

Marine Stewardship Council – Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	03 rd May 2018
Name of CAB	SAI Global
Fishery Name	Ireland Bottom Grown mussel
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Sam Dignan (Lead Assessor): samuel.dignan@saiglobal.com Géraldine Criquet (Fisheries Team Leader): géraldine.criquet@saiglobal.com
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	7.4.10. 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	
Request to be allowed to remove hand raking as part of the UoA for this fishery despite not originally announcing the UoA as provisional.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>The fishery was originally certified on 30th July 2013 with hand raking as an eligible gear. The 1st re-assessment of this fishery was announced on 14th September 2017 with hand raking as part of the UoA. Due to hand raking already being part of the UoC at that time the UoA was not announced as provisional.</p> <p>Hand-raking was originally included as it has occurred historically, but there has not been any hand raking in recent years. The Assessment Team have determined that, with no activity taking place, there is insufficient evidence to assess the impacts of this gear type and has advised the Client of this fact.</p> <p>The Client has therefore requested that this gear type be removed from the UoA for this re-assessment and is fully cognisant that this will result in hand raking no longer being an eligible gear type.</p> <p>It therefore SAI Global's intention to remove hand raking from the UoA for the re-assessment of this fishery; however, this is despite the UoA not being announced as provisional as required under MSC FCR v2.0 7.4.10.</p> <p>If this request is granted, and hand raking removed from the UoA, it will not alter the conformity of the fishery with the relevant MSC standard for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Despite it currently being part of the UoC, no hand raking has taken place in recent years. ▪ The changes represents a removal from, rather than an addition to, the UoA/UoC. ▪ SAI Global can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard. ▪ Stakeholders will be fully informed of the change. ▪ Ecet will be updated to reflect the change. ▪ The sustainability of the fishery will be unaffected by this change. 	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
The removal of hand raking from the UoA will allow SAI Global to proceed to release the PCDR for this fishery. All stakeholders will be fully informed of the change.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	Not yet. Stakeholders will be notified if the VR is granted and once the change has been made.
5. Further Comments	
n/a	