

## **Control Union Pesca Ltd.**

**Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tuna longline  
fishery**

### **MSC Variation Request**

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# 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Date submitted to MSC</b>  |
|          | 11 March 2020   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>CAB</b>  |
|          | Control Union Pesca Ltd.  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number</b>  |
|          | Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tuna longline fishery  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Lead auditor or programme manager</b>  |
|          | Hugh Jones  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Request prepared by</b>  |
|          | Hugh Jones  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Scheme requirement for which variation requested</b>   |
|          | FCR 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. |
| <b>7</b> | <b>How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?</b>   |
|          | One   |



**Table 2 – Variation justification**

|          |  |                            |
|----------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Proposed variation</b>  |                            |
|          | The 18 month deadline for the publication of the Final Report (FCR 7.3.2) is the 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020 following the acceptance of a VR to extend from October 2019 to April 2020 in a previous VR which was accepted by the MSC. The CAB is requesting a further two months to complete to the Final Report stage.   |                            |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Additional time requested</b>   |                            |
|          | <b>Original deadline date</b>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020 |
|          | <b>Modified deadline date requested</b>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020  |
|          | <b>Length of additional time requested</b>   | two months                 |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Justification</b>   |                            |
|          | <p>The PCDR for the fishery was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 and received stakeholder comments from ISSF, MSC and PEW when returned on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. This clear and structured opportunity for stakeholders to make comment on the report brought new information pertinent to the scoring of the fishery in the assessment for the assessment team's consideration. Further, following these comments and developments in the stock assessments of some of the UoAs a restructure of the UoAs under assessment has been required.</p> <p>The PCDR comments included reference to the latest stock assessments for WCPFC and EPO stocks (December 2019) and which were not included in the PCDR as all reporting elements of these were not available prior to peer review and harmonisation meetings between CABs had not been concluded by January 2020. These harmonisation discussions continue in March 2020. In addition stakeholders raised considered points on the scoring of Principle 2 information related to ETP species which the assessment team are now addressing through provision of additional observer data from 2018-19.</p> <p>Finally, resultant from the 2019 stock assessments for EPO stocks the client has decided to withdraw the UoAs for these stocks from the assessment (separate VR accepted by the MSC). Withdrawal of these stocks requires further vessel level CoC assessment which is underway to consider any additional traceability risks associated with these UoA withdrawals and is therefore additional CoC auditing is taking place. Traceability risks were highlighted by MSC in the PCDR and the completion of the CoC audit reports is paramount to the traceability section being updated and complete in the final report.</p> <p>The elements listed above are entirely separate from the previous request on timeline extension for this fishery which was required because of the need to conduct a remote Risk Based Framework (RBF) for Principle 2 bait sources and under Principle 3 delays in receiving WCPFC states data and decision-making information.</p> <p>Given the challenges of harmonisation for Principle 1 harmonisation, additional data being sought from observers and the need to CoC audit reports to be completed ahead of the Final Report, CUP are seeking a two month extension to the current deadline for the Final Report.</p> |                            |
| <b>4</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment</b>  |                            |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          | <p>None anticipated. This is the last MSC deadline for a fishery assessment. As the fishery is still in assessment, there are no further timeline or certificate requirements that may be affected.</p> <p>Stakeholders would be informed directly regarding the assessment timeline, should this Variation Request be accepted.</p> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment</b>   |
|          | N/A, as no assessment implications are perceived. As mentioned above, stakeholders will be directly notified if the assessment timeline is extended.   |
| <b>6</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</b>  |
|          | Zero. The fishery is currently in assessment.  |
| <b>7</b> | <b>What is the status of the current assessment?</b>   |
|          | The fishery is currently in assessment. The public comment draft report has been published, and the team is waiting to CoC reports from the vessels.   |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Further comments</b>  |
|          | N/A  |
| <b>9</b> | <b>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</b>   |
|          | N/A  |