

## **SAI Global**

# **ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine (Icelandic summer-spawning herring report)**

## **MSC Variation Request**

### **1 Introduction**

This form details the information SAI Global is required to submit to the MSC to enable the MSC to consider an application to vary from a clause or requirement in any of the MSC program documents.

Once a Variation Request has been submitted the MSC will consider that request and will usually respond within 14 days.

## 2 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1. Variation request.**

1	Date submitted to MSC
	27 March 2020
2	CAB
	SAI Global
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine (Iceland summer spawning herring trawl and seine) MSC-F-31464
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Géraldine Criquet
5	Request prepared by
	Conor Donnelly
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCR v2 §7.4. – If IPI stocks are identified and are below the level of 15% specified in 7.4.13.1.c, the CAB shall submit a variation request to the requirements section 7.4
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0 - This is the first time a variation for this requirement has been requested in this re-assessment of this fishery.

**Table 2. Variation justification.**

1	Proposed variation
	Request to allow fish or fish products considered as coming from IPI stocks to enter chains of custody, with an exemption to the additional assessment requirements for IPI stocks given in PA4.2.
2	Additional time requested
	Original deadline date
	N/A
	Modified deadline date requested
	N/A
	Length of additional time requested
	N/A
3	Justification
	<p>The Icelandic summer-spawning herring (ISSH) fishery harvests almost exclusively ISSH (<i>Clupea harengus</i>); however, Icelandic spring-spawning herring (ISPH) are also harvested within this fishery.</p> <p>ISPH mix with ISSH in the directed ISSH fishery in the autumn. The level of mixing is measured by sampling, with fish categorised into the two stocks on the basis of their maturity stage. The proportions in the catches have been measured over time with the ISPH representing below 5% and on average 1.4% during 1970-2016 (Óskarsson, 2018). In autumn 2018, the the proportion of ISPH in the combined catches came to 1.3%.</p> <p>These non-target catches are practicably indistinguishable from the target species during normal fishing operations. Additionally, the mechanics of the fishing operations are such that it is not commercially feasible to separate catches without significant modification to harvest and processing methods. Taking this into account and, since the catch of ISPH as a proportion of the total combined catches of ISPH and ISSH is less than 15%, ISPH qualifies as an IPI stock in terms of MSC FCR v2.0, §7.4.13.1.</p> <p>As set out in MSC FCR v2.0, §7.4.14.2, the request to allow an exemption to the additional assessment requirements for IPI stocks given in PA4.2 also requires a detailed and substantiated rationale showing that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The catch proportion of IPI stocks calculated in 7.4.13.1.c is less than or equal to 2% and the total catch of IPI stock(s) by the UoA does not create a significant impact on the IPI stock(s) as a whole.</li> <li>ii. CABs shall note that significance will be assessed on the basis of the status of the IPI stock, and the risk that the IPI catch poses to the health of the IPI stock.</li> </ol> <p>As noted above, the proportion of ISPH in the combined catches of the IPI and target stocks, is less than the ≤2% threshold referred to in i).</p> <p>The total catch of the IPI stock by the UoA is also not considered to create a significant impact on the IPI stock as a whole due to a lack of temporal overlap between the distributions of the two stocks. The autumn/winter fishery directed at ISSH is limited to the period between September and January. Potential spawning aggregations of ISPH formed near the winter fishing grounds prior to and during the spawning in March (Jakobsson et al., 1969) and have therefore not been detected because of a lack of fishing effort during this period (Óskarsson, 2018). Consequently, the stock has been protected from fishing pressure due to a lack of temporal overlap.</p>

<b>Table 2. Variation justification.</b>	
	<p>Reference:            Jakobsson J. , Vilhjálmsson H., Schopka S. A. 1969. On the biology of the Icelandic herring stocks. Rit Fiskideildar, 4: 1–16</p> <p>Óskarsson, G.J 2018. The existence and population connectivity of Icelandic spring-spawning herring over a 50-year collapse period, ICES Journal of Marine Science, 75: 2025–2032, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsy120">https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsy120</a></p>
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment
	Should the request be accepted it shouldn't impact any other requirements and will enable fish and fish product to be considered as coming from the ISPH stok to enter chain of custody with an exemption to the additional assessment requirements for IPI stocks given in PA4.2.
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment
	There is no implication for any other requirements. SAI Global waits for being provided with the response to this VR to proced with the publication of the PCDR.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	The assessment has one condition relating to stock status of the target species (PI 1.1.1) which will not be affected by this request.
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	The latest version of the report is the Peer Review Draft Report which was submitted to the Peer Reviewers on 9 January 2020 and we received Peer Reviewer comments on the 6 <sup>th</sup> February. The Public Comment Draft Report is ready to publish when we receive a response to this variation request.
8	Further comments
	Not applicable.
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	Not applicable.

### 3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.1' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2019. All rights reserved.

**Table 3. Template version control.**

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
3.1	28 March 2019	Non-substantive changes to improve clarity and usability

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

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