

Control Union (UK) Limited

Silla WCPO longline tuna fishery

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	30 th August 2022
2	CAB
	Control Union (UK) Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Silla WCPO longline tuna fishery – initial assessment
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Deirdre Duggan
5	Request prepared by
	Deirdre Duggan
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP v2.2, 7.16: Site Visit and Team Attendance: The team shall carry out the site visit as planned. G7.16: The full assessment team should attend all the meetings at the site visit. Submit a variation request (as per GCR 4.12) to the MSC where this could cause inconvenience, and where the assessment would not be adversely affected by some team members participating remotely.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	To carry out the site visit for the initial full assessment for the Silla WCPO longline tuna fishery onsite, but with the remote attendance of the Principle 1 auditor.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	NA
	Modified deadline date requested	NA
	Length of additional time requested	NA
3	Justification	
	<p>The assessment of the Silla WCPO longline tuna fishery will be taking place onsite in (place, date TBC). The Team Leader, Principle 2 assessor and Principle 3 assessor will all be attending the audit onsite.</p> <p>The Principle 1 auditor, Kevin McLoughlin, developed a medical condition in 2020. Kevin is based in Australia and requires a 10 hour flight to the site visit location in Republic of Korea. It is in the best interest of Kevin that long haul flights (≥ 4 hours) are avoided if possible, given his current health.</p> <p>CU (UK) therefore submit a variation request (as per GCR 4.12) to the MSC for Kevin McLoughlin, the Principle 1 auditor, to attend the initial full assessment site visit remotely.</p> <p>In view of the associated travel risks to Kevin McLoughlin, CU (UK) are proposing to hold the full assessment site visit on site, with the Principle 1 team member attending remotely (i.e., the client group, stakeholders, Team Leader, and team members (Principle 2 and 3)) will attend the site visit onsite, and the team member for Principle 1, Kevin McLoughlin, will attend remotely via videoconferencing.</p> <p>CU (UK) would like to highlight that most of the assessment team will be onsite, giving the confidence that the meeting will be successfully hosted onsite, with just one team member attending remotely, and the effectiveness of the meetings will be unaffected.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	<p>The assessment is not likely to be adversely affected by one team member participating remotely, as most of the information sought from the rest of the team will be obtained in person through meetings and interviews, and the Principle 1 assessor will be listening into these meetings and be able to participate via videoconferencing.</p> <p>Since the introduction of the first MSC Covid-19 derogation, CU (UK) have conducted many remote site visits for both surveillance audits, expedited audits, and new assessments. These include fisheries where translation & interpretation was required, and the process operated effectively. CU (UK) are therefore well experienced in successfully conducting remote audits, and in the case of this full assessment site visit, CU (UK) will have the team leader and two assessors on site (P2 and P3), making the meetings more feasible for the whole team.</p>	

	<p>The opportunity for stakeholder engagement will not be compromised by the attendance of one remote auditor, as the rest of the team will be onsite. CU (UK)'s auditors are very familiar with the tuna fisheries in this area, with all auditors currently or previously involved in a number of tropical tuna assessments in the region.</p> <p>For these reasons, CU (UK) do not consider that conducting the site visit with the Principle 1 assessor attending remotely, to compromise the integrity or robustness of the assessment, or the extent and effectiveness of stakeholder engagement in the assessment process.</p>
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment
	<p>The Team Leader will create a site visit agenda to ensure that during the meeting, any data gaps are addressed, all important matters are discussed, and that that the meeting runs smoothly. The agenda will include a list of questions, prepared by each team member, and this will be shared with the client ahead of time in order to ensure that the team and client will be prepared for the remote attendance of the Principle 1 assessor to ensure targeted, thorough initial audit meetings.</p> <p>A range of well-informed, relevant stakeholders will attend onsite with the team lead and two other assessors, and ensure that data gaps and potential fishery issues have been fully addressed, especially with matter relating to Principle 1.</p>
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	N/A – initial assessment
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	Initial assessment
8	Further comments
	N/A
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request