

Global Trust Certification

Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1. Variation request.			
1	Date submitted to MSC		
	17 September 2021		
2	CAB		
	Global Trust Certification Limited		
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number		
	Fishery name	Certificate number	
	Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine	MSC-F-31435	
4	Lead auditor or program manager		
	Lead Auditor: Vito Romito		
5	Request prepared by		
	Vito Romito		
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested		
	This variation is requested from the following scheme requirements:		
	<u>MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2</u>		
	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?		
	Once before (August 2021) due to a team member having to withdraw from the assessment.		

Table 2. Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	Global Trust proposes to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. postpone the upcoming surveillance audit, and. 2. conduct the surveillance audit in late-October which will be more than 6 months later than the anniversary date as amended by MSC Derogation 1: Covid-19 pandemic. 	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	03 September 2021 (Anniversary Date for the purposes of Surveillance Audit 1 03 March 2021 + 6 months) Then 3 rd of October after the previous VR was accepted.
	Modified deadline date requested	27 October 2021 (i.e. the remote site visit is planned from the 18 th to the 27 th of October)
	Length of additional time requested	Less than 1 month
3	Justification	
	<p>The first surveillance audit of this fishery was announced on 16 July 2021 with the site visit portion of the audit to take place between 16 and 27 August 2021 (i.e. within 6 months of the anniversary date of the certificate as extended by MSC Covid Derogation 1). Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, a member of the assigned assessment team (the assessor primarily responsible for P1) has had to withdraw from participation in this audit. As 2 of the 3 open conditions relate to P1 and with new HCRs having been implemented since the initial assessment, it is important that the team includes an appropriately qualified P1 assessor. A new P1 assessor was assigned since then. This was the cause of the first VR submitted and accepted in August 2021.</p> <p>Since then, Hurricane Ida hit the US coast and following the aftermath of its devastation many stakeholders communicated that it would be necessary to postpone the remote site visit calls if any meaningful participation was to be achieved. Many relevant stakeholders and their families have been directly affected by the hurricane and need additional time to reorganise and take part in this audit.</p> <p>Based on the above, Global Trust requests to be allowed to conduct the audit within 8 months (2 additional months) of the certificate anniversary.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	There are no particular implications for the 1 st surveillance audit of this fishery.	
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	Stakeholders will be informed of any changes arising and invited to participate in the new surveillance audit site visit.	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	The fishery is subject to 3 conditions entering this surveillance audit the progress of which will be unaffected (positively or negatively) by this request.	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?	
	Global Trust is preparing to undertake the remote site visit portion of this audit.	
8	Further comments	
	None.	
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request	

2 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification corporate identity, Global Trust has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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Table 3. 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](http://msc.org) (msc.org).

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