

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
	14 th March 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?
	None. A variation for this requirement has not previously been accepted for this assessment of these fisheries.

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 the Principle 1 assessor (Giuseppe Scarcella) and one of the Principle 2 assessors (Efthymia Tsitsika) to attend the site visit remotely while the other team members including the team leaders will attend in person.</p> <p>Also, to allow the meeting with the eNGOs to be held by conference call, with the full team attending remotely.</p>																									
	<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th rowspan="2">April 2022 audit</th><th colspan="3">Assessors</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</td><td>Conor Donnelly</td><td>Geir Hønneland</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland cod</td><td>Re-assessment</td><td>Giuseppe Scarcella</td><td>Efthymia Tsitsika</td><td>Geir Hønneland</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland haddock</td><td>Re-assessment</td><td>Giuseppe Scarcella</td><td>Efthymia Tsitsika</td><td>Geir Hønneland</td></tr></table>			Fishery	April 2022 audit	Assessors			P1	P2	P3	ISF Iceland greater silver smelt	Initial assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella	Conor Donnelly	Geir Hønneland	ISF Iceland cod	Re-assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella	Efthymia Tsitsika	Geir Hønneland	ISF Iceland haddock	Re-assessment	Giuseppe Scarcella	Efthymia Tsitsika	Geir Hønneland
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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. The Principle 1 assessor (Giuseppe Scarcella) and Principle 2 assessor (Efthymia Tsitsika) advised the lead assessor that they will not be able to travel during the period proposed for the site visit.</p> <p>The two eNGO representatives available to meet the assessment team are not based in Iceland and may not be available to meet with the team during the period proposed for the site visit and so a remote meeting is being scheduled.</p> <p>Global Trust Certification determines that the assessment will not be adversely affected by the Principle 1 and 2 assessor attending the site visit remotely and by the assessment team meeting with the eNGO representatives via conference call. 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.	<p>Information related to the target stocks and the ecosystem impact of the fisheries is readily available on-line (e.g. from the Fiskistofa and MFRI 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 these areas.</p> <p>In addition, Giuseppe Scarcella has knowledge of the Icelandic fisheries management system from previous involvement as Principle 1 assessor in several MSC assessments in Iceland.</p>																								

Table 2. Variation justification.

	<p>Sufficient communication capability to effectively plan, conduct interviews and facilitate information sharing.</p>	<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>Based on the above, Global Trust Certification determines that the ability to verify information remotely is high. Therefore, having the Principle 1 assessor and one of the Principle 2 assessors attending 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 1 assessor (Giuseppe Scarcella) and one of the Principle 2 assessors (Efthymia Tsitsika) will attend the site visit remotely while the other team members will attend in person. The meeting with the eNGO representative will be held by conference call, with the full team attending 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									
	<p>Given that negative implications have not been identified, mitigation is not necessary.</p>									
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?									
	<p>The status of each fishery is set out below.</p> <table><tr><th>Fishery</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland greater silver smelt</td><td>Entered assessment and announced 4th February 2022</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland cod</td><td>Re-assessment announced 4th March 2022</td></tr><tr><td>ISF Iceland haddock</td><td>Re-assessment announced 4th March 2022</td></tr></table>		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
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ISF Iceland haddock	Re-assessment announced 4 th March 2022									
8	Further comments									
	<p>No further comments.</p>									
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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