

Guide to Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts

Introduction to Scoring Methodology

Application of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing

The MSC Principles and Criteria provide the overall requirements necessary for confirming that a fishery meets the Marine Stewardship Council's environmental standard for being well-managed and sustainable.

The certification methodology adopted by the MSC involves the application and interpretation of the Principles and Criteria to the specific fishery undergoing assessment. This is necessary, as the precise assessment of a fishery will vary with the nature of the species, capture method used etc.

Accordingly, the assessment team for the Oregon Pink Shrimp Fishery has developed, from the MSC Principles and Criteria, a structured hierarchy of 'Performance Indicators' and 'Scoring Guideposts' in order to carry out the assessment. Performance indicators represent separate areas of important information (e.g. Indicator 1.1.1.3 requires a sufficient level of life history information on the target species, 1.1.2.1 requires information on the effects of the fishery on the stock and so on). These indicators therefore provide a detailed framework of performance attributes necessary to meet the MSC Criteria in the same way as the MSC Criteria provide evidence necessary to meet each Principle. Beside each indicator, individual 'Scoring Guideposts' (60, 80 and 100) are identified. It is at this level that the performance of the fishery is measured. It is important to note that the absolute numeric values assigned to each of these guideposts are not intended to reflect any type of percentile scoring system but were established by the MSC to help the assessment teams facilitate weighting and combining different performance indicators (see further discussion below).

Scoring Methodology

For each Performance Indicator, the fishery's management characteristics are compared with pre-specified attributes for each of three Scoring Guidepost to establish a score. A 60 score is intended to reflect 'must pass, sustainable performance', a score of 80 represents 'exemplary performance', while a 100 score reflects 'perfect performance.' In order for a fishery to be certified it must accomplish three things:

- Achieve 'must pass, sustainable performance' for every performance indicator (as defined by a score of least 60);
- Must achieve 'exemplary performance' for each principle (an average aggregated score of 80 for each principle);
- A commitment to continuous improvement for each indicator from must pass, sustainable performance up to the exemplary performance level (as defined by agreed actions to improve any indicator's score to at least 80 if it has been scored between 60 and 80 in the assessment).

In fisheries where any given indicator scores below 60, a fishery cannot pass the evaluation process and be awarded certification until the performance issue(s) identified can be corrected to the satisfaction of the certification body and its expert evaluation team.

The evaluation framework noted above is referred to as the fishery assessment tree. It represents a hierarchical application of the Principles and Criteria. The scoring guideposts used to rate an indicator are meant to be hierarchical in that to meet a particular score, the scoring guideposts of all lower scores should also have been met. For any given criterion, sub-criteria and performance indicators are identified as appropriate to the nature of the fishery. All sub-criteria and indicators are weighted indicating their relative importance in setting the overall scores for the fishery. The weighting process will proceed after the evaluation team has received public comments on this draft and been able to incorporate the comments to create a final set of sub-criteria, indicators, and scoring guideposts for use in the evaluation process.

The key to understanding the criteria is to understand the differences between the MSC Principles. Principle 1 focuses on the target population, defined as target species or target stocks. Under this principle, the fundamental areas of concern which identify sound fisheries management are:

1. The definition of the target stocks;
2. The quality of monitoring and stock assessment programs;
3. The specific management goals for target stocks;
4. The procedures to ensure the recovery of target stocks if they are depleted; and
5. The fisheries are conducted in a manner that does not impair reproductive performance (e.g. the fishery does not significantly change the age, size and genetic structure of the target stocks).

An understanding of the context of the Pink Shrimp stock is important for consideration under MSC Principle 1. The Oregon pink shrimp fishery is a component of a coast-wide stock. Within OR waters, shrimp are harvested primarily by OR permitted harvesters, although some harvest is conducted by Washington or California permitted harvesters. Hence, the Oregon fishery has to be considered within this multi-jurisdictional coast wide fishery.

