

Zhangzidao Scallop Enhanced Fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Certification
Certification Body: Intertek Moody Marine Ltd

Stakeholder Consultation: Variation for the Zhangzidao Scallop Enhanced Fishery to be assessed as an Introduced Species Based Fishery

Stakeholders have raised the issue that “*Patinopecten yessoensis*” scallops in this Zhangzidao Scallop fishery should be assessed as an introduced species. Prior to commencing assessment Intertek Moody Marine did not seek MSC approval as we considered that the distribution to Zhangzidao was an expansion in their natural habitat. IMM wrote “the Japanese scallop (*Patinopecten yessoensis*) is naturally distributed in coastal, sub-Arctic areas of the Western Pacific including Zhangzidao in the north Yellow Sea. Prior to the Zhangzidao Fishery Group developing the enhancement scallop fishery the species, (*Patinopecten yessoensis*) was known to exist in the area in small numbers. At this time the fishermen called it “Giant scallop”.

However, since WWF has expressed concern that this fishery should be considered ‘introduced’ we have sought further advise and reviewed literature which seems to back up the claim that *Patinopecten yessoensis* was first introduced to the Yellow Sea in 1982 and that there are no historical records of the species existing in the Yellow Sea before this introduction.

A Conformance Assessment Body (CAB) may only accept an application for certification from a fishery that meets the scope and criteria as outlined below (MSC CR v 1.2, Annex CJ)

A. Irreversibility of the introduction in the new location

- i. The introduced species has a large population size (comparable to or larger than the population sizes of other native species occupying similar ecological niches in the new location).
- ii. The species has spread to a range beyond that of its initial introduction in the new location.
- iii. There is evidence to demonstrate that the species cannot be eradicated from the location by known mechanisms without serious ecological, economic and/or social consequences.

B. History of the introduction

- i. The species was introduced to the new location prior to 1993; this being the year that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which includes provisions on introduced species was ratified.
- ii. If the introduction occurred after the CBD was ratified such fisheries shall only potentially be in scope if the introduction was non-deliberate and occurred at least 20 years prior to the date the application is made for assessment against the MSC standard.

C. No further introductions

- i. There is no continuing introduction of the introduced species being considered for certification to the location (i.e. the species is now entirely self-sustaining in its new location).

Intertek Moody Marine determined that this fishery meets these criteria and sought and received MSC approval for a variation that this species be assessed as “introduced”.

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The fishery is still within scope (see ANNEX CJ of the MSC Certification requirements).

The main consequence to the fishery assessment concerns the need for justification as to how the introduced species does/does not impact the biodiversity of the region in the Ecosystem component of Principle 2. With regards to Principle 1 the fishery stock is not managed to allow for reduced biodiversity impact.

One reason for this stakeholder consultation is to review a potential new Ecosystem Information scoring issue which may be defined that addresses the collection of information important to understanding and preventing further progression of impact of the introduced species on diversity.

We welcome any comments on the proposed variation and on how the introduction does/does not impact the biodiversity of the region in the Ecosystem component of Principle 2.

If you wish to comment on this variation please contact either

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Project Coordinator, China - Anthony Lidong Liang (anthony.l.liang@intertek.com)

At Intertek Moody Marine before 1700BST on 9th July 2012

Kind regards

Jo Akroyd
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