MarinTrust Fishery Assessment

Applicant document checklist

1. Introduction

Using the Applicant Document Checklist

Review the information provided in this document, and then complete the Applicant Document Checklist by finding as much information related to your fishery as possible to provide to the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) using the structured checklist. The more information that can be provided to the CAB at an early stage in an assessment will result in a stronger, more robust assessment.

Supporting Information

The MarinTrust Standard covers a variety of fisheries form all over the world, therefore it is impossible to create a list that will be applicable to everyone. It's also important to know what information is available and what isn't. If you look for documents and you can't find them, there is also space here for you to note that, so the assessment team is made aware.

What is a fishery?

When the term "the fishery" is used in this checklist, it can have several different definitions, for example it can refer simply to the specific Unit of Assessment (applicant fishery) but can also refer to a wider fisheries management system at a national or stock level. Usually, information comes from one or several of these levels interchangeably (e.g. a policy document with objectives could be an internal company policy or local, national, or international policy). However, with reference to stock levels, information about the entire stock is needed.

The MarinTrust Standard

More detailed information about the requirements the fishery will be assessed against can be found here. The assessment team scores the fishery against the Clauses in the MarinTrust Wholefish Standard. Some of the documents listed in the MarinTrust Applicant Document Checklist can be used for more than one Clause.

2. Applicant Document Checklist

Applicant Key Contact Information

Name:	
Tel. No:	**Cell. No:**
Email:	
Country:	

Fishery Details

Fishery Name:	
Main Species Name(s) and Latin name(s):	
Fishing Area & Country:	
Number of vessels:	
Gear type:	
Ports of Landing, or certificate of origin:	

Please complete the table below and send any relevant reports as separate attachments:

	Key Information	Link to guidance	Source of Information *(website, document)*	Report attached (Y/N)	Applicant Comments *(optional)*
1	Please list all the retained species which regularly make up more than 0.1% of landings in the fishery by weight, and their estimated proportions in the catch?	1. Fishery Catch Data			
2	Please provide links to the organisation(s) responsible for international, national and local fisheries management as relevant to the fishery under assessment. If possible, please also provide a key contact in the fisheries management organisation that the assessor can liaise with going forward?	2. Governance and policy information			
3	Please provide information on the fishery's own management policy related directly to how the fishery operates	3. Fishery specific Management system information			
4	For each species listed in the landings data which has been subjected to a stock assessment, please provide the associated stock assessment report(s)?	4. Information on stocks			
5	Harvest strategy, is there a mechanism in place by which total fishing mortality of this species is restricted?	5. Harvest Strategy			
6	The impact of the fishery on the wider ecosystem in which it operates and how fishery management monitors and moderates its effect. Please provide any information on measures the fishery has implemented to mitigate impacts on Endangered, Threatened, and Protected species, and if applicable, seabed habitats?	6. Ecosystem Impacts			

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1. Fishery Catch Data

What is it?

This is a record of what is caught by the fishery and the amount of fishing effort required to catch it (e.g. number of fishing trips taken per vessel, number of days per trip, distance covered, gear used [when and where], number of traps/hooks/lines, length of fishing net, etc.).

What do assessment teams need to see?

Records of the following catch and fishing effort data:
- Target species (species that will be assessed against the MSC Fisheries Standard);
- Retained species (other than MSC-assessed species);
- Discards/slipped catches; and,
- Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) species.

Please list all the species which regularly make up more than 0.1% of catch in the fishery by weight, and their estimated proportions in the catch.

Note that MarinTrust recognises that catch composition will vary over time. The data provided should reflect 'normal' landings in the fishery in recent years. Ideally this should be a list of landings (or estimated landings) by species for the past 3 years. Applicants should also indicate the source of the data.

When providing species names, please list both the common and scientific names whenever possible, as common names can vary between and even within countries.

Example:

Landings data for the past 4 seasons can be found here: https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/small-pelagic-fishery/spf-catch-data. *Latin names for target species can be found here*: https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/small-pelagic-fishery.

2. Governance and policy information

What is it?

Here, the MarinTrust Standard refers to the wider legal framework within which the fishery operates. There may be a formal legal framework (international and/or national policies, laws and regulations), and/or there may be a customary framework (including customs and traditions that are protected by law).

What do assessment teams need to see?

- Local, national and international laws, regulations and agreements that govern any element of the fishery process, information on how the fishery ensures that it meets these requirements, and evidence of compliance.

- Any policy documents or management plans that provide guidance to the fishery management system.
- List of organisations or groups involved in, or potentially impacted by, the fishery and information on how these stakeholders (including the fishery client) can participate in the fishery management or policy-making system.

Example:

Overall management of the fishery is the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy, specifically the Undersecretariat of fisheries (SUBPESCA SSP – http://www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/w3-article-86158.html) and the National Fisheries Service (SERNAPESCA – http://www.sernapesca.cl/). Data collection and analysis is the responsibility of the Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP – https://www.ifop.cl/). SERNAPESCA is also responsible for monitoring and enforcement of regulations, with the support of the coast guard and navy.

The main pieces of fishery legislation are:

- *Ley 25977 Ley General de Pesca (Artículos del 76° al 83°)*
- *Decreto Supremo 012-2001-PE Reglamento de la Ley General de Pesca (Artículos del 126° al 150°)*
- *Decreto Supremo 016-2007-PRODUCE Reglamento de Inspecciones y Sanciones Pesqueras Acuícolas.*

3. Fishery- specific Management Information

What is it?

