



Recognition determination report
MSC Fisheries Standard Version 2.01
31 August 2018

Document TEM-035 – Version 1.0

Issued June 2024 – Effective June 2024

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Introduction

To ensure consistency in the reporting of findings and recommended outcomes, this report is to be utilised by the approved third party following the completion of the equivalence assessment.

The report provides a summary of key information and findings of the equivalence assessment carried out by the third party.

Upon receipt of the recognition determination report, MarinTrust shares the report with the relevant governance committee for discussion and recommendation of approval to the Governing Body Committee (GBC).

This report is used as the basis for recommending if the equivalency should be considered by the relevant committee, GBC, and MarinTrust.

Where the recognition is partial or full, MarinTrust shall publish the report on the MarinTrust website.

Section 1: Company and third party information

Company details	
Name of Organisation:	Marine Stewardship Council
Type of recognition:	One way- Equivalency to MT Whole fish Fishery Assessment Criteria
Third party Information	
I hereby undertake to maintain in confidence all information and data related to MarinTrust activities obtained during the course of my involvement as a third party, other than that which I am authorised by the MarinTrust to disclose or that which I am required to disclose by law.	
I further undertake to immediately inform MarinTrust of any conflict of interest that may arise between my responsibilities as a third party and any other activity with which I may be involved.	
Organisation:	RS Standard Ltd.
Date:	6th Sept 2024

Section 2: General overview

One-way or mutual recognition

- One-way
 Mutual

Standard / Benchmark information	
Title	MSC Fisheries Standard *
Version	Version 2.01 31 August 2018
Website link (if applicable)	https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/fisheries-program-documents/msc-fisheries-standard-v2-01.pdf?sfvrsn=8ecb3272_19

*Including MSC Guidance document (linked to the Standard) and Risk Assessment Tool Box.

Section 3: Self-assessment outcome summary

This equivalency assessment was undertaken by third party assessment only.

A previous evaluation of MSC Fisheries Standard was made as part of a series of pilot tests for the development of the equivalency procedure. This was considered a type of 'self-assessment' whereby information was gathered prior the full equivalency assessment.

A third party contractor (RS Standards) has undertaken this equivalency assessment in full, during August 2024. This compared V3 of the MarinTrust whole fish fishery assessment criteria, Issued April 2024- Effective 1 May 2024 with the [MSC Fisheries Standard Version 2.01 31 August 2018](#) which was published and online at the time of the assessment.

The equivalency evaluation used additional material from both Programs.

- MarinTrust whole fish fishery assessment criteria guidance Version 3.0 Issued April 2024 – Effective 1 May 2024
- MSC Guidance to the Fisheries Standard Version 2.01, 31 August 2018
- MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 March 2023

Section 4: Equivalency assessment overview

The outcome of the equivalency assessment is summarised in the tables below. **Table 1** includes an overview of the outcome of the baseline requirements.

Table 3 indicates the number of clauses for which the relevant party is considered to be equivalent, partially equivalent, not equivalent, or not applicable to the MarinTrust criteria.

For full details for each rating, please refer to Recognition of Equivalence Procedure, Appendix 1 – equivalency assessment methodology.

4.1 Baseline requirements

Table 1: Outcome overview of baseline requirements

Requirement	Description	Outcome
Operations	Fully operational	Met
	Third party assessment using a team of approved assessors from an approved Certification Body.	
Scope of requirements (please specify)	Sustainable fish stock/Responsibly managed fisheries	Met
Geographical scope (if regional please specify)	Global	Met
If the scope is fisheries - are the requirements aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries?	Yes and benchmarked to GSSI	Met

Table 2: Outcome overview of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements

MSC require that all approved certification bodies (Conformity Assessment Bodies) gain and maintain formal accreditation from Accreditation Services International (ASI). ASI operates to ISO 17011 and provides assurance that CAB's are aligned to a range of ISO Standards including; ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17024, ISO 17034, ISO/IEC 17043, **ISO/IEC 17065**, ISO 15189 and ISO 14065. The most applicable Accreditation Standard implemented by CAB's is ISO/IEC 27065.

