

## **Control Union (UK) Limited**

### **SFSAG Northern Demersal stocks**

### **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>
	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023
<b>2</b>	<b>CAB</b>
	Control Union (UK) Limited
<b>3</b>	<b>Fishery name and certificate number</b>
	SFSAG Northern Demersal stocks – MSC-F-31244
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead auditor or program manager</b>
	Deirdre Wilson
<b>5</b>	<b>Request prepared by</b>
	Deirdre Wilson
<b>6</b>	<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>
	MSC FCP v2.2, clause 7.28.2
<b>7</b>	<b>How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?</b>
	0

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

<b>1</b>	<b>Proposed variation</b>	
	<p>CU(UK) are planning the Year 1 surveillance site visit of the SFSAG Northern Demersal stocks fishery. The Year 1 surveillance is due to take place onsite, with all auditors attending. CU(UK) are also planning to combine this site visit with the Year 4 surveillance and re-assessment for the SFSAG Rockall haddock fishery, for which a VR on the same clause is also being submitted. CU(UK) are requesting that the P1 assessor be allowed to join all meetings for the SFSAG Northern Demersal stocks Year 1 surveillance remotely, rather than in person.</p> <p>This does not affect any deadlines and there is no additional time requested as part of this VR.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Additional time requested</b>	
	<b>Original deadline date</b>	NA
	<b>Modified deadline date requested</b>	NA
	<b>Length of additional time requested</b>	NA
<b>3</b>	<b>Justification</b>	
	<p>CU(UK) are planning the Year 1 surveillance of the SFSAG Northern Demersal stocks fishery. CU(UK) has arranged a full team and is planning to be onsite, sometime in June 2023.</p> <p>To attend onsite, the P1 assessor will be traveling for a day to arrive in Aberdeen, Scotland. There are currently two open conditions on P1, with both of them having a milestone for the Year 1 audit. Much of the information related to P1 is available online, and provided by the client, and therefore the P1 will have a couple of clarifying questions for the client, but does not require as much time as other principles in this situation.</p> <p>Therefore, in terms of cost saving for the client as well as travel inconvenience, CU(UK) request that the P1 assessor is allowed to join remotely for this Year 1 surveillance site visit. It is expected that the P1 assessor will still continue to attend the audit meetings.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Implications for assessment</b>	
	<p>CU(UK) does not foresee any impacts to the Year 1 surveillance. The recent surveillances and re-assessment for this fishery were done with a complete remote team over the COVID-19 period and the results were not impacted by that either. Therefore, having one team member remote, with three team members onsite will not adversely impact the assessment.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Mitigation of the implication for assessment</b>	
	<p>No risks are identified in allowing the P1 to join remotely. The calls would be through MS Teams and the P1 assessor has already demonstrated good internet connection and ability to conduct meetings remotely during COVID-19 times.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</b>	

	The fishery currently has nine open conditions, two of which are on P1. These conditions on P1 will still be evaluated and progress included in the surveillance report. Therefore, their progress will not be affected. It remains the clients responsibility to demonstrate progress against the condition.
<b>7</b>	<b>What is the status of the current assessment?</b>
	Planning for announcement of surveillance before April 25 <sup>th</sup> 2023.
<b>8</b>	<b>Further comments</b>
	NA
<b>9</b>	<b>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</b>
	Relevant clause changed from 7.16 to 7.28.2