

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	November 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
<b>Name of CAB</b>	SAI Global
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	ISF Iceland mackerel / F-SAI-027
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Virginia Polonio/Julie McDonald
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	<b>7.23.18</b> - The surveillance report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website
<b>Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?</b>	No

### 1. Proposed variation

SAI Global would like to forward the surveillance report for publication within 4 months and 13 days after the completion of the audit, which will be by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.

### 2. Rationale/Justification

SAI Global is currently conducting the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit for the ISF Iceland mackerel. The off-site audit was completed on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

A previous Variation Request to push back the submission of the surveillance report by December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, was accepted. This new VR takes into account the agreed revised timelines for completing harmonisation process with other CABs.

After the completion of the off-site audit and the drafting of the surveillance draft report, a new ICES advice for Northeast Atlantic (NEA) mackerel was issued. The outcome of this new advice constitutes a major change in the status of the NEA mackerel stock. As a consequence, SAI Global audit team is currently re-scoring several PIs under Principles 1 and 3, which requires additional time for the team.

In order to achieve consistent conclusions for all MSC certified NEA mackerel fisheries (see table below), SAI Global is engaged in harmonisation activities with Acoura and DNV.

<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>Current status</b>
ISF Iceland mackerel	SAIG	Surveillance audit 1
Faroese Pelagic Organisation NEA mackerel	DNV	Expedited audit announced on November 27 <sup>th</sup>
MINSAs NEA mackerel	Acoura	Expedited audit announced on November 16 <sup>th</sup>
NIPSG Irish Sea-Atlantic mackerel and North Sea herring	Acoura	Surveillance audit 2 announced on November 21 <sup>st</sup>

A first harmonisation meeting was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. A second harmonisation meeting was held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Given that expedited audit follows the same process and timeline than surveillance audit, the 3 CABs agreed to complete harmonisation process and release surveillance and expedited audit reports at the same time by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

### 3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

A positive response to this VR will:

- 1) give additional time needed to SAI Global audit team for re-scoring PIs under Principles 1 and 3;
- 2) allow SAI Global to continue and complete harmonisation activities with Acoura and DNV in order to achieve consistent conclusions for all MSC certified NEA mackerel fisheries, complying with PB3.3.2 b, c and d.

**4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

SAIG informed the client but not other stakeholders. Stakeholders will be notified once the MSC's response to the VR will be provided.

**5. Further Comments**

N/A