

Global Trust Certification

ISF Iceland greater silver smelt, ISF Iceland cod and ISF Iceland haddock

MSC Variation Request

1 Introduction

This form details the information Global Trust 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
	6 th April 2022
2	CAB
	Global Trust Certification Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt (initial assessment) – ISF Iceland cod (MSC-F-31301) – ISF Iceland haddock (MSC-F-31302)
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Conor Donnelly
5	Request prepared by
	Conor Donnelly
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC FCP v.2.2 §7.16.1 “The team shall carry out the site visit as planned.” MSC Guidance to the FCP v.2.2 §7.16 “The full assessment team should attend all the meetings at the site visit. Where this could cause unreasonable costs or inconvenience, and where the assessment would not be adversely affected by some team members participating remotely, the CAB may submit a variation request.”
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	Once. A variation for this requirement was previously submitted on the 14 th March 2022 for other members of the assessment teams of these fisheries and was accepted on the 18 th March 2022.

Table 2. Variation justification.

Table 2: Variation justification

1	Proposed variation																								
	<p>We are due to undertake a site visit for several ISF Iceland fisheries between April 11th and 14th 2022 in Reykjavík, Iceland. The assessments that this VR relates to are presented in the table below. This variation is to allow Geir Hønneland, the Principle 3 assessor for the three fisheries and team leader for ISF Iceland cod and ISF Iceland haddock reassessments to attend the site visit remotely.</p> <p>The team leader and Principle 2 assessor for Iceland greater silver smelt, Conor Donnelly, will attend in person. This request would mean the other assessors for this fishery and the full assessment team for the ISF Iceland cod and ISF Iceland haddock reassessments would attend remotely.</p>																								
	<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th rowspan="2">April 2022 audit</th><th colspan="3">Assessors & location during audit</th></tr><tr><th>P1</th><th>P2</th><th>P3</th></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland greater silver smelt</td><td>Initial assessment</td><td>Giuseppe Scarcella Remote</td><td>Conor Donnelly On site</td><td>Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland cod</td><td>Re-assessment</td><td>Giuseppe Scarcella Remote</td><td>Efthymia Tsitsika Remote</td><td>Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland haddock</td><td>Re-assessment</td><td>Giuseppe Scarcella Remote</td><td>Efthymia Tsitsika Remote</td><td>Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote</td></tr></table>		Fishery	April 2022 audit	Assessors & location during audit			P1	P2	P3	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	Initial assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella Remote	Conor Donnelly On site	Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote	ISF Iceland cod	Re-assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella Remote	Efthymia Tsitsika Remote	Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote	ISF Iceland haddock	Re-assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella Remote	Efthymia Tsitsika Remote	Geir Hønneland Proposed to be remote
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2	Additional time requested																								
	Original deadline date	Not applicable																							
	Modified deadline date requested	Not applicable																							
	Length of additional time requested	Not applicable																							
3	Justification																								
	<p>The site visit is scheduled for the 11th to 14th April 2022 in Reykjavík, Iceland. Geir Hønneland is recovering from Covid and advised Global Trust Certification Ltd. (GTC) that he will not be able to travel during the period proposed for the site visit, as such section 1.1 of Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing applies.</p> <p>GTC determines that the assessment will not be adversely affected by Geir attending the site visit remotely. An assessment of the information availability and ability to verify information remotely is presented in the Table below.</p>																								
	Risk areas	Ability to verify remotely and determination of risk level																							
	Sufficient information to enable an effective and robust fishery assessment process and comprehensive assessment against the MSC Fisheries Standard.	Information related to the target stocks, ecosystem impact and management of the fisheries is readily available on-line (e.g. from the Fiskistofa, MFRI and Government of Iceland websites) and can be accessed remotely and where necessary transmitted electronically to the assessment team in a form that can be easily interpreted. This includes, for example, landings data and scientific advice on fish stocks, ETP and habitats and wider information about the Icelandic management system such as legislation and regulation relevant to management of the fisheries.																							

Table 2. Variation justification.

Table 2: Verification justification

		<p>Geir has knowledge of the Icelandic fisheries management system from previous involvement as Principle 3 assessor in several MSC assessments in Iceland.</p> <p>For vessel visit and proposed visit to gear manufacturer, the member of the assessment team on site will provide a video tour of the site, or if connectivity is poor take photographs and send to the team based remotely.</p>								
	Sufficient communication capability to effectively plan, conduct interviews and facilitate information sharing.	<p>There are ample opportunities and mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders and exchange information, including by email, via links to websites and electronic forms of communication such as conference calls which have been extensively and successfully used during the covid-19 restriction period for ISF Iceland audits.</p> <p>English is the common language spoken by the client and stakeholders during audits. All the assessment team members are native/fluent English speakers therefore the assessment team is able to clearly exchange information with the client and stakeholders and to be clearly understood by all parties.</p> <p>The time difference between Geir and the audit site is 2 hours and it has been possible to schedule remote site visit activities at reasonable mutually convenient times.</p>								
<p>Based on the above, Global Trust Certification determines that the ability to verify information remotely is high. Therefore, having the Principle 3 assessor and lead assessor for the cod and haddock reassessments attend the site visit remotely and the assessment teams meeting with the eNGO representatives via conference call is considered as a low risk. The assessment teams' ability to deliver a robust stakeholder consultation process would not be impaired.</p>										
4	Implications for assessment									
	<p>The Principle 3 assessor and lead assessor for the cod and haddock reassessments, Geir Hønneland, will attend the site visit remotely. This means the full assessment team for the ISF Iceland cod and haddock reassessments will be based remotely whilst the lead assessor and Principle 2 assessor for the ISF Iceland greater silver smelt initial assessment will be on site with the Principle 1 and Principle 3 assessors based remotely.</p> <p>Global Trust Certification has not identified negative implications determining that the ability to verify information remotely is high.</p>									
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment									
	Given that negative implications have not been identified, mitigation is not necessary.									
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?									
	<p>Conditions open in each fishery under assessment are shown in the table below. None are due to be closed in this audit. Their progress will not be affected (positively or negatively) by the Principle 1 assessor and one of the Principle 2 assessors attending the site visit remotely, nor by the assessment teams meeting with the eNGO representatives via conference call.</p> <table><tr><th>Fishery</th><th>Conditions</th></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland greater silver smelt</td><td>None - Initial assessment</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland cod</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland haddock</td><td>4</td></tr></table>		Fishery	Conditions	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	None - Initial assessment	ISF Iceland cod	4	ISF Iceland haddock	4
Fishery	Conditions									
ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	None - Initial assessment									
ISF Iceland cod	4									
ISF Iceland haddock	4									
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?									
	The status of each fishery is set out below.									

Table 2. Variation justification.

Table 2: Variation justification:		
	Fishery	Status
	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	Entered assessment and announced 4 th February 2022
	ISF Iceland cod	Re-assessment announced 4 th March 2022
	ISF Iceland haddock	Re-assessment announced 4 th March 2022
8	Further comments	
	No further comments.	
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request	

3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification's corporate identity, Global Trust 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	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

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

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