



MEL Work Program

Marine Eco-Label Japan Council
1-9-13 Akasaka Minato-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Announcement

2017.07.19

Development of the MEL Aquaculture
Management Standard (AMS)

*posted on the MEL old website



Development of MEL Aquaculture Management Standard

The Board of Directors, Marine Eco-Label Japan (MEL) Council, convened in writing on 1st June 2017, has agreed to establish the Aquaculture Standard Setting Committee. The committee develops Aquaculture Management Standard (AMS) and other scheme documents (including Certification Manuals and the Requirements for the Certification Body).

1. The development of AMS and its objective and goal

The development of Aquaculture Management Standard (AMS) shall be conducted for the purpose of evaluation of aquaculture producers engaged in responsible production, giving due consideration to conservation of natural resources and the environment, and consumer confidence. The Aquaculture Certification Standard are developed to meet the requirements in the benchmark tool provided by GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) .

The revisions of other scheme documents are conducted to ensure the transparency and credibility of MEL certification scheme. Especially the development of the Requirements for Certification Bodies will ensure a high-quality certification process by establishing a clear guideline for the certification bodies to follow.

2. The Schedule of development of AMS

The development of AMS shall be conducted according to the procedures stipulated in the Operational Management Regulation as are the Fisheries Management Standard and the Chain of Custody Standard. The schedule of development is described in the separate sheet (1-1). The schedule will be revised every 6 months and made publicly available on MEL website.

3. Decision making by the Aquaculture Certification Standard Committee

Decisions of the standard setting committee such as approval of Aquaculture management Standard (AMS) shall be made based on the consensus of all members of the committee including the chair.

4. Geographic requirements of the AMS

Scope of Application of the AMS including the geographic requirements shall be stipulated by standard.

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The procedures of the development of standards

Step 1 (Establishment of Standard Setting Committee)
<p>The MEL Council shall formulate guidelines for establishing committees, the MEL Council shall establish a Standard Setting Committee (hereinafter referred to as SSC). The members of the SSC, composed of representatives from the fisheries industry, processors and distributors, environmental organizations, consumer groups, and academic experts, shall be delegated by the President through resolution of the Board of Directors. The SSC may form Working Groups as necessary.</p>
Step 2 (Announcement of the Convening of SSC Meeting)
<p>The SSC shall draft a general outline of the standard for discussion, including the schedule, implementing procedure, and consultation process, and other documents necessary for developing or revising standards, and shall post these on the MEL website together with the Guideline for Establishment of the SSC. The details shall be specified separately. In the case of revising standards, all the certified parties shall be notified of the amendment and the transition period from the old to the new standard.</p>
Step 3 (Original Draft of Standard)
<p>The SSC shall prepare an original draft of the standard based on consensus of all the SCC members. The draft shall be in full compliance with international standards such as ISO/IEC Guide 59 and shall be in clear and understandable terms. The details shall be specified separately.</p>
Step 4 (Public Consultation)
<p>Before adopting a standard, the SSC shall allow a period of at least 60 days for submission of comments on the draft standard by interested parties, also available anonymously. No later than the start of the comment period, the SSC shall publish a notice announcing the public consultation on the internet.</p>
Step 5 (Final Draft of Standard)
<p>The SSC shall review the draft standard, taking note of the public comments, on the way to finalizing the draft. The comments received during the period of public consultation shall be disclosed on the MEL website, with careful attention to anonymity.</p>

Step 6 (Verification of Feasibility)

The SSC shall verify the feasibility of the final draft of the standard. If the feasibility is deemed low, the final draft in question shall be sent back for further review.

Step 7 (Approval and Publication)

The final draft of the standard shall be approved by the General Membership Meeting, unanimously as far as possible. In the case unanimous accord is not possible, the decision shall be made as stipulated under Article 17 of the Statutes of the MEL Council. The approved standard shall be published without delay on the MEL website. If the final draft was voted down in the General Membership Meeting, the final draft of the standard shall be sent back for re-examination.

Schedules for Aquaculture Management Standard

