[*Insert CAB logo*] A blue oval with a check mark and a fish

Description automatically generated

MSC Improvement Program

Marine Stewardship Council

# [*CAB*]

# [*Fishery name*]

# MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement

*Instructions for CABs*

*This template details the instructions for, and the information required from, Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) when confirming the eligibility of fish and fish products from a Unit(s) of Assessment from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Improvement Program to be sold as “MSC Improvement Product” and enter into certified chains of custody.*

*Please complete all unshaded fields. Where instructions are included in italics, please delete and replace with your specific information where relevant.*

*Please rename the document so that the file name includes the fishery name and any other relevant information e.g. Fishery Name\_MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement\_Date\_Version Number.*

*The MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement contains information as per the MSC Improvement Program Requirements and Guidance v3.0 Section 4.3.*

*Please note the MSC ecolabel is a trademark used only for MSC certification activities and is not permitted for use on the MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement nor “MSC Improvement Product” associated claims by CABs and Improvement Program fishery clients.*

*The CAB shall issue the MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement in the English language. If also issued in other languages, the CAB shall include a disclaimer in the MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement noting it is an unverified translation of the English statement, and in case of differences the English version takes precedence.*

*Corporate Branding:*

*The CAB may format this template to comply with the CAB’s corporate identity. The CAB shall ensure that content and structure follow the template.*

*Examples of appropriate amendments are:*

* *A title page with the CAB’s company logo;*
* *Replacement of font styles;*
* *Inclusion of the registered name, address and contact details for the CAB and the fishery client;*
* *Deletion of any sections that are not applicable;*
* *Deletion of introductory text or instructions; and,*
* *Addition of subheadings to improve clarity and readability.*

# MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement

**Table 1: Summary of MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement publication date | *This is the date the MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement is scheduled to be published. If the Statement is updated, the CAB shall include the new publication date here.*  *DD/MM/YYYY* | | | |
| Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) Name |  | | | |
| MSC Improvement Program fishery name |  | | | |
| Fishery Client name |  | | | |
| UoAs from which fish and fish products are eligible to be sold as MSC Improvement Product, and eligibility start and end dates (*only UoAs from which fish and fish products are determined to be eligible to be sold as MSC Improvement Product should be listed here)*  *(add more rows if needed)* | **UoA *(number)*** | **Eligibility Start Date** | **Eligibility End Date** | **MSC Improvement Program code** |
|  | *DD/MM/YYYY* | *DD/MM/YYYY* |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| MSC Improvement Program fishery client address |  | | | |

**[*Insert CAB Name*] hereby confirm the Unit(s) of Assessment in the MSC Improvement Program [*insert fishery name*] specified in this statement meets/meet the MSC Improvement Product eligibility criteria, and fish and fish products from the UoA(s) are eligible to be sold as “MSC Improvement Product” upon the stated MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Start Date.**

**The Improvement Program fishery client shall only identify and promote products as “MSC Improvement Product” and/or use the “MSC Improvement Product” back-of-pack claim for products that originate from UoAs identified in this MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement and only following approval from the MSCI – the MSC’s licensing function for MSC Improvement Product.**

**Buyers of “MSC Improvement Product” shall refer to the MSC website (**[**www.msc.org**](http://www.msc.org)**) as the authoritative source of information to validate the MSC Improvement Program fishery and Unit(s) of Assessment and MSC Improvement Product Eligibility.**

**Table 2. [***insert more tables numbers as necessary***] list(s) the Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) from which fish and fish products are eligible to enter into certified chains of custody, to be sold as “MSC Improvement Product” and to carry the “MSC Improvement Product” back-of-pack claim. Table 2 [***insert more tables numbers as necessary***] also identifies MSC Improvement Product eligibility criteria and how first buyers can verify that fish and fish products are “MSC Improvement Product”.**

*Add new tables for additional UoAs.*

*For vessel or fleet description, please include details about the number of vessels and vessel size.*

Table : Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) from which fish and fish products are eligible to enter certified Chains of Custody and to be sold as “MSC Improvement Product”.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **UoA** (*X) (Identity e.g. UoA number*) | **Description** |
| Species |  |
| Target stock(s) |  |
| Geographical area |  |
| Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s). |  |
| Client group | *Please include the list of entities and categories of entities (e.g. vessel owner, auction, trading agent, offloader, storage facility, processor, or subcontractor) that are eligible to sell fish and fish products from the UoA as MSC Improvement Product.* |
| Other MSC Improvement Product eligibility criteria | *Please use this section to detail any other eligibility criteria (e.g. product forms, assigned points of landings, auctions, agents, transfers or CoC certification condition prior to first sale) that apply to product to be sold as MSC Improvement Product.* |
| A list of vessel or fishing operators | *If a group of vessels or individual fishing operators (i.e. not an entire fishing fleet) operates in this UoA, the CAB shall provide a list of the vessels, or include a hyperlink to a publicly available list of vessels here.* |
| MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Start Date | *This date shall be any nominated date on or after the publication of this MSC Improvement Product Eligibility Statement when the CAB has confirmed all MSC Improvement Product eligibility criteria have been met.*  *DD MM YYYY* |
| MSC Improvement Product Eligibility End Date | *This date should be the same as the UoA MSC Improvement Program Completion Date.*  *DD MM YYYY* |
| The point of intended change of ownership of MSC Improvement Product | *Please determine the point where product ownership changes to any party not covered by the fishery UoAs and/or the MSc Improvement Product Eligibility Statement.* |
| The point at which subsequent Chain of Custody (CoC) certification is required | *Please determine the point at which subsequent CoC certification is required as per MSC Improvement Program Requirements and Guidance v3.0, 4.3.4.* |
| Entities, or categories of entities, required to have separate Chain of Custody (CoC) certification | *Please include a list of entities or categories of entities required to have separate CoC certification so that product from the UoA can be sold as MSC Improvement Product.* |
| MSC Improvement product verification | *To support first buyers’ verification, please describe how fish or fish products can be identified and confirmed as MSC Improvement Product at the point that it enters certified chains of custody. For example, the types of records, labels, eligibility criteria review and/or where to find this information to confirm the MSC Improvement Product eligibility.* |

# Template information and copyright

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*The CAB shall delete Table 3.*

Table . Template Version Control

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date of publication** | **Description of amendment** |
| 1.0 | 29 October 2024 | N/A – new template |

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (<https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents>).

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