

Control Union Pesca Ltd.

Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery

MSC Variation Request

Control Union Pesca Ltd.

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1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	14 th February 2020
2	CAB
	Control Union Pesca Ltd.
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery
4	Lead auditor or programme manager
	Rob Blyth-Skyrme (LA), Hugh Jones (PM)
5	Request prepared by
	Toru Tsuzaki
6	Scheme requirement for which variation requested
	[FCP V2.1] 7.28.8.1 The CAB may elect to undertake surveillance audits up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date, where this deviation is appropriate given the circumstances of the fishery
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	Zero.

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	<p>The certificate anniversary for the Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery is the 7th September. The deadline for the Year 2 surveillance audit for this fishery taking into account [FCP V2.1] 7.28.8.1 is then the 6th March 2020. For the reasons detailed in the justification, below, the CAB is requesting a further 5 weeks to complete the site visit for this audit.</p>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	6 th March 2020
	Modified deadline date requested	10 th April 2020
	Length of additional time requested	5 weeks
3	Justification	
	<p>The Year 2 audit process for the Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna (PAST) Fishery has been subject to multiple delays.</p> <p>An important factor in the delay is that results from research on dolphins, initiated by the client and relevant to a number of conditions on Principle 2, are only due to become available around the end of this month (February 2020). A new stock assessment for yellowfin tuna was also conducted last year, with results of an important external peer review process undertaken in December not yet available but expected soon. Furthermore, the fishery is part of the RFMO tuna wide VR for milestone alignment. As such Principle 1 must be upgraded to Version 2.0 FCR 2.0 at the year 2 surveillance audit. Section 2 and 3 of Appendix B of the MEG_VAR must be observed.</p> <p>On the 29th January the PAST fishery clients requested that CU Pesca take responsibility for the certification and conduct the Y2 surveillance audit.</p> <p>As the receiving CAB, CU Pesca has conducted the required desk-based pre-transfer review [GCR2.4.1] – 4.11.3c and determined that the fishery cannot meet the requirement under [FCP V2.1] 7.28.8.1 to hold the surveillance audit up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date.</p> <p>In order for the site visit to have taken place by the 6th March 2020, the audit would have needed to be announced no later than the 4th February. We indicated to the client that we will accept the contract, under [GCR2.4.1] 4.11.4b The earliest date considering the requirements under [GCR2.4.1] 4.11.8 for certificate transfer has been set as the 14th Feb 2020. On that date, CU Pesca will formally take responsibility for the certificate and assume auditing responsibilities for the Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna fishery.</p> <p>CU Pesca's team for this Year 2 audit was assembled to meet the requirements and tasks set out in the information review; the team shifted other work commitments to be available as close to the deadline for the site visit as possible. However, considering the team's availability, the earliest availability for the site visit is the w/c 30th March 2020.</p>	

	We consider that given that the certificate transfer must take place before the new CAB can act, and to provide enough time to meet the 30 day announcement prior to site visit and provide enough time for the assessment team to review the information made available to them, we request a new deadline for completing the onsite audit as the 10 th April 2020.
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment
	<p>None anticipated. This is the Y2 surveillance audit for this fishery, with all conditions (except one, which was closed) being assessed as 'on target' at the Year 1 audit.</p> <p>As is required, stakeholders will be offered the opportunity to make comment or bring new information pertinent to the scoring of the fishery at the site visit. Stakeholders would be informed of the audit process and timeline directly via the announcement on the assessment timeline, should this Variation Request be accepted.</p>
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment
	N/A, as no assessment implications are perceived. As mentioned above, stakeholders will be directly notified of the assessment timeline.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	The fishery was certified as four separate UoCs, with a total of 28 conditions set. One condition was met at year 1, and the fishery is currently on target with milestones for the other conditions. There is no reason to believe that progress will be impacted by this additional delay.
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	The fishery is currently certified. This is the Year 2 surveillance audit.
8	Further comments
	- Please include any further relevant information.
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request