Seafood Processing Standard – Environmental Module for Remote Isolated Wild-Capture Processors

Issue 1.0

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Global Seafood Alliance Certification Standard

Contents

A Introduction

Environmental responsibility is an essential pillar of the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) Seafood Processing Standard. Facilities located in isolated and remote locations that treat their own effluents and discharge into a natural water body shall be audited against the clauses in this module. This module shall be audited in combination with the Core Seafood Processing Standard 6.0.

B Scope

This module applies to effluent criteria for seafood processing facilities in remote coastal marine locations that process wild caught species only. For the purpose of this module, "Remote" is defined as a processing facility located more than 30 minutes travel by land or is only accessible by sea or air from a metropolitan area with a population of 10,000 or greater.

C Clause Requirements

C1 Exemptions

The auditor shall complete this section (C1) only if the facility is claiming an exemption for either no effluent discharge to a natural water body or if all effluent is discharged to a municipality. If the facility does not qualify for an exemption, this section is to be left blank and the auditor should go directly to section C2.

RWE1 **Exemption for No Discharge:** The facility qualifies for an exemption because they do not discharge to a natural water body and meet local or national government permits and regulations.
Examples of natural water bodies include coastal waters, bays, estuaries, etc. Examples of no discharge: effluents used for irrigation or other purposes preventing discharge to naturally occurring water bodies. Auditor is to verify through records and site inspection. If verified, this module is complete.

RWE2 **Exemption for Discharge to Municipality:** The facility qualifies for an exemption because they discharge to a municipality or private treatment plant. Auditor to verify through site inspection and records.

RWE2.1 Plants shall not exceed local or national government permitted load levels when discharging effluents to a municipal or industrial treatment facility.

C2 Onsite Effluent Management

RWE3 During a period of active facility operation and discharge, records of effluent water quality concentrations entering natural bodies of water shall comply with government regulations.

RWE4 Effluents shall be screened, captured, treated, filtered, or ground prior to discharge. Screened effluents shall meet the following criteria:

RWE4.1a All solids collected from the screening of all seafood processing effluent shall be disposed of following documented procedures that meet local, state, and national requirements, and/or are repurposed according to documented procedures for utilization of byproducts.

RWE4.1b Facilities that dispose effluents into marine environments shall provide documents that describe how this is permitted by using a sediment sampling, seafloor monitoring, or an equivalent plan which meets their permit requirements for local standards on benthic impacts and shall comply with those standards.

RWE4.1c Facilities disposing effluents into marine environments shall nominate independent individuals or companies with demonstrated expertise in sediment sampling, seafloor monitoring, or equivalent plans and analysis to design a documented Sampling and Analysis Plan appropriate to the facility's conditions, and to conduct sediment monitoring at least once every 2 years. Results shall show that the zone of deposit meets all local and national regulatory requirements and that there is no organic build-up beyond the boundary of the allowable sediment impact zone as defined in the documented plan. If a survey shows no deposits of organic materials on the sea floor, the 2-year survey cycle is not required unless stipulated by the regulatory authority.

RWE4.1d Facilities disposing effluents into marine environments shall develop a written Product Reutilization Plan describing how they will improve the utilization of byproducts/waste over time. Improvement plans shall seek to improve utilization to at least 50% of all seafood by-product by weight within 5 years of initial certification.

RWE5 The facility shall record and provide an annual report covering the months the facility is in operation to the auditor, depicting the annual average volume of effluent discharge in cubic meters and number of days of active production over the last calendar year.

RWE5.1 Data – input annual average volume of effluent discharged in cubic meters/day for last calendar year.

RWE5.2 Data – input the number of days the facility was in operation during the last calendar year.

C3 Additional Water Quality Criteria for Facilities Where Limits are Not Defined by Local or National Regulations

RWE6 Facilities operating in countries where government regulations do not include water quality monitoring shall, at a minimum, meet the SPS criteria listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Effluent Water Quality Parameter Values Where Limits are Not Defined by Regulations

Parameter	Value	Frequency
pH (standard units)	6.0-9.25	Quarterly
Total suspended solids (mg/L)	Data collection	Quarterly
Either total phosphorus (mg/L)	30 or less	Quarterly
OR Soluble phosphorus (mg/L)	7.5 or less	Quarterly
Total ammonia nitrogen (mg/L)	15 or less	Quarterly
5-day biochemical oxygen demand (mg/L)	350 or less	Quarterly
Oil and grease content (mg/L)	25 or less	Quarterly
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L) **At outfall**	Data collection	Quarterly

Mixing Zone – Water Quality Monitoring Option

Facilities without local or national regulations on water quality limits that are also unable to comply with the parameter limits listed in Table 1 may elect an alternative approach to compliance by demonstrating that the water quality (as measured by the same set of parameters) at the edge of the mixing zone meets the criteria listed in Table 1. A mixing zone for marine processing facilities under this Module is defined as a 100-meter radius from the nearest point source of effluent discharge.

RWE7 The mixing zone monitoring option shall be documented in a Water Quality Monitoring Plan that includes the parameters to be tested, a description and mapping of effluent discharge outlets and defined Mixing Zone, and how the direction of water flow in the Mixing Zone shall be determined at the times of sampling based on tides and currents to determine upstream and downstream directions of the discharge flow.

RWE8 Water quality monitoring shall be conducted at the outer limit of the Mixing Zone (100 meters from point source) in the downstream direction. If monitoring determines the sample is compliant with the parameter limits listed in Table 1, then the facility shall be considered compliant with SPS effluent water quality requirements.