

MSC Variation Request

# «GELA» LTD NORTH EAST ATLANTIC EUROPEAN PLAICE FISHERY

Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments

9 August 2021

## 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	9 August 2021
2	CAB
	DNV Business Assurance (recently renamed from DNV GL – Business Assurance)
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	«GELA» LTD NORTH EAST ATLANTIC EUROPEAN PLAICE FISHERY
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Anna Kiseleva
5	Request prepared by
	Anna Kiseleva
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP v2.2 7.16 and September 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic Derogation 1.2
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

1	Proposed variation	
	The CAB proposes to vary against the requirement to hold an on-site visit for the initial assessment of this fishery by holding a remote site visit instead.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	NA
	Modified deadline date requested	NA
	Length of additional time requested	NA
3	Justification	
	Given national travel restrictions issued by Russian Federation, the team members either cannot enter or will be subject to quarantine upon entry and/or upon return to their country of residence. Jodi Bostrom resides in the United States, Giuseppe Scarcella resides in Cyprus, and Geir Hønneland and Anna Kiseleva in Norway. These countries also have their own travel restrictions in place limiting travel and requiring certain levels of testing/quarantine upon return. Therefore, it is not feasible for the team to travel for an on-site site visit.	
4	Implications for assessment	
	The CAB recognizes that a remote site visit can be more challenging and could result in additional risk. Therefore, a review of the risks has been completed and included in the Appendix. Overall, the team is confident that we can deliver an effective, robust stakeholder consultation and interview process to gather information necessary to assess this fishery against the MSC Fisheries Standard.	
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	<p>A review of the risks has been completed and included in the Appendix. As per the September 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic Derogation 1.2, the CAB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shall request an additional peer reviewer from the Peer Review College when implementing FCP 7.14.</li><li>• Shall conduct remote audits in alignment with IAF MD 4:2018 (IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology for Auditing/Assessment Purposes, considering security/confidentiality and process requirements).</li><li>• Will utilize other mechanisms to ensure a successful remote site visit (e.g., ASI's remote audit procedure, DNV's remote audit procedure, ISO 9001 remote audit guidance).</li><li>• Will ensure that remote site visit replicates on-site visit as far as practicably possible.</li><li>• Shall travel restrictions to Russian Federation be lifted before scheduled audit, some of the team members will travel and participate in the audit on-site.</li></ul>	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	NA	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?	
	Initial assessment to be announced in August 2021.	
8	Further comments	

	NA
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request

## 2 Appendix

**Table 3 – Areas considered in risk assessment**

<b>Risk Areas</b>	<b>Key Risks</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation</b>
Sufficient information to enable an effective and robust fishery assessment process and comprehensive assessment against the MSC Fisheries Standard	Ability to verify information remotely.	Fishery reports, government documents, and other relevant reports required for the assessment against the MSC Fisheries Standard are available publicly and/or can be transmitted electronically. There are ample opportunities and mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders including electronic forms of communication (videoconferencing, phone conferencing, email). These mechanisms are effective in this fishery so the team is confident that information can be verified remotely.
	Ability to engage with stakeholders, deliver a robust stakeholder consultation process and conduct interviews with stakeholder. Please refer to FCP 4.2, GFCP 4.2, and 7.16.	Electronic forms of communication and other mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders (such as video conferencing, phone conferencing, email, phone) will be efficient and effective in providing the information required for a site visit for this fishery. Again, there are ample opportunities and mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders remotely so the team is confident that we can deliver a robust stakeholder consultation and interview processes.
	Ability to gather information and carry out stakeholder consultations if the Risk Based Framework (annex PF) is being used to assess data-deficient PIs. Please refer to PF2.3, PF3.2, PF3.3.2, PF4.1.5.b.ii, PF4.2, PF7.2, PF8.2, PF8.4.1, PF8.5.1, PF8.6.1 and PF8.7.1.  Other relevant references: FCP 7.10.2.m	NA
	Availability of information: FCP 7.10.2.h requires CABs to indicate the availability of information used to score each PI and to highlight potential information gaps. If the CAB identifies a large number of information gaps in the ACDR the CAB should consider if a remote site visit will be sufficient to obtain the necessary information.  Please refer to the interpretation 'Clarifications relating to the Announcement Comment Draft' which provides the MSC's intent behind draft scoring ranges, identification of information gaps to inform site visits and stakeholders consultation: "The MSC's intent is that the ACDR provides indicative scoring and rationales, and identifies where more information is	Fishery reports, government documents, and other relevant reports required for the assessment against the MSC Fisheries Standard are available publicly and/or can be transmitted electronically. Specifically, information necessary to assess the Principles 1 and 2 information requirements (e.g., VMS data, observer data, logbooks) are available electronically. Additional information can be gathered from the client and stakeholders via videoconferencing or phone during the site visit or via email following the site visit.  For Principle 3, there is a sufficient level of transparency in management, such that information on the fishery is publicly available or known to the wider group of stakeholders. Any information provided on the fishery can be easily verified.  The team is confident that the current information gaps highlighted in the ACDR can

	<p>needed. One of the objectives of the ACDR is to assist the site visit by facilitating stakeholder input to the assessment prior to the site visit, and to ensure the CAB, the client and stakeholders are better informed and prepared for the site visit...”</p> <p>CABs should consider the risk of an off-site initial fishery assessment if any Performance Indicator has a draft scoring range of &lt;60 reported in the ACDR.</p>	be addressed via a remote site visit during client and stakeholder interviews.						
	Ability to understand the context, scale, and intensity of the fishery operations.	The team concluded that the assessment does not require investigation of physical aspects of the fishery, but if questions arise, there are reliable mechanisms to enable verification of these aspects from a remote location.						
Sufficient communication capability to effectively plan, conduct interviews and facilitate information sharing as per IAF ID 4: 2018.	Availability of information and communication technology (ICT). Competency of assessment teams, auditees, and stakeholders in using ICT. Please refer to IAF MD 4:2018.	The client, all team members, and all identified stakeholders can easily access ICT and are competent in doing so. Team leader experience with some of these individuals and the client representative's knowledge of them confirm this statement.						
	Ability to clearly exchange information between the assessment team, prospective fishery client and stakeholders and to be understood by all parties when parties speak different languages.	The client, all team members, and all identified stakeholders can communicate effectively in English. Team -leader and principle 3 expert can also speak, read and write in Russian. Team leader experience with some of these individuals and the client representative's knowledge of them confirm this statement.						
	Ability to schedule remote site visit activities at reasonable mutually convenient times when parties are located across different time zones.	<p>The client and all stakeholders are based in Russia (Moscow time zone). The two team members and team-leader are in Europe, and one team member is on the west coast of the United States.</p> <p>Time audit will be scheduled within standard working hours Moscow time (client time zone) between 9am and 6 pm. At the time of the remote site visit, the following is a chart of the time-zone differences:</p> <table><tr><td>Norway and Cyprus</td><td>16:00</td></tr><tr><td>Russia</td><td>17:00</td></tr><tr><td>US west coast</td><td>07:00</td></tr></table> <p>The team is confident that mutually convenient times can be found to accommodate all parties.</p>	Norway and Cyprus	16:00	Russia	17:00	US west coast	07:00
Norway and Cyprus	16:00							
Russia	17:00							
US west coast	07:00							

### 3 Template information and copyright

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#### Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website ([msc.org](http://msc.org)).

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