

## **SAI Global**

# **Chile Austral hake (*Merluccius australis*) industrial trawl and longline**

## **MSC Variation Request**

### **1 Introduction**

This form details the information SAI Global is required to submit to the MSC to enable the MSC to consider an application to vary from a clause or requirement in any of the MSC program documents.

Once a Variation Request has been submitted the MSC will consider that request and will usually respond within 14 days.

## 2 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1. Variation request.**

1	Date submitted to MSC
	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2019
2	CAB
	SAI Global
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Chile Austral hake ( <i>Merluccius australis</i> ) industrial trawl and longline
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Ivan Mateo
5	Request prepared by
	Ivan Mateo
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC FCR v.2.0 7.3.2 If the period from the full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Final Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0 – This variation for this requirement has never been requested previously for this fishery.

**Table 2. Variation justification.**

1	Proposed variation
	SAI Global would like to provide the Final Report to MSC within 21 months (i.e. 3 additional months) of the full assessment initial announcement, which will be by July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, instead of by April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2019.
2	Additional time requested
	Original deadline date                      25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
	Modified deadline date requested        25 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
	Length of additional time requested      3 months
3	Justification
	<p>SAI Global is currently carrying out the initial assessment of this fishery. Given the current status of the assessment (see Table 2 section 7), SAI Global will not be in a position to provide a Final Report to MSC within 18 months of the announcement of this assessment due to some factors that led to unforeseen delays in completing the necessary assessment steps:</p> <p>This assessment was initially announced on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and a site visit was conducted in November 2017. During that initial site visit, it became apparent that there were issues relating to the UoAs and UoCs as originally defined due to the industrial trawl fleet’s commonly switching from bottom trawl to midwater trawl on the same fishing trip and not separating their catches by gear type. Therefore, and following the acceptance of a Variation Request by MSC in June 2018, the UoAs and proposed UoCs were re-defined to include both bottom and midwater trawls as scoring elements within the same Unit of Assessment (UoA).</p> <p>After reviewing the data and information collected on the initial audit, the assessment team decided to conduct another site visit which was announced in August 20, 2018. Following a revised announcement in August 2018, a second on-site visit took place in September 2018.</p> <p>The fishery has now progressed to the point where SAI Global provided a draft report to the MSC Peer Review College for review in March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019. The need for this extension to allowable timeframes is purely administrative and is necessary in order to complete the relevant assessment stages without being required to withdraw the fishery.</p> <p>All-in-all: 1) the proposed extension is administrative in nature; 2) the time spent to date on this assessment was necessary and could not have been foreseen at the outset, and; 3) the most up to date information will be presented in all subsequent reports.</p>
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment
	<p>A positive response to this VR will allow SAI Global to continue the assessment of this fishery in line with MSC requirements and to ultimately provide a Final Report to MSC.</p> <p>Prior to a Final Report being available to be provided to the MSC the following steps still need to be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SAI Global to provide draft report to MSC Peer Review College for review (Report Sent in March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019).</li> <li>- MSC PRC to provide Peer Reviewer’s comments to SAI Global.</li> <li>- The Assessment Team respond to PRC comments</li> </ul>

**Table 2. Variation justification.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Assessment Team add all stakeholder comments to the report and respond to same to create PCDR.</li> <li>- The PCDR is published for a 30 day comment period.</li> <li>- The Assessment Team respond to comments received during the PCDR stage (including possible MSC TO and Peer Reviewers' additional comments) to create Final Report for Determination</li> </ul> <p>Given the number of steps and the 30 day comment period for the PCDR that still need to take place before a Final Report can be provided to MSC, it is not possible at this point for a Final Report to be provided within 18 months as required. Therefore, a negative response to this VR will leave SAI Global with no option but to withdraw this fishery from the assessment process.</p>
5	<p>If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment</p> <p>SAI Global did not identified any risk to the MSC Program from granting this VR. SAIG confirms that it is not aware at this time of any factor that could result in the fishery not being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.</p> <p>SAIG informed the client about the VR but not other stakeholders. Stakeholders will be notified once the MSC's response to the VR will be provided.</p>
6	<p>If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</p> <p>NA as the full assessment process is not finalised yet.</p>
7	<p>What is the status of the current assessment?</p> <p>SAI Global is currently carrying out the initial assessment of this fishery. The assessment is currently at the Peer Review stage, the Peer Review Report has been provided to the Peer Review College on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.</p>
8	<p>Further comments</p> <p>No further comments.</p>
9	<p>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</p> <p>NA</p>

### 3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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**Table 3. Template version control.**

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org).

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