Not performed as part of the equivalency assessment.

Requirement	Outcome
Standard Owner	Met
Benchmark Tool Owner	N/A.

4.2 Equivalency assessment against MarinTrust criteria

Table 3: Summary of level of equivalency

Equivalency rating	Number of MarinTrust clauses	% of total
Equivalent	35	100%
Partially equivalent	0	
Not equivalent	0	

Scope	Total Number of criteria	Equivalent	Partially equivalent	Not equivalent	Not applicable
Whole fish fishery approval	35	35	0	0	0

4.3 Extent of Equivalence

Table 4: Equivalency assessment outcome

Overview	
Scope	Outcome
Whole fish fishery approval	Full recognition recommended.

4.4 Main Findings and Comments

Equivalency Approach

The assessor has evaluated the MSC Principles and Criteria (Performance Indicators, Scoring Issues and Scoring Guideposts), including associated MSC scoring directions (SA's) and MSC Guidance to the SA's (GSA's) to determine equivalency. Since the Marin Trust fishery assessment approach differs from the MSC fishery assessment and uses different evaluation outcomes (pass/fail v full pass/conditional pass/fail), the assessor has not used MSC Scoring Guideposts to determine a level of equivalence of scoring outcomes of MSC against the MT approval method and instead, has used the information to simply make the evaluation. In most instances, scoring guideposts at 60 and 80 were used to demonstrate equivalency.

Summary of equivalent clauses

MT Fishery Approval Criteria (main clause)	MSC Standard Equivalency Outcome
M1.1 There is an organisation responsible for managing the fishery	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses. Initial review considered partial equivalence at sub clause M1.1.3 (sub-criteria). Further submission from Standards owner resulted in full equivalence outcome for this clause. (Refer to Marin-Trust excel benchmark for details).
M1.2 Fishery management organisations are legally empowered to take management actions	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
M1.3 There is an organisation responsible for collecting data and (scientifically) assessing the fishery.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
M1.4 The fishery management system is based on the principles of sustainable fishing and a precautionary approach	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
M1.5 There is a clearly defined decision-making process which is transparent, with processes and results made publicly available	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
M2.1 There is an organisation responsible for monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
M2.2 There is a framework of sanctions which are applied when infringements against laws and regulations are discovered	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.

M2.3 There is substantial evidence of widespread compliance in the fishery, and no substantial evidence of IUU fishing.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
Cat A species	
A1 Data Collection	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
A2 Stock Assessment Criteria	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
A3 Harvest Strategy Requirements	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
A4 Stock Status	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
Cat B species	
B1	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent in PSA approach.
Cat C species	
C1 Stock Status	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
Cat D species	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent in the PSA approach
D1, 2,3 PSA	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent in the PSA approach outcomes
D4 Impacts on vulnerable species	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent in the PSA approach with regard to vulnerable species (low resilience)
E1.1. Information on interactions between the fishery and ETP species is collected	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E1.2. The fishery has no significant negative impact on ETP species.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E1.3. There is an ETP management strategy in place for the fishery.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E2.1. Information on interactions between the fishery and marine habitats is collected.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E2.2. The fishery has no significant impact on marine habitats.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E.2.3. There is a habitat management strategy in place for the fishery.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E3.1. Information on the potential impacts of the fishery on marine ecosystems is collected.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E3.2. There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the marine ecosystem.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.
E3.3. There is an ecosystems management strategy in place for the fishery.	MSC Fisheries Standard is considered equivalent to all sub-clauses.

Section 5: Response from scheme/standard owner

A copy of the draft assessment was shared with the scheme/standard owner, with a two-week response period which closed on the 4th September 2024. Response received were considered and the final report shared with the MarinTrust Secretariat.

Section 6: Equivalency recommendation

- No recognition recommended
- Partial recognition recommended
- Full recognition recommended.

Propose that MSC Fisheries Standard Version 2.01 31 August 2018 fully meets the Marin Trust equivalency requirements.