

Marine Stewardship Council

Variation Request Form

This form details the information required from CABs to enable the MSC to consider a request to vary from their scheme requirements.

Please complete all unshaded fields. Where instructions are included in italics, please delete and replace with the described information.

Once complete, save and attach to an email to the MSC Fishery Assessment Manager assigned to the certified fishery/fishery being assessed or send to coc@msc.org if the variation is regarding a CoC requirement.

On receipt, the MSC will consider your request and will usually respond within 14 days.

If your variation request is regarding a fishery requirement, please note that all variation requests and the MSC response to the request will be published on the MSC website with announcements for the fishery.

Date submitted to MSC	31 st May 2012
Certification Body	Intertek Moody Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Japanese Scallop Hanging and Seabed Enhanced Culture N/A (in assessment)
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Jim Andrews
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR v1.2 §27.8.2 – change to the assessment tree CR v1.2 §27.4.3 – change to unit of certification size.

Proposed variation
<p>We propose the following variations to this assessment.</p> <p>1. <i>Assessment Tree</i> It is proposed that Annex CK of the certification requirements should now be used in the assessment of this fishery.</p> <p>2. <i>Unit of Certification</i> It is proposed that the geographic extent of the units of certification should be re-defined as follows:- <i>Unit of Certification 1 (spat collection): to remain unchanged (all of Hokkaido)</i> <i>Unit of Certification 2 (hanging cultivation): to be restricted to two sites – Funka Bay and Lake Saroma</i> <i>Unit of Certification 2 (seabed cultivation): to be restricted to the coastal waters of Hokkaido in the Sea of Okhotsk and Nemuro Strait.</i></p>

Rationale/Justification
<p>During the course of the site visit in 2010 and subsequent investigations, the assessment team has worked with the client to obtain and review all of the information available about each of the units of certification. This work had required the client to obtain historical research and monitoring data from the Hokkaido Government and other sources. This information has then been translated into English, introducing further delays. This information was not available at pre-assessment or during the site visit.</p> <p>We have arrived at the following conclusions:-</p> <p><u>1. Assessment Tree</u></p> <p>a) Translocations: Although there is evidence that the Hokkaido scallop population is genetically homogeneous and that cultivation has had no effect on the genetics of the population (Sato et al, 2005; Nagashima et al, 2005), the cultivation process involves the movement of scallop spat over distances of tens and sometimes hundreds of kilometres.</p> <p><i>The scale of stock movements is considerable and is consistent with the definition of “translocations”</i></p>

within the MSC Scheme (MSC CR guidance §G27.8.7.1b).

b. Changes to assessment tree

We propose the following changes to the assessment tree.

Principle / Performance Indicator	Unit of Certification		
	1 – Spat collection	2 – Hanging culture	3 – Seabed cultivation
Principle 1	Principle 1 should be scored for all UoCs as the fishery is a “Catch and Grow” (CAG) fishery involving “translocation” of seed scallops (CR §CK2.1.3)		
1.1.4 Genetic Outcome	This PI was proposed in the initial notice about the assessment tree for this fishery. These are enhanced CAG fisheries involving translocations so this PI should be scored (CR §CK2.1.4.2)		
1.2.5 Genetic Management	This PI was proposed in the initial notice about the assessment tree for this fishery.		
1.2.6 Genetic Information	Under CR v1.2, these PIs are only to be applied to enhanced “Hatch and Catch” (HAC) fisheries, and therefore cannot be applied here (CR §CK2.1.5). We propose to remove these PIs.		
Principle 2	There are differences in the character of the UoCs which require that different PIs are applied, as summarised below.		
2.1.x Retained species	These UoCs are based solely on spat collection so retained species PIs do not apply (CR §CK3.1.1)	There can be a significant number of wild recruits in the seabed cultivated stock (typically around 25%), so this UoC cannot be regarded as based “solely on spat collection”. PIs for retained and discarded species must therefore be scored (CR §CK3.1.1 & CK 3.1.2)	
2.2.x Discarded (bycatch) species	These UoCs are based solely on spat collection so discard (bycatch) species PIs do not apply (CR §CK3.1.2)		
2.3.x ETP species	These PIs must be scored for each UoC (CR §CK3.1.3, CK3.1.4 & CK 3.1.5).		
2.4.x Habitats			
2.5.x Ecosystems			
2.6.x Translocations	This is an enhanced CAG fishery involving translocations so these PIs should be scored for all UoCs (CR §CK3.1.5)		
Principle 3	Principle 3 shall be scored for all UoCs (CR §CK4.1.1).		

