

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	13.08.18
Name of CAB	Acoura (Part of Lloyd's Register)
Fishery Name	AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut and Atlantic halibut fixed gear fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Paul Knapman/Polly Burns
Variation prepared by:	Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR V2.0 7.9.1: The team shall carry out the on-site assessment as planned.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No.

1. Proposed variation	
Acoura requests to have the Principle 1 assessor attending the site visit remotely, with the other 2 team members onsite.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>The AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut and Atlantic halibut fixed gear fishery will be having a site visit in October. In order to facilitate harmonisation and create efficiencies, we would like to have the same team as that of the Canada 0AB 2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut Bottom Trawl and Gillnet fishery. Our proposed Principle 1 assessor, Giuseppe Scarcella will have lecturing duties as term time will have re-started at the university he is employed at. This means he will struggle to travel long distances. Giuseppe has just attended the site visit for the Canada 0AB 2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut Bottom Trawl and Gillnet fishery, and all of the Principle 1 information was available remotely. It would be the same for this fishery and he is able to speak to the necessary people relating to this fishery via Skype. So that Giuseppe can remain on the team and bring his past experience and knowledge to the assessment we would like to be allowed a remote participation for Giuseppe in this case. Giuseppe can make himself available for meetings involving the onsite team and stakeholders by calling in using Skype or similar video conferencing facility.</p>	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
This will not have any other implications for the assessment. Stakeholders will still be able to discuss any concerns about Principle 1 remotely, and the other two team members will be onsite. The rest of the assessment process should be as normal and this change is not expected to have any risk for Acoura providing a rigorous assessment.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No – stakeholders will be notified when this request is published.
5. Further Comments	
This fishery was formally announced as "AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut' and consequently withdrawn. The client is now progressing with full assessment, adding in the UoA for Atlantic Halibut which explains the name change.	