



Geraldine Criquet
SAI Global (SAI)

Sent by email

Date: 06/08/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 for ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 29/07/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

An additional site visit with two auditors on site (Virginia Polonio, lead auditor responsible for Traceability and P2; and Conor Donnelly, auditor responsible for Principle 3) and one auditor (Maciej Tomczak, auditor responsible for Principle 1) working off-site by supporting the auditor on-site via conference calls.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 state:

7.9.1 The team shall carry out the on-site assessment as planned. The team shall:

7.9.1.1 Conduct stakeholder interviews to make sure that the team is aware of any concerns or information that stakeholders may have: a. The team shall allow private interviews with the team for stakeholders who request one; b. The team shall use any information provided in private in conformity with the confidentiality requirements in 4.4; c. If stakeholders do not wish or are not able to be interviewed, the team shall inform them that they may send written information to the team

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:

- It's an additional on-site visit and the P1 assessor has already met all the stakeholders.
- Stakeholder ability to engage remotely is high.
- Relevant new information is easily verified remotely.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- AB makes clear that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means, including at mutually convenient physical locations where it is shown that this would be necessary to effectively communicate key issues.

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: Accreditation Services International