



Gemma Quílez-Badia
Bureau Veritas (BV)
8 Avenue Jacques Cartier
Atlantis
France
44807

Sent by email

Date: 09/11/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for Western Asturias Octopus Traps Fishery of Artisanal Cofradías

Dear Gemma Quílez-Badia,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/11/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The site visit for the first surveillance audit has been planned as an on-site visit with the two team members traveling to Asturias. However, BV requests that one of the team members (José Ríos) can attend the meetings remotely, due to health issues.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 state:

The team shall carry out the site visit as planned

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

The first surveillance audit for the Western Asturias Octopus Traps Fishery of Artisanal Cofradías fishery was announced as both the team leader (José Ríos) and team member (Gonzalo Macho) being onsite. Due to covid disruption, José is no longer able to travel but will join the audit remotely. The PCR originally advised the first surveillance have one auditor onsite and one attending remotely. Therefore, there has been no deviation from the planned surveillance schedule. Furthermore, FCP v2.2. 7.16.1 falls under the FCP requirements for a full assessment and is not relevant to a surveillance audit.

The CAB shall publish a stakeholder announcement notifying stakeholders one of the auditors will now attend remotely.

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.



If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International