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Acoura Marine Ltd trading as LRQA

**PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna
purse seine fishery
MSC Variation Request**

1. Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1: Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
14/02/23	
2	CAB
LRQA	
3	Fishery name and certificate number
PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna purse seine fishery MSC-F-31362	
4	Lead auditor or program manager
Rob Blyth-Skyrme Tom Lopes Vieira	
5	Request prepared by
Tom Lopes Vieira	
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
FCP v.2.2 7.30.1	
7	How many times has a variation against this requirement been accepted during this assessment or audit of this fishery?
One previous variation	

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Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation
A VR was accepted on the 14/12/22 granting an extension to the ACDR announcement period by 2 months; LRQA is requesting to further extend the ACDR announcement period by 1 week.	
2	Additional time requested (where applicable)
Original deadline date	19 th of February 2023
Modified deadline date requested	26 th of February 2023
Number of additional days requested	7 days
3	Justification
<p>The justification for a further weeks extension is twofold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The P3 assessor's availability for this re-assessment, and thus their ability to commit to timeframes, has been severely challenged by personal circumstances beyond their control. 2) The P2 & TL for this assessment is heavily involved in the early adoption of Section SE proceedings; given recent progress and increased capacity this role has demanded, TL oversight of the report has been delayed too. <p>The deadline for announcing the reassessment for this fishery currently stands as the 19th of February 2023. An initial VR was submitted and accepted on this requirement in order to allow time for the ACDR to be prepared at a standard acceptable by the CAB and client, delayed by outputs of a recent objection to scope extended elements. A further VR against this requirement is now sought to allow time for the ACDR report to be prepared. This would give a new announcement deadline of 26th of February 2023, further extending the deadline by one week.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the ACDR delivery is delayed, LRQA anticipates there is a chance the reassessment may not be finalised by the certificate expiry date. 	
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment
LRQA will seek to deliver the ACDR as expeditiously as possible, as well as successive reporting stages (observing all consultation periods accordingly), in order to prevent further timeline delays.	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have?
The existing certificate currently has six open conditions, the progress/delivery of which is not expected to be impacted by this delay.	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The existing certificate for the PNA Tuna Fishery covers skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna in free school sets. LRQA is in the planning stage for re-assessment, which is yet to be announced, but will cover catches in all set types as required under FCP v.2.2 7.5.2 / 7.5.3. 	
8	Other relevant information
The P3 for this assessment has experienced a recent personal/familial emergency, and has only just returned from bereavement leave.	

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9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request

2. Template information and copyright

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.1' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2022. All rights reserved.

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (<https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents>).

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