

# [Shetland & Scottish mainland rope grown mussel enhanced fishery – Seafood Shetland & SSMG

## Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures

### 1 Introduction

Fisheries and at-sea Certificate Holders (CH) in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) program are required to provide a self-description of policies and measures, including regulatory requirements and procedures that are in effect in the Unit of Assessment, to protect fishing crew from forced labour or child labour, as well as any efforts by the private sector. The objective is to require certificate holders to communicate how government, industry, or other relevant entities protect against forced or child labour.

Each fishery and at-sea Chain of Custody client shall provide this information by completing this template. This template should be completed by the client in good faith and be based on information known and available to the client at the time of completion. The information provided should be representative of the range of measures known to the certificate holder.

The completed form will be uploaded to MSC database to be published on the MSC website at the same time as the Public Certification Report.

Guidance for filling in the template is found in the [Appendix](#) of this template. Information is required on all issues addressed in the template and should be provided in English, which is the official language of the MSC.

Please complete all unshaded fields. Please fill in N/A if an issue is not applicable, including a short justification for why it is not applicable.

## 2 Marine Stewardship Council certificate holder forced and child labour policies, practices and measures

**Table 2.1 – Certificate holder information**

1	Composition of fishery client group on behalf of who the statement is provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Characterise the composition of the fishery client group, including cost sharing entities.</li> <li>- Describe the relationship between cost sharing members of the fishery client group and the vessel owners and operators of the Unit of Certification (UoC).</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Firstly, <u>note that the fishery is not undertaking full assessment</u>. Accreditation has been in place since 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. All costs associated with the MSC process is met by Seafood Shetland on behalf of its members. Member companies own shellfish harvesting vessels used in day-to-day operations associated with the process of cultivating mussels in the Shetland Islands area of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The fishery client group for this fishery is the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG) and Seafood Shetland. SSMG is a co-operative whose members are individual businesses (and vessel owners) who supply the marketing group with mussels.</p>
2	Responsibility for labour regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What management authorities and laws, including flag state authorities, control labour-related regulations in the unit of assessment area?</li> <li>- How are laws enforced?</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Seafood Shetland, its members and associated businesses are registered in the United Kingdom, complying with all applicable and appropriate employment legislation implemented by this nation.</p> <p>SSMG and its members are registered in the United Kingdom and comply with all relevant legislation and regulations</p>
3	Risk identification and mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe the processes, including government and certificate holder measures, that are in place in the UoC to identify and mitigate any risk of child and forced labour.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Seafood Shetland and its members do not engage in the practice of child and forced labour. Note the answer to point 2.</p> <p>The fishery UoC are within the United Kingdom and SSMG complies with all measures regarding child and forced labour. SSMG and its members do no engage in using child or forced labour.</p>
4	Crew recruitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe the typical methods used to recruit crew in the UoC and describe the migrant composition of crew if any.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Typical methods used to recruit vessel crew will include advertising in local media and by word-of mouth; crew composition does not include migrants. All crew are native Shetland Islanders or people who have moved to make their home in the islands, hailing from mainland Scotland/England – all with appropriate certification/qualifications and experience.</p> <p>The majority of members supplying SSMG are small, family-owned companies. Where recruitment is required this is often done locally through word-of mouth, there is no migrant composition within the crews</p>
5	Engagement with fish worker groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where there is known engagement with fisher, migrant, and worker rights groups, describe how this occurs and the organisations engaged with workers in the Unit of Assessment (UoA).</li> </ul>

CH	<p>Not applicable to the Seafood Shetland and its members. There is no forced labour in our sector/area.</p> <p>N/A to SSMG or its members</p>
6	Crew contracts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe the nature of contracts or legal work agreements in place in the UoC and the issues addressed in such agreements.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>All contracts for those employed as crew are issued by the relevant employer and adhere to current employment legislation pertaining to the United Kingdom. All contracts are written in the English language</p> <p>All member farms who employ crew have contracts in place with all employees. Contracts are written in English and are in line with relevant UK law..</p>
7	Audits and labour inspections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe any 3rd Party audits and certifications on labour, or labour inspections conducted within the UoC in the last two years.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Not applicable to this fishery.</p> <p>All SSMG members are registered with SEDEX (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) and complete a self-assessment questionnaire covering labour rights. All members are also subject to Marks and Spencer's Select Farm Assurance audit conducted by a trained auditor.</p>
8	National minimum age requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe national minimum age requirements for crew members serving on vessels within the UoC.</li> <li>- Describe systems in place, both regulatory and private sector systems, to ensure that crew members meet national minimum age requirements.</li> <li>- Describe how this is checked, including enforcement within the UoC by the responsible governing authority or oversight body such as labour inspectors.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>The fishery complies fully with all United Kingdom employment legislation currently in place. The fishery has never engaged in the practice of hiring young workers and has no intention to do so in the future.</p> <p>Neither SSMG or its members employ underage workers. The fishery is fully compliant with all UK law covering minimum age requirements</p>
9	Repatriation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe how repatriation issues are dealt with in the UoC with respect visits end of contract, voluntary and involuntary termination, and freedom of movement and the extent to which these are included in contracts.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Repatriation is a non-issue for this fishery.</p> <p>N/A for SSMG and its members- all repatriation issues listed above are covered by contracts. All workers have freedom of movement</p>
10	Debt bondage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe if there is evidence of systemic practices to impose costs on crew members for placement or brokerage fees, travel to the workplace, visa, medical, safety gear, clothing/protective gear, food at the workplace, communications access, remittance fees, repatriation, etc.</li> <li>- If so, describe such practices and how debt bondage is avoided.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Not applicable to this fishery.</p> <p>Neither SSMG or its members are engaged in debt bondage. Practices in place to avoid this are included in being registered on SEDEX</p>
11	Grievance and remedy mechanisms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please list any policies or measures (e.g. hotline) that are in place for crew voices to be heard and to report and remediate any instances of forced or child labour.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Accepted grievance procedures – in line with the relevant employment laws of the United Kingdom – prevail. There is no issue with the practice of forced or child labour in this fishery.</p> <p>Forced or child labour is not practiced within this fishery. Documented grievance procedures are a requirement for all SSMG members and are included within the scope of the Select farm Assurance Audits</p>
12	Identification documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe policies and practice in place across the UoC to ensure that crew members have free and timely access to their identification documents, including National ID, passports, visas, etc.</li> </ul>
CH	<p>Seafood Shetland and its members do not retain staff and crew identification material. Such documentation is the property of individual members of staff and, consequently, their responsibility for safe-keeping.</p> <p>Neither SSMG or its members retain any employee identification documents.</p>
13	Additional comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you have additional comments on labour practices within the UoC?</li> </ul>
CH	<p>It is considered that this document is entirely inappropriate for a small aquaculture cultivation organisation and its members based in the Shetland Islands area of the United Kingdom. A one-size-fits-all approach displays a fundamental lack of understanding of the arrangements which are applicable to United Kingdom businesses and which already apply to this fishery.</p> <p>Labour practices within the UoC in line with all relevant UK and international legislation as well as customer policies and standards. Labour practices are reviewed through engagement with SEDEX and farm audits.</p>
14	Date this template was last updated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DD/MM/YYYY</li> </ul>
CH	<p>25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p>

