Marine Stewardship Council - Ocean Stewardship Fund
Recertification Assistance Fund (RAF)

Applications are welcomed up to a maximum of £30,000 support to contribute to the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) audit fees, subject to the level of CAB audit fees incurred by the fishery and the size of the Recertification Assistance Fund available.

Objective

To help ensure that certified fisheries continue to be engaged with the MSC program by offering support to cover a proportion of the CAB audit fees for the second (or subsequent) recertification audit.

Eligibility

An eligible fishery is one that has had its Public Certification Report (PCR) for its 2nd (or subsequent) recertification published on or after 30th July 2019.

Applications to the RAF must be received by the OSF within 12 months of the publication of the PCR.

The maximum recertification investment will be limited to the lower of:

- 75% of the cost of the CAB’s recertification audit (excluding surveillance costs and excluding any cost related to the objections process), or
- GBP 30,000.

Where the available Recertification Assistance Fund in any year is too small to fulfill the maximum distribution per applicant fishery, each theoretical maximum subsidy will be proportionally reduced so that the available funding is fairly distributed amongst the applicants. The value of the awarded subsidy can therefore only be calculated after the number of applicants and the value of each subsidy claimed is known (that is, after the 15th December claim deadline).

Application process

Applications should be submitted by e mail to OSF@msc.org by 12 noon GMT 15th December. This deadline will be strictly enforced. Application forms can be downloaded from the MSC website.

Applications must contain the following:

- Name, address, contact details of the fishery
- CAB details
- CAB fee amount – including, when applicable, allocation of CAB fee across multiple fisheries where the fishery client is managing multiple assessments under one CAB audit contract
- PCR publication date
- Supporting documentation – including scan of CAB fee quote, workings to support the allocation of CAB fees across multiple fisheries and the fishery client bank details.
Grant distribution process

The OSF Governing Committee does not use its discretion in relation to the value of RAF subsidy grants awarded but it does exercise oversight over the RAF fund. RAF applicants will be notified of the value of the grant subsidy awarded as soon as possible after the OSF Governing Committee meets in February to confirm the awards. The intention is for the grant distribution to be made before 31st March in the year of the award.

Dissemination of personal data

The MSC may publicise details of the OSF-RAF grant subsidies in our annual report, on our website, and other relevant publications.

Applicants submitting an OSF-RAF application should review and understand MSC’s policy on data processing, sharing and retention outlined here in the privacy notice.

Modification or variation of regulations

By making an application to the OSF-RAF, the applicant recognises the MSC reserves the right to modify, add to, or vary the OSF-RAF operating approach, as it sees fit.