweed standard requirements.
Condition for acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remote portion of the site visit will occur during the first week of November 2024. • The CAB can confirm that they are able to complete the remote portion of the site visit effectively. • The CAB shall publish a stakeholder announcement, including the planned dates of the remote portion of the site visit and an explanation of how stakeholders can participate. • The acceptance of this VR only applies to this specific site visit. <p>Additional conditions (also included in ASC Farm CAR v2.3.1):</p> <p>16.1. The CAB shall follow the most current versions of ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Group Guidance on: REMOTE AUDITS and IAF MD 4:2018, and IAF Mandatory Document for the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) when conducting remote audits or remote evidence collection.</p> <p>16.1.1. The CAB shall conduct a feasibility and risk analysis as described in this document before carrying out remote audits or remote evidence collection.</p>