

**Title:** Derogation 10: Extension to implementation timeframes for MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0/v3.1

**MSC program document(s) and clause reference(s):**

This derogation replaces the requirements set out in:

- Fisheries Standard v3.0 and v3.1 under the section 'Implementation timeframes'.
- Fisheries Certification Process v3.0 and v3.1 under the section 'Implementation timeframes'.

The revised dates set out in the derogation also apply to:

- Fisheries Certification Process v2.3, v3.0 and v3.1:
  - Section 7.32
  - Section 7.26.7
- Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 and v1.2 under the section 'Implementation timeframes'.
- Improvement Program Requirements and Guidance v3.0 under Section 'Implementation timeframes'.

**Effective date:** 10 July 2025

**Expiration date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2030

**Versions published:**

Version no.	Publication date	Description
1.0	1 February 2024	Original publication of Derogation 10
1.1	22 July 2024	Derogation updated alongside the release of v3.1 of the Fisheries Standard in July 2024, extending timelines to allow for the completion of the Fisheries Standard Toolbox Review.
2.0	10 July 2025	Derogation updated to extend dates alongside announcement of Fisheries Program Revisions

**Issuing authority and date:** MSC Board of Trustees, 10 July 2025

To: MSC Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies

Cc: Assurance Services International

## 1. Objective of the derogation

- This derogation extends the period of time under which v2.01 of the MSC Fisheries Standard (“the Standard”) may continue to be used, providing additional time for:
  - Fisheries engaged in the MSC program to remain on v2.01 of the Standard
  - New fisheries to enter the MSC program on v2.01 of the Standard
- The extended timelines allow time for revisions to v3.1 of the Standard and associated MSC Program Documents to be completed.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this derogation, the following terms are defined:

**Updated version of the Standard:** The next version of the MSC Fisheries Standard published following formal completion of the Fisheries Program Revisions.

**Publication date:** The date on which the updated version of the Standard is formally published, following completion of the Fisheries Program Revisions. This date is expected to be in Spring 2027.

**Effective date:** The date six months after the publication date, marking the point at which mandatory implementation of the updated Fisheries Standard commences for some fisheries. This date is expected to be in Autumn 2027.

## 3. Revised timelines

The following implementation timeframes replace timeframes set out in v3.0/v3.1 of the Standard and Fisheries Certification Process.

### 3.1. Initial assessments

CABs shall conduct any initial assessment that is announced on or after the effective date in conformity with the updated version of the Standard.

The only exception to this is for fisheries participating in the MSC Improvement Program (see Section 3.4).

### 3.2. Optional early adoption

CABs may elect to apply the updated version of the Standard at any point from its publication date.

### 3.3. Reassessments for certified fisheries

For fisheries with a certificate that expires on or after 1 March 2030, CABs must apply the updated version of the Standard at the next reassessment conducted after the effective date.

The only exception to this is for fisheries targeting stocks that have been assessed under the early application of Section SE (see Section 3.5).

### 3.4. Improvement Program fisheries

Fisheries already participating with published documents on Track a Fishery in the MSC Improvement Program as of the effective date may continue to announce initial full assessments using version 2.01 of the Fisheries Standard until 1 March 2030. If such fisheries intend to announce full assessment on or after 1 March 2030, they must first transition their Improvement Action Plans to align with the updated version of the Standard by 1 March 2030.



The only exception to this is for fisheries targeting stocks that have been assessed under the early application of Section SE (see Section 3.5).

After the effective date, new entrants to the Improvement Program must work towards the updated version of the Standard.

### **3.5. Early application of Section SE**

Early application of Section SE is reopened to fisheries until the effective date of the updated version of the Standard.

Currently certified fisheries targeting stocks that have been assessed early under Section SE may continue to apply v2.01 of the Standard - with harmonised scoring and associated conditions of Section SE for scoring issues (a) and (b) in PI 1.2.1 and PI 1.2.2 - until the effective date. After the effective date, CABs must apply the updated version of the Standard at their next reassessment.

New fisheries (including those entering via the Improvement Program) targeting stocks assessed early under Section SE may use v2.01 of the Standard - with harmonised scoring and associated conditions of Section SE for scoring issues (a) and (b) in PI 1.2.1 and PI 1.2.2 - at initial assessment until the effective date. After the effective date, all new fisheries must use the updated version of the Standard at full assessment.