



Gemma Quílez-Badia  
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France  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 20/07/2022

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for Tien Giang hard clam fishery**

Dear Gemma Quílez-Badia,

I write with reference to your submission on 11/07/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The site visit for the initial audit has been planned as an on-site visit with the three team members traveling to Vietnam. However, BV requests that one of the team members (Gemma Quílez) can attend the meetings remotely, due to health issues.

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:**

- The site visit is scheduled to occur from the 29th August to the 6th September 2022 in Vietnam.
- The team lead and P3 assessor can attend all meetings remotely.
- Only the P3 assessor will attend the site visit remotely. The rest of the assessment team, including the local expert and native speaker of the local language, will attend in person.
- Two of the team members, including the one for whom the remote participation is requested, have been assessors for this fishery since the pre-assessment phase. They have knowledge of the fishery and its stakeholders and are familiar with the relevant information.

**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.

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