



Conor Donnelly
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Sent by email

Date: 18/03/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for ISF Iceland haddock

Dear Conor Donnelly,

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

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.

Also, to allow the meeting with the eNGOs to be held by conference call, with the full team attending remotely.

- ISF Iceland greater silver smelt (Initial assessment): P1 - Giuseppe Scarcella; P2 - Conor Donnelly; P3 - Geir Hønneland.
- ISF Iceland cod (Re-assessment): P1 - Giuseppe Scarcella; P2 - Efthymia Tsitsika; P3 - Geir Hønneland.
- ISF Iceland haddock (Re-assessment): P1 - Giuseppe Scarcella; P2 - Efthymia Tsitsika; P3 - Geir Hønneland.

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 P1 and P2 assessors advised the team leader that they will not be able to travel during the period for the site visit.
- The other team members, including the team leader, will attend the site visit in person.
- CAB determined that the assessment will not be adversely affected by part of the assessment team attending the visit remotely. Information on target stock and the ecosystem is readily available online and can be assessed remotely. There are ample opportunities and mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders via electronic means.
- The P1 assessor knows the Icelandic fisheries management system from previous involvement in several MSC assessments in Iceland.
- Remote meeting with the representatives of two NGOs has been scheduled since they are not based in Iceland.

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 two 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 P1 and P2 assessors 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