

Control Union (UK) Limited

**Rybprom Balkash Lake pikeperch, Bersh and Wels
catfish fishery**

MSC Variation Request

Control Union (UK) Limited

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1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	02 March 2023
2	CAB
	Control Union (UK) Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Rybprom Balkash Lake pikeperch, Bersh and Wels catfish fishery – MSC n/a (first assessment)
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Geir Hønneland
5	Request prepared by
	Alexander Ford
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC FCP v2.2, section 7.16 and associated guidance
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	
	<p>CU(UK) are planning the site visit for the first assessment of the Rybprom Balkash Lake pikeperch, Bersh and Wels catfish fishery. The assessment is due to take place onsite, with the P1 and P2 assessors confirmed to attend. However, CU(UK) are requesting that the P3 assessor and Team Leader be allowed to join all meetings remotely rather than in person due to a long-term Covid-19 condition that renders the individual physically and mentally exhausted in only a short period of time.</p> <p>This does not affect any deadlines and there is no additional time requested as part of this VR.</p>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	NA
	Modified deadline date requested	NA
	Length of additional time requested	NA
3	Justification	
	<p>CU(UK) are planning the site visit for the first assessment of the Rybprom Balkash Lake pikeperch, Bersh and Wels catfish fishery, with the ACDR published on Track-a-Fishery since Tuesday 21st February for 60 days. CU(UK) has arranged a full team and is planning to be onsite in Kazakhstan, sometime in May 2023.</p> <p>The P3 assessor and Team Leader has been suffering from a long-term Covid-19 condition that renders the individual physically and mentally exhausted in only a short period of time. Travelling long distances only aggravates this condition and the assessor is insisting not to be expected to attend physically. In addition, this would be covered by the recent extension of the derogation 3 will be extending the validity of Derogation 3 for a further six months, until September 2023, according to MSC's recent communications. He assures CU(UK) that is responsibilities as P3 assessor and Team Leader can be fulfilled through online facilitation.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	<p>CU(UK) does not foresee any impacts for the assessment. 7.16.2 requires that interviews are carried confidentially and informatively, both of which can be accomplished via online facilitation which was often the case during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	<p>No risks are identified in allowing the P3 assessor and Team Leader to join remotely. The calls would be through Zoom and the individual in question has already demonstrated good internet connection and ability to conduct meetings remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	<p>As this is the first time the fishery is being assessed there are no conditions associated with the fishery</p>	
7	What is the status of the current assessment?	

	The ACDR has been open for stakeholder comment since Tuesday 21 st February 2023 for 60 days.
8	Further comments
	NA
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	NA