Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard

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Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard v3.1

International Trade Centre (ITC) Standards Map: Marine Stewardship Council - MSC

What is changing and why?

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) published its Fisheries Standard version 3.1 on 22 July 2024. The MSC Board approved amendments that resolve technical issues with v3.0 requirements, including those for fisheries targeting tuna, managed by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

The new requirements have been thoroughly tested with fisheries. Extensive feedback from independent assessors and fishery partners around the world highlighted areas that needed attention. In particular, the new Evidence Requirements Framework needed to be applied more efficiently, in a less complex and costly manner.

Fisheries entering their first full assessment are given until **July 2026** before they are required to adopt the updated requirements.

The MSC also updated its extended implementation timeframes for MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0, which first came into effect on 1 February 2024.

Actions

Fisheries that are small-scale or in developing economies can apply for financial support towards meeting the cost of improvements from the MSC's Transition Assistance Fund.

Timeline

Fisheries Standard v3.0 came into effect on 1 February 2024. New fisheries can be assessed against v2.01 until **July 2026**.

From **November 2030**, fisheries certified against a version earlier than MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0 must be reassessed against MSC Fisheries Standard v3.1.

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