



Geraldine Criquet  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 22/03/2022

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for Baie de Saint-Brieuc scallop dredge fishery**

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 14/03/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The Principle 3 assessor (Sophie Des Clers) to attend the site visit remotely, while the other team members will attend in person. Also, to allow the meeting with the scallop scientist from Ifremer to be held by conference call, with the full team attending remotely.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 state:

The team shall carry out the site visit as planned

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

**MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:**

- Only the P3 assessor will attend the site visit remotely. The rest of the assessment team will attend in person.
- There are multiple tools that can be used to engage with clients and stakeholders remotely.
- The client and stakeholders that are scheduled to attend the site visit are already aware that one of the team members will be attending remotely. The scallop scientist has also already accepted to meet the assessment team remotely. No issues have been raised, and the client has confirmed that they have adequate conference call equipment in place.
- The P3 assessor has knowledge of the French fisheries management system from her previous involvement in several other MSC assessments conducted in France. Her remote involvement will thus not affect the integrity of the assessment.
- P1 and P3 related fishery reports and documents can be transmitted electronically to the assessment team and this evidence can be easily and transparently checked remotely.
- Information related to the fishery management system is available online.
- The assessment team has not identified any large information gaps in P1 or P3 during the ACDR. No P1 or P3 Performance Indicators have draft scoring ranges of <60.
- During the site visit, all parties will be located in similar time zones, so meetings can be scheduled at reasonable and mutually convenient times.

**Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:**

- The CAB shall inform stakeholders that one of the team members will be attending the site visit remotely and clarify that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means.



- The CAB shall document within assessment reports that the P3 assessor attended the site visit remotely and justify why remote meetings with some stakeholders were necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: Assurance Services International