

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	25 th May 2017
Name of CAB	Me Certification Ltd
Fishery Name	French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery
Lead Auditor	Jo Gascoigne / Chrissie Sieben
Scheme requirement for which variation requested	v2.0 FCR 7.4.10 7 - The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment unless: 7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

It is proposed that the originally announced UoA will be changed as follows (changes in red):

Species	UoA 1: Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) UoA 2 and UoA 3: Yellowfin (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Geographical range	French Polynesia Exclusive Economic Zone
Method of capture	Pelagic longline
Stock	UoA 1: South Pacific albacore UoA 2: Western Central Pacific yellowfin UoA3: Eastern Pacific yellowfin
Management Systems	WCPFC and French Polynesia management systems
Client group	French Polynesia (DRMM) licensed vessels fishing in the EEZ of French Polynesia for albacore and yellowfin using pelagic longline
Other eligible fishers	None

2. Rationale/Justification

A 2010 pre-assessment conducted for this fishery as well as information obtained by MEC prior to the site visit suggested that yellowfin catches in this fishery stemmed from the WCPO stock only. However, more accurate data obtained during and after the site visit, as well as additional consultation with the SPC (Secretariat for the Pacific Community) indicates that significant catches of EPO yellowfin are also taken and that this stock should be added to the assessment as a separate Unit of Assessment. Although targeted stakeholder consultation has already taken place on this matter, both during and after the site visit, this change will be announced to stakeholders and additional submissions of information or requests for meetings will be accepted for a 30-day period – pending the approval of the variation request. Finalisation of the Client Draft Report will not take place until this consultation period is finished.

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

This proposed change will add one new Unit of Assessment to the assessment. As noted above, stakeholders will be invited to provide comments during a new 30-day consultation period. Stakeholders will also be provided with an opportunity to discuss this and related issues with the assessment team in person (either on-site or remotely). Finally, the stakeholder list will be updated to include IATTC representatives and other key experts.

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

No, but they will be pending a successful outcome for this variation request

5. Further Comments