

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	March 25 th 2019
Name of CAB	SCS Global Services
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	PNG Fishing Industry Association's purse seine Skipjack & Yellowfin Tuna Fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Sian Morgan
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	7.4.7/8 The CAB shall confirm the proposed unit of assessment (UoA) (i.e., what is to be assessed) and Unit of Certification (UoC) 7.5.3 If events outside the CAB's control mean that team membership must change during an assessment, the CAB shall announce the new team members to stakeholders.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

The proposed variation against UoA and UoC definition (7.4.7/8)

The announcement documents and notification report have detailed what will be assessed as part of Principles 1, 2 and 3 and noted the UoA as provisional. However the precise UoA/UoC structure will not be confirmed until after the site visit.

The proposed variation against change in team membership (7.5.3)

An event outside of the CAB's control will mean that the Team Leader cannot attend the onsite meeting. The Team Leader will attend sessions remotely and the team's P1/P2 expert is also a Team Leader and can fulfil these requirements in person as needed. To be precautionary, the team will announce this change to the onsite to stakeholders, but does not need to modify the team for overall assessment purposes.

2. Rationale/Justification

Proposed variation against UoA and UoC definition (7.4.7/8)

This assessment has complexity caused by the number of set types, and overlapping aspects of P3 regulations that affect various waters in scope for assessment. SCS proposes that the precise UoA/UoC structure (i.e. how target stocks, gear types, fishing areas are combined) is kept flexible until after the site visit in order to optimise the assessment approach. Prior to publishing the PCDR, the UoA/UoC structure will be confirmed with stakeholders through a formal notification. Please note that SCS has already clearly detailed what is being assessed under P1, P2 and P3 as part of the standard announcement documents and noted the UoA as provisional; any changes to the client group, gears, fishing areas or any additions to the P1 target stocks will be subject to separate

variation requests as per standard procedures. We note that there is precedent for the acceptability of this type of approach via [prior variance requests](#) and updated guidance in V2.1 (G7.5.5).

The proposed variation against change in team membership (7.5.3)

SCS was unable to find a requirement for full assessment that stipulates that a Team Leader must attend an onsite meeting: nonetheless, we assume this is the MSC's intent and it is specified that team leaders shall attend surveillances (7.23.11.1). In this situation, the Team Leader will attend sessions remotely and the team's P1/P2 expert is also a Team Leader and will simultaneously fulfil these requirements in person as needed. In this way the onsite team fulfils all Fishery team qualifications and competency requirements specific in Table PC3. The team composition is not changing and the Team Leader will remain Sian Morgan for the remaining stages of the assessment.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

Proposed variation against UoA and UoC definition (7.4.7/8)

There will be no associated timeline delays and as previously stated, stakeholders will be made aware of the actual UoA/UoC structure via a notification ahead of/with the PCDR being published.

The proposed variation against change in team membership (7.5.3)

There will be no associated timeline delays and stakeholders will be notified to the modification in the onsite team via an announcement mounted on the MSC website prior to the onsite visit.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

See Part 3 above.

5. Further Comments

Please include any further relevant information.