This is a fishery's own management policy related directly to how the fishery operates. This could be a fishery management plan or other policy document relating to the fishery directly, whether at local, national or regional level and/or policies and statements of objectives from commercial stakeholders. This also includes information on the day-to-day operation of the fishery (e.g. decision making, monitoring, control and surveillance, review of the management system).

What do assessment teams need to see?

- Policies or statements of objectives relating to the fishery.
- Details of monitoring, control and surveillance system at sea and quayside (e.g. at-sea inspection, quayside inspections, cross-checking of logbook and landings data, observers, VMS, CCTV, etc.). This includes details of any infractions by the client fishery and how these were dealt with. (Note: minor accidental infractions are not likely to be an issue for MarinTrust approval; for major infractions, show how the operation of the fishery has been adapted to ensure that there is no repeat.)
- Details of how the fishery is kept informed about regulations (e.g. information from authorities or protection officers, instructions to skippers, etc.).

Example:

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Icelandic   Fishery   management   plans:
https://www.government.is/news/article/2018/05/15/Haddock/

MCS - https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Fisheries-Management/Monitoring-Control-and-Surveillance

4. Information on Stocks

What is it?

This is information about the condition of all stocks being fished and how this is monitored.

What do assessment teams need to see?

- Assessment teams need to know the reference points that are used to evaluate stock status and/or fishing mortality, how they were calculated, and the status of the stock in relation to these reference points. This is usually available in stock assessment reports.
- Assessment teams need to know how the stock is being monitored, including the details of any scientific models, the data that goes into them and how the fishery uses this information for management.
- Assessment teams need similar data on species caught by the fishery other than the target species, even if not specifically targeted by the fishery, to ensure that they are not being adversely affected by fishing effort. This includes both weight of species caught and an indication of how this relates to the overall population status of that species.
- If the species forms a low proportion of the total catch by weight (less than 5%), you may not need to consider it in as much detail, unless the species is known to be less resilient to fishing pressure (generally long lived, low fecundity species such as most sharks). However, if data are available, they will still be useful.

What if you don't have this information?

If reference points are not defined for the fishery or if formal data to assess stock status are not available, another method of assessment called the Risk-Based approach may be used by the assessment team, either for the target stock or for other species caught by the fishery. In this case, some data over time on catch, effort, CPUE, fish length and age indexes, sex ratio, catch composition, species distribution, etc. may be used instead as indicators (proxy data) to identify and score the most vulnerable aspect affected by the fishing activity.

Example:

Details   of   the   Baltic   Sea   sprat   stock   assessment   can   be   found   here:
http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/spr.27.22-32.pdf.

Further information on species with no stock assessment might be found on third-party websites, for example:

SFP FishSource – https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Science/FishSource

5. Harvest Strategy

What is it?

This refers to the mechanisms used by the fishery to moderate its fishing effort should it become apparent that current levels of fishing effort are causing stock levels to decline.

What do assessment teams need to see?

- External regulations (such as quota limits, effort limitations, minimum sizes, gear restrictions and technical measures, etc.) that aim to control the exploitation of the stocks.

- Internal rules and triggers for modifying fishing effort when data available suggest that current levels are too great.

- Records of how this is monitored and when/how it has been enforced/followed in the past.

- This information is explicitly needed for the target stock(s) but will also be useful for other stocks caught by the fishery, whether targeted, retained or discarded.

Example:

The Gulf Menhaden fishery is managed according to the Regional Management Plan available here: https://www.gsmfc.org/publications/GSMFC%20Number%20240.pdf. *Additional information can also be found on the GSMFC website, here:* https://www.gsmfc.org/

6 – Ecosystem Impacts

What is it?

This investigates the impact of the fishery on the wider ecosystem in which it operates and how fishery management monitors and moderates its effect.

What do assessment teams need to see?

- Records of the internal and/or external restrictions placed upon the fishery in order to monitor its impact upon the following:
  - o Bycatch/Discarded species
  - o Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) species
  - o Habitats
  - o Wider ecosystem
- Information about the actions taken by the fishery to control these impacts (e.g. closed areas, gear selection, gear modifications, fishing time/place/season, etc.).
- Details of how impacts are monitored (e.g. logbooks, observer reports, VMS/AIS, self-sampling, scientific monitoring and mapping programmes, ecosystem empirical research and/or modelling, etc.).

- Details of species legally protected in the fishery's country or area of operation (e.g. national protected species lists; this may include marine mammals, reptiles, birds, fish or shellfish).
- Information about how the fishery deals with, and tries to minimize, mortality of unwanted catches.
- Any information about unobserved mortality (e.g. as a result of gear loss, illegal fishing, injury/stress from fishing resulting in mortality).

Example:

A list of ETP species found in Japanese waters is provided here: https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/press/sigen/170321.html. *Other reports relevant to the fishery include:*

- https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/whale/w_document/attach/pdf/index-4.pdf
- https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/SC-Meetings/1st-SC-Meeting-2013/SC-01-10-Review-of-best-practice-mitigation-for-endangered-threatened-and-protected-species-bycatch.pdf
- https://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/whale/w_document/attach/pdf/index-4.pdf