COMMUNITY CATCH

Guidance for Self-Assessment

Section 8: Climate Change

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Introduction

This is a living document.

Some content in this document is presented in a yellow box to indicate normative language taken directly from the Community Catch Standard, including definitions and clarifications.
Text presented in a blue box represents additional guidance that is illustrative or discretionary, such as examples, further explanation, or types of acceptable evidence.

Section 8 of the Community Catch Standard focuses on understanding, monitoring, and responding to the impacts of climate change on fisheries. The section recognises that climate change can affect fishery operations, species availability, and the resilience of fishing communities. It encourages fisheries to document climate-related changes, participate in adaptation strategies where possible, and take steps to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

Many of the principles of adaptive management relevant to addressing the effects of a changing climate are embodied in this Standard (such as longer-term management goals, consideration of wider ecological and socio-economic factors and participatory decision making). This section provides a record of potential effects, any specific adaptation, and any measures within the Fisher Group to reduce emissions.

Section 8: Climate Change

Sub-section: 8.1 Interdependency of Fisher Group with climate change

8.1.1 Fisher Group Aware of Climate-Related Changes in Fishing Operations

The Fisher group documents changes in fishing operations which may be influenced by climate-related environmental change.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that documenting changes in fishing operations which may be influenced by climate-related environmental change may include local and traditional knowledge, as available and relevant.

Question: 8.1.1.1 Is the fishery being affected by climate change?

Guidance: To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client shall identify any relevant changes which are known and which can be attributed to environmental change. For example, decrease in catch due to migration of species, increase in bycatch of 'new'/lesser known species. It is likely that none are identified, and this is an acceptable answer.

☐ Changes in the environment which affect fishing opportunities (such as changes to ice, reduced water levels)
☐ Reduction in important commercial species, with some evidence of an environmental cause
☐ Reduction in important commercial species potentially caused by environmental change
☐ No obvious change in species
☐ Increase in (actual or potential) commercial species potentially caused by environmental change
☐ Increase in (actual or potential) commercial species with some evidence of an environmental cause

Question: 8.1.1.2 How are climate-related changes documented?

Guidance: The Fishery Client should describe how climate-related changes are documented within the Fisher Group. This can include written records, catch data, fisher interviews, local or traditional knowledge, or reports from management authorities. Formal scientific monitoring is also acceptable but not required. Any consistent method used to track changes such as observations shared by fishers or notes on species composition can meet this requirement. Where no documentation exists, the Fishery Client should indicate that the Group is not currently tracking these changes.

Sub-section: 8.2 Resilience/adaptation

8.2.1 Fisher Group Cooperates on Climate Change Monitoring and Adaptation Strategies

The Fishery Client and Fisher Group cooperates in the development and implementation of any strategies for monitoring of, adaptation to, and mitigation of, the effects of climate change on the fishery within which the Fisher Group operates.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that this may include changes in reference points for managed stocks.

Question: 8.2.1.1 Are you aware of any strategies in place to adapt to or mitigate climate-related changes?

Guidance: The Fishery Client should confirm whether they are aware of or participating in any strategies to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change on the fishery. This would only apply if the Fishery Client/Fisher Group has been invited to participate in relevant strategies. For example, relevant strategies could take the form of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), which may specifically take climate change and ocean acidification into consideration (Heenan A. et al, 2015. A climate-informed, ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Marine Policy 57: 182-192).
If no strategies have been developed, then indicate 'No'.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: 8.2.1.2 Do you already/are you prepared to cooperate in the development and implementation strategies to adapt to or mitigate climate-related changes?

Guidance: The Fishery Client should indicate whether the Fisher Group is willing and prepared to participate in developing and implementing strategies to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change, if such opportunities arise. This could include involvement in local adaptation planning, changes to fishing practices, or participation in monitoring programs.
This question assesses the Group's willingness to engage, even if formal strategies are not yet in place.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Sub-section: 8.3 Energy efficiency/emission reductions

8.3.1 Fuel Types and Annual Usage Are Estimated

Fuel type(s) used and annual use are estimated.

Guidance: The Fishery Client shall identify fuel types used. Accurate data on fuel use are not required, but an estimate to provide some indication of use shall be provided, for example use by one vessel multiplied by vessels in the Fisher Group.

Question: 8.3.1.1 Is information on the types of fuels used by the Fisher Group available?

☐ Yes, they use diesel
☐ Yes, they use gas/petrol
☐ Yes, they use solar energy
☐ Other
☐ No information

Question: 8.3.1.2 What is the current trend in fuel consumption?

Guidance: The Fishery Client should indicate whether fuel consumption within the Fisher Group is increasing, decreasing, or remaining steady over time. This can be based on estimates, fuel purchase records, or observations from fishers. If there is no available information or the trend is unclear, selecting "Don't know" is acceptable.

☐ Increasing
☐ Decreasing
☐ Steady
☐ Don't know

8.3.2 Fishers Access Information on Energy-Efficient Gear, Vessels, and Operations

Fishers have access to relevant information on gear modifications or vessel modifications or operational measures which would increase energy efficiency or reduce usage. Any measures implemented shall be reported.

Guidance: To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client should confirm that they have investigated potential sources of information on suitable measures. Where measures have been implemented, these should be identified and described. This may include modifications to gear, changes to vessel design, or operational improvements such as optimizing fishing trips.
If no such strategies are known or have been considered, the Fishery Client should select “Not aware of any measures.” The expectation is that the Fishery Client has at least explored potential sources of information, even if no measures have been implemented yet.

<u>Question:</u> 8.3.2.1 Are you aware of any strategies that are in place or under consideration to increase fuel efficiency or reduce usage?

☐ Yes, gear modifications
☐ Yes, vessel modification
☐ Yes, other operational measures
☐ Not aware of any measures