## **3 Appendix – Guidance on filling in the Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template**

### **3.1 Composition of the fishery client group on behalf of who the statement is provided**

If a fishery is in full assessment and the cost-sharing participants and arrangements are not yet determined, provide as much detail as possible regarding the expected cost-sharing entities that will comprise the client group, should the fishery achieve certification, and the relationship between such client group representatives and the vessel owners and operators in the Unit of Certification (UoC).

### **3.2 Responsibility for labour regulation**

Provide information on laws and regulation and the authorities that have responsibility for labour regulations in the area in which the fishery operates, including flag state authorities where this is applicable. Describe how these are enforced.

### **3.3 Risk identification, mitigation and remediation**

The information required in this section includes information known by the certificate holder on processes and practices that are applicable in the UoC to identify, assess, prevent and mitigate forced and child labour risks. The information may include government policy or measures, or where applicable, measures being implemented by the certificate holder.

### **3.4 Crew recruitment**

The information required here includes information on the methods used to recruit crew in the UoC, any widespread use of migrant labour, the countries that crew come from and information on recruitment agencies used where this information is available and known to the certificate holder. It may also include information known of visa programs used to bring in workers to the UoC and on payment of recruitment fees.

### **3.5 Engagement with fish worker groups**

In some countries, there may be engagement with fish worker groups or other types of organisations that work to address risks of forced labour. Where this occurs provide information on such engagement. This may include information on any organizations in the port area which support crew members socially, e.g. seafarers' ministry, fishers' association, local committees.

### **3.6 Crew contracts**

Contracts are legal work agreements with labour duties and payments clearly spelled out. Describe the nature of crew contracts in the UoC, specifically features related to forced and child labour, whether the contracts are written in languages understood by crew and how provisions in the contract are enforced.

### **3.7 Audits and labour inspections**

Describe any government labour inspections or social audits and certifications of working conditions within the UoC in the past 2 years. Where the information is available provide a link to the criteria against which the audit took place.

### **3.8 National minimum age requirements**

For this section describe national minimum age requirements and provide a description of regulatory and private sector systems in place to confirm that minimum age restrictions are met. Include information on any exceptions to statutory minimum age requirements which are used by the UoC and information on policy for hiring young workers in compliance with national legislation. This should also include description of any policy or practices for monitoring including hours of work and rest for young workers. This may include information on any other programs which are monitoring labour in your UoC fishing area.

### **3.9 Repatriation**

This section requires a description of how departure of crew members across the UoC is handled. This may include information about government, and/or where known, any applicable company policy on end of crew members' contracts; involuntary termination; leave (including family visits and medical treatment); freedom of movement during the work term and departure terms within crew member contracts.

### **3.10 Debt bondage**

Deductions for costs of work from pay can cause debt bondage and put crew at risk of forced labour. Examples of such work costs include costs of getting to work, placement/broker fee, medical costs, safety gear, food at the workplace, remittance fees and repatriation costs.

Describe systems in place to avoid debt bondage. If there is evidence of systemic practices to impose costs on workers, what measures are in place to avoid debt bondage.

### **3.11 Grievance and remedy mechanisms**

Provide a description of systems known to be in place that allow crew to share information, access assistance and report labour violations and how the systems work to address such reports and provide remediation.

### **3.12 Identification documents**

Describe provisions across the UoC for crew to access their official identification (passports, visas, seafarers book). Where the law in a jurisdiction requires the vessel owner or captain to hold the crew members' official identification, describe the protocol, including government regulations in place to ensure that crew members can access their personal documents and have freedom of movement.

## 4 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template v1.01'.

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### Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
1.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org).

Senior Policy Manager  
Marine Stewardship Council  
Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom

Phone: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900  
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901  
Email: [standards@msc.org](mailto:standards@msc.org)