Principle 2 focuses on the impact of the Oregon trawl fishery on the ecosystem and non-target populations. The Principle 2 assessments determines how the candidate fishery management deals with:

1. The importance of maintaining a productive, functional and diverse ecosystem;
2. Provisions to minimize the fishery impacts on endangered, threatened, protected or icon species; and

3. Procedures that ensure the recovery of any depleted non-target stocks or degraded ecosystems.

Some considerations of the ecosystem context under Principle 2 are as follows. Pink shrimp are a lower trophic level species which provide food for many different fish species. The population is thought to be effected primarily by environmental variables such as decadal ENSO events. The food web has changed in responses to oceanic regime shifts with significant population fluctuations of upper trophic level prey species. Overlain on these shifts are changes in the climate, which may affect larval recruitment success. Principle 2 will also examine the known impacts of the trawl gear used in the fishery.

Principle 3 focuses on Oregon's management and operational framework that has been put in place to achieve the management goals. Some indicators under Principle 3 appear to overlap with indicators under Principles 1 and 2, however, the Principles 1 and 2 are concerned with the outcomes of a management system respecting the fact that the resources are maintained at the desired levels of abundance, while Principle 3 is concerned with evaluating whether all of the processes for reaching management objectives are in place. Components unique to Principle 3 include:

1. The evaluation of the consultation process;
2. The procedures used to control fisheries;
3. The extent of internal and external review of the management system;
4. The compliance with legal and administrative requirements; and
5. The implementation of responsible fishing practices.

The evaluation of MSC Principle 3 with respect to the Oregon pink shrimp fishery takes into account relevant biological, technical, economic, social and environmental aspects for both the commercial and recreational sectors. The assessment team is specifically looking for an adaptive management program with cooperation between stakeholders. The assessment will also look for well-characterized catch and bycatch data from the commercial sectors of the fishery. In addition, this assessment investigates compliance with relevant local, national and international laws and standards. Particularly, we are looking at Oregon's management and regulatory approach to the shrimp fishery with considerations of linkages to other jurisdictions (eg. WA, CA).

Concurrence between TAVEL Certification Assessment Tree and MSC Principles and Criteria

The last three pages present a diagrammatic presentation of how the assessment team has defined Performance Indicators and Scoring Guidelines to verify the requirements of the MSC Principles and Criteria.

Draft Performance Indicators and Scoring Guidelines

The remaining pages of this document display the draft Performance Indicators and Scoring Guidelines for the Oregon Pink Shrimp Fishery.

All comments on Draft Scoring Guidelines should be addressed to the Operations Manager of TAVEL Certification by June 20, 2006.

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MSC Principle 1

A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations and, for those populations that are depleted, the fishery must be conducted in a manner that demonstrably leads to their recovery.

MSC Principle 1 Criterion 1

The fishery shall be conducted at catch levels that continually maintain the high productivity of the target population(s) and associated ecological community relative to its potential productivity.

