



Jodi Bostrom  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 10/9/2020

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for Faroe Islands queen scallop**

Dear Jodi Bostrom,

I write with reference to your submission on 02/10/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The CAB proposes to vary against the requirement to hold an on-site visit for the initial assessment of this fishery by holding a remote site visit instead.

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:**

- There are travel restrictions and health risk concerns related to COVID-19 should the assessment team travel to the Faroe Islands to attend the site visit.
- The assessment team is able to verify information remotely and there is a plan in place to ensure remote meetings can run as efficiently as possible.

**Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:**

- In the plan for RBF activities that the team will undertake at the site visit (FCP v2.2 7.10.2.m), the CAB shall include specific risk mitigation measures for conducting the RBF remotely.

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