2. Units of Certification

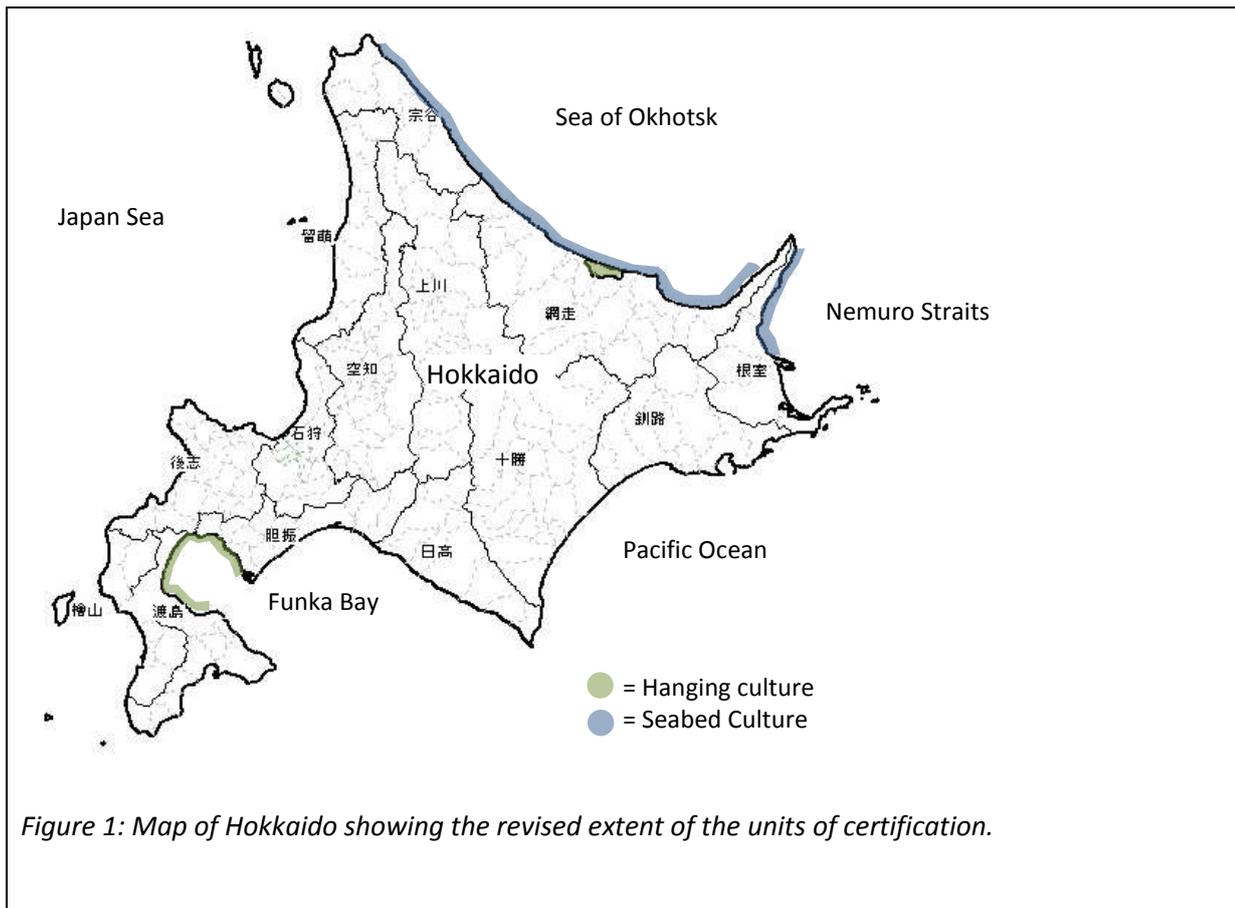
We have reviewed whether the geographic extent of the units of certification is appropriate in the light of the information that has become available and the proposed changes to the assessment tree outlined above.

Our conclusions are that it is appropriate to reduce the geographic extent of Units of Certification 2 and 3. We propose that the geographic boundaries should be limited to those areas where there is adequate information available to enable the potential effects of these Units of Certification on relevant features of the marine environment to be assessed

The proposed changes to the units of certification are summarised in the table below.

Unit of Certification	Original Geographic Area	Revised Geographic Area
1 – Spat collection	All Hokkaido	No change.
2 – Hanging culture	All Hokkaido	Restrict UoC to cultivation in Funka Bay and Lake Saroma. These are currently the only areas where we have adequate information about the effects of the fishery on ETP species, habitats and ecosystems.
3 – Seabed culture	All Hokkaido	Restrict UoC to seabed culture in the Sea of Okhotsk and Nemuro Straits of Hokkaido. These are currently the only areas where we have adequate information about retained & discarded species, ETP species, habitats & ecosystems to enable assessment of the fishery.

The revised geographic extent of Units of Certification are illustrated in the map overleaf.



Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

1. Assessment tree

The proposed variations to the assessment tree will harmonise the assessment with the current MSC Scheme Requirements and those relating to other enhanced bivalve fisheries globally.

2. Units of Certification

The proposed variations will ensure that the geographic extent of the fishery is compatible with the information and monitoring systems currently in place around Hokkaido. The variation will result in a smaller Unit of Certification than that originally proposed.

Collectively, these two variations will enable the assessment team to progress the assessment.

Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	IMM will post a notice to the MSC to inform stakeholders of these variations. Stakeholders will be informed of the publication by MSC (posting and email) and IMM email
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Further Comments
<i>No further comments.</i>

Confidential Information
<i>No confidential information.</i>