



8950 Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. #202
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2211
Tel: (727) 563-9070
Fax: (727) 563-0207
Email: MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

MRAG Americas, Inc.

Prestige Oyster Texas and Louisiana private oyster fishery

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.
	3 April 2019
2	CAB
	MRAG Americas
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Prestige Oyster Texas and Louisiana private oyster fishery
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Amanda Stern-Pirlot
5	Request prepared by
	Amanda Stern-Pirlot
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	Requirement to have full team on-site for initial assessment based on the following (underlining added): FCR 2.0 7.5.1: <i>The CAB shall announce <u>a team</u> for a fisheries assessment comprising a team leader and a minimum of one additional team member who meets the qualifications and competency requirements</i>

	<p><i>specified in Tables PC1, PC2 and PC3 in Annex PC and in line with the requirements in the General Certification Requirements (GCR);</i></p> <p>FCR 2.0 7.9.1: <i>The <u>team</u> shall carry out the on-site activities as planned;</i></p>
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	
	MRAG Americas proposes to allow P3 team member, Bob Trumble, participate in the initial assessment audit from a remote location (his home) due to personal circumstances prohibiting his travel. He would participate in all parts of the audit visit via teleconference, except the dock visit.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	n/a
	Modified deadline date requested	n/a
	Length of additional time requested	n/a
3	Justification	
	Personal circumstances have arisen that prohibit this team member from travelling away from his home. As this has happened at short notice, and he is still the best person for this team, we have determined the best course of action is to keep him on the team and request remote participation in the assessment visit.	
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment	
	The implication for this assessment is that the P3 team member will not be in-person during site-visit meetings (though he will be present via teleconference). This course of action ensures the most qualified team is still in place for the assessment, and there are no delays in the process.	
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	MRAG Americas have assessed the risks to this assessment due to this variation as minimal. The team leader and P2 team member (Amanda Stern-Pirlot) will be on-site, with Dr Trumble participating as P3 team member remotely. This is logistically easy due to only a one-hour time difference and available telecommunications technology. Both individuals are very experienced MSC assessment team members and team leaders, with a long track record of well-conducted site visits involving in-person and remote participants. In addition, Dr Trumble was the lead and P3 team member for the pre-assessment for this fishery which was completed very recently. As part of that process he has become very familiar with the fishery and has already spoken with or otherwise communicated with several of the individuals we will be interviewing during the site visit. Dr Trumble has also demonstrated on numerous occasions his ability to carry out rigorous, well-structured interviews during remote audits for several fisheries. The team leader will be present in-person during the site visit and present for the visit to the fishery's dock where traceability topics will be covered, which are the team leader's responsibility in this assessment, and for which she is qualified.	
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	

	N/A Initial assessment
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	Initial assessment against FCR v2.0. Enhanced bivalve tree with no P1 assessment.
8	Further comments
	Please include any further relevant information.
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request