

Supporting information on transition to V3 for MarinTrust Fishery Assessments

We are entering the final stages of the transition phase from Version 2 (V2) to Version 3 (V3) MarinTrust criteria for Fishery Assessments. Please find below details to help further support you with the transition, which build on previously communicated key dates and deadlines. For reference, these can be found [here](#).

For Whole Fish Assessments

1. From May 1st 2024, all new whole fish fisheries not currently assessed or approved shall be assessed against Version 3 MarinTrust whole fish fishery assessment criteria.
2. Whole fish fisheries that are currently approved and are due for a re-approval assessment between May 1st 2024 and May 1st 2025 shall be assessed against V3.
3. Whole fish fisheries that are currently approved and are due for a surveillance assessment between May 1st 2024 and May 1st 2025, shall be assessed against V2.
4. From May 1st 2025, all whole fish fisheries shall be assessed against V3, **regardless of the assessment cycle. Any surveillance assessments due after May 1st 2025, shall be a re-approval assessment.**

This means that all whole fish assessments (even surveillances) after May 1st 2025 must be completed against V3. The materially different improvements to Ecosystem and Habitat clauses brings all fisheries under the programme in line with our new, joint understanding of responsible sourcing. In addition, as criteria continually evolve through the MarinTrust governance and policy development processes, all improvements, clarifications and additional guidance will be implemented via version controls to V3 and will not be applicable to V2. This is another reason why it is important to align all fisheries under the latest version, as we want to ensure that all certificate holders can benefit from and be an inclusive and equal part of the programme as the criteria improve over time.

For By-Product Assessments

Next audit due for facility	Which By-product version?
Between 1 May 2024 & 1 May 2025	Version 2 unless certificate holder has chosen V3 Standard audit
After 1 May 2025	Version 3

With regards to these timelines, the following clarifications specific to by-products apply:

The new by-product assessments are no longer specific to by-products sourced by country and stock. Instead they apply to **each facility individually**.

- In practice, this means that one company with 3 facilities, will have to conduct 3 by-product assessments. There will be one report for each facility and each facility's V3 certificate will reflect their by-product species used as raw material.
- If you have not yet responded to the [web-form](#) sent out by MarinTrust, this must be done as soon as possible. This must be completed **per** facility and list all species as well as the vessel flag states that the by-products originate from. If this form is incorrect, this may cause the need for additional assessments, costs and gaps in your certificate validity. **If you have already submitted an official application form via our on-line portal for your V3 Audit, there is no need to respond to the web-form.**
- Examples of V3 by-product assessment reports can be found on our [website](#).

V3 by-product assessments will be completed for all facilities this year.

All facilities must transition to V3 at their next audit after May 1st 2025 and to give certificate holders sufficient time to prepare, all facilities must have a V3 by-product assessment completed this year.

With by-product assessments now tied more directly to the V3 facility audits, the timing of these assessments in 2025 is brand new and replaces the previous assessment cycle for all V2 approved by-product species.

Efforts are being made to ensure that facilities transitioning to V3 of the facility standard have their by-products assessments completed in time for their audit. The aim is to have these assessments completed at least 2 months prior to the audit and all V3 by-product assessments for the entire programme should be completed by the summer. This means that if your V3 facility audit takes place in e.g. November or even in early 2026, your V3 by-product assessment will still be completed several months before in 2025. *This allows adequate time for facilities to prepare for their V3 facility audits, as the new by-product requirements may lead to outcomes which require changes at facility level and will be checked during the audit.*

To reduce complexity and alleviate costs for certificate holders, all by-product assessments in 2025 will be conducted against V3. No by-products will be assessed against V2. (*Exceptions to this, could in rare cases be facilitated, if new by-product species are voluntarily asked to be added to scope by certificate holders before May 1st.*)

This enables smooth transition for all by-products to V3 and removes the need for duplicative assessments and costs.

Where necessary, currently V2 approved by-products will have their validity period extended on a case by case basis until such a time that their V3 by-product assessment is completed.

By completing all V3 assessments in 2025, we are avoiding record or validity gaps for currently approved V2 by-product materials. However, please note that a v3 assessment will supersede your V2 assessment and since this is a new process, the outcome of the assessment may be different to your currently approved by-products.