

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	05/03/13
Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International Ltd
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	SSMO Shetland inshore brown & velvet crab, lobster and scallop fishery F-FCI-0021(a-d)
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Antonio Hervás / Melissa McFadden
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR 27.22.3.1
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

To delay the surveillance audit for this fishery until April/May 2013 in order to harmonise with the Shetland and Scottish Mainland Rope Grown mussel Enhanced fishery and ensure consistent team leadership for the surveillance programme of each certified fishery

2. Rationale/Justification

The reason for delaying the surveillance audit until April/May 2013 is that, due to other commitments, the original assessment team leader will not be available until that time. It was felt that it would be better to delay the surveillance audit and retain the services of the original team leader for both fisheries throughout the surveillance programme, delaying the process by a couple of months, rather than substituting another assessor - who will necessarily be less familiar with the particulars of this assessment.

This falls within the pre-scheduled surveillance programme for the Shetland and Scottish Mainland Rope Grown mussel Enhanced fishery, which has the same team leader, has its management in the same locality and involves a very similar set of stakeholders. As such, harmonising these two surveillance audits will limit stakeholder fatigue, reduce costs for each fishery client and facilitate effective harmonisation without the need for additional considerations to meet this requirement.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

There will be no negative impact on the on-going surveillance programme. Impact on stakeholder input will be minimised by ensuring that all stakeholders are fully aware of the variation and still have ample opportunity to contribute.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

No - the stakeholders have been informed of the cancellation of the original site visit, and will be informed by announcement and direct email of the revised surveillance date

5. Confidential Information

A major reason that this surveillance must be delayed is to allow for timely completion of deliverables for the English Inshore Multi-species Pre-assessment project. Pre-existing commitments for this project have over-run, meaning that to meet the original published surveillance date would require a change of team leader. It was felt that it would be better to delay the surveillance audit and retain the services of the original team leader for both fisheries throughout the surveillance programme, rather than push through with a modified team to meet the original published date.