1.1.1

1.1.2

1.1.3

1.1.4

1.1.5

1.1.6

1.1.6.1 The stock (s) is at or above reference levels.

YES

Criterion 1 Complete

NO

Criterion 2 must be answered

MSC Principle 1 Criterion 2

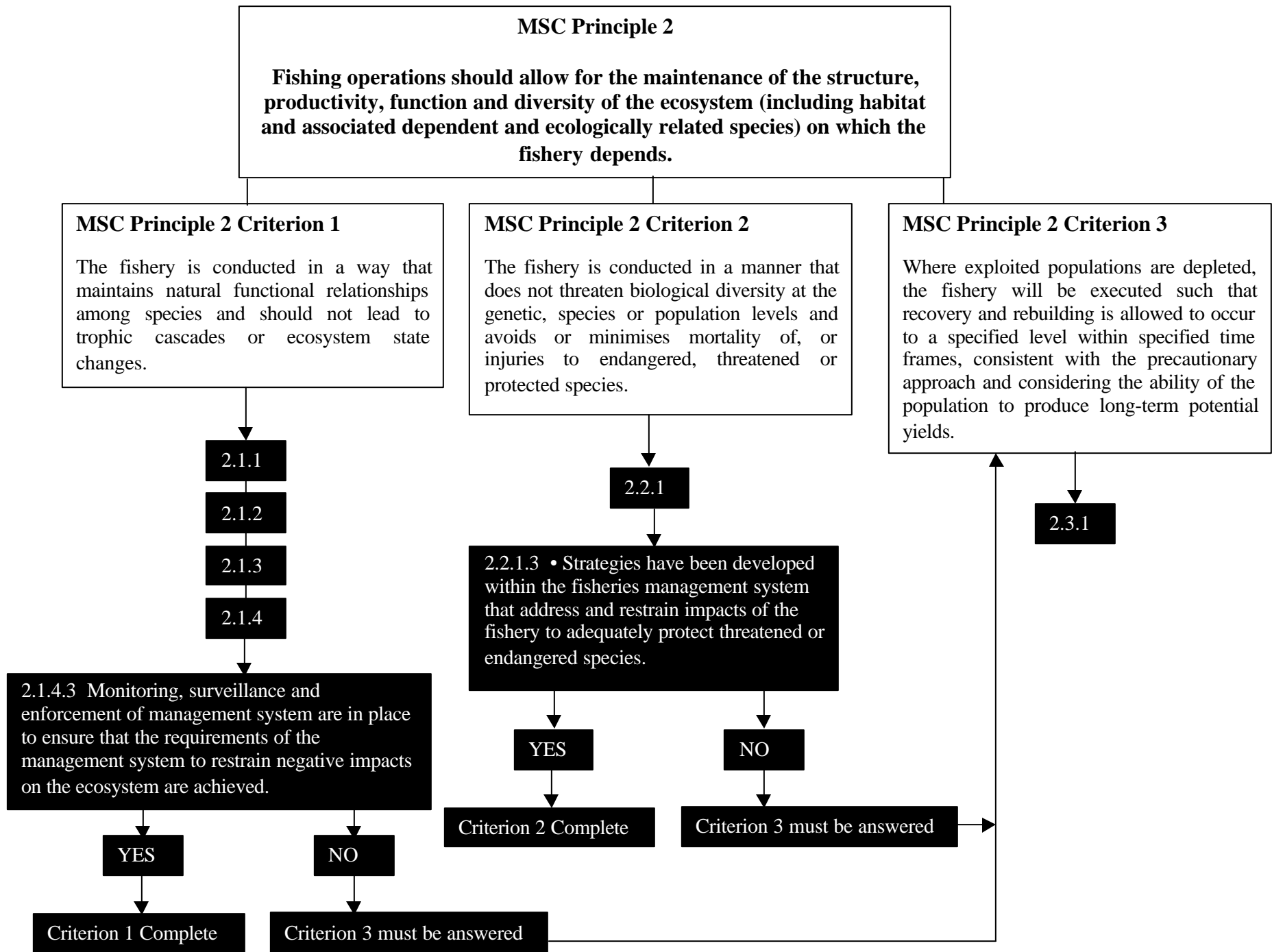
Where the exploited populations are depleted, the fisheries will be executed such that recovery and rebuilding is allowed to occur to a specified level consistent with the precautionary approach and the ability of the populations to produce long-term potential yields within a specified time frame.

1.2.1

MSC Principle 1 Criterion 3

Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not alter the age or genetic structure or sex composition to a degree that impairs reproductive capacity.

1.3.1



MSC Principle 3

The fishery is subject to an effective management system that respects local, national and international laws and standards and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require use of the resource to be responsible and sustainable.

MSC 3A Management System Criteria

MSC 3A 1	→	See 3.2.2
MSC 3A 2	→	See 3.1.1-1.7, 3.3.1-3.3.4
MSC 3A 3	→	See 3.8.1 – 8.2
MSC 3A 4	→	See 3.1.5
MSC 3A 5	→	See 3.1.2, 3.1.7, 3.3.4
MSC 3A 6	→	See 3.1.5
MSC 3A 7	→	See 3.1.2-1.7, 3.6.1, 3.8.2
MSC 3A 8	→	See 3.5.1, 3.5.3, 5.4
MSC 3A 9	→	See 3.1.3-1.4, 3.6.1
MSC 3A 10	→	See 3.1.3-1.4, 1.6, 3.2.3, 3.6.1
MSC 3A 11	→	See 3.7.2,-7.3, 7.5,

MSC 3B Operational Criteria

MSC 3B12	→	See 3.4.1
MSC 3B 13	→	See 3.1.4
MSC 3B 14	→	See 3.4.2
MSC 3B 15	→	See 3.4.3
MSC 3B 16	→	See 3.2.1, 2.3, 3.7.1, 7.4, 7.5
MSC 3B 17	→	See 3.1.2