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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific Cod, AK BSAI pollock, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific Cod, GOA Pollock

MSC Variation Request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	August 14, 2019
2	CAB
	MRAG Americas, Inc.
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	BSAI AK Pollock (MSC-F-31220; MRAG-F-0032), BSAI AK Cod (MSC-F-31193; MRAG-F-0070), GOA Pollock (MSC-F-31222, MRAG-F-0033) GOA Pacific Cod (MSC-F-31192, MRAG-F-0071)
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Erin Wilson
5	Request prepared by
	Erin Wilson
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP 7.28.23 The CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 60 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.

7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	None

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	The surveillance report will be submitted within 11 days of the current deadline of August 19, 2019 (i.e., by August 30, 2019).	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	August 19, 2019
	Modified deadline date requested	August 30, 2019
	Length of additional time requested	11 days
3	Justification	
	One of the team members experienced some personal problems after the site visit that kept him from progressing on the reports. In addition, technical difficulties via an international email domain, made it difficult for this team member to receive or send correspondence.	
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment	
	The delay in publishing the Surveillance reports will not have an effect on the AK groundfish fishery. This is the 4 th surveillance, and the reassessment reports are on track according to MSC timeline requirements. The fisheries' certification expiration is not until January 13, 2021 for BSAI & GOA pollock, and June 17, 2020 for BSAI & GOA Pacific cod. This audit was held in advance of when it would have been due in order to create efficiencies in the assessment processes between these fisheries and the BSAI and GOA flatfish, Atka mackerel, PoP and northern Rockfish assessment and reassessment processes.	
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	Not applicable, there are no implications for assessment	
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	Not applicable; there are currently no conditions for these fisheries.	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?	
	The fisheries are currently undergoing their reassessment and are in accordance with MSC timeline requirements.	
8	Further comments	
	None	
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request	