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# LRQA

## Western Bering Sea Pollock (MSC-F-31513)

### MSC Variation Request

#### 1 Introduction

This form details the information required from Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to enable the MSC to consider a CAB application to vary from a clause or requirement in any of the MSC program documents (GCR 4.12).

Please complete all unshaded fields. Where instructions are included in *italics*, please delete and replace with your specific information. All grey boxes containing instructions may be deleted, e.g. the 'Introduction' section.

Once this variation form is completed, delete guidance, save it as a PDF file and upload to the MSC database. On receipt, the MSC will consider your request and will usually respond within 14 days.

Please note that all variation request forms and MSC responses to the request will be published on the MSC website along with other assessment documents associated with the specific fishery.

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## 2 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	19 December 2022
2	CAB
	Acoura Marine Ltd trading as LRQA
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Western Bering Sea Pollock (MSC-F-31513)
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Sam Dignan
5	Request prepared by
	Sam Dignan
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2 §7.28.8.1: The CAB may elect to undertake surveillance audits up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date, where this deviation is appropriate given the circumstances of the fishery.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	- e.g. Fill in 2 <sup>nd</sup> if a previous extension request on the 60 days requirement for surveillance reports has been accepted, and this request is for an additional time extension on top of that.
	None.

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**Table 2 – Variation justification**

1	Proposed variation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please describe how the CAB proposes to vary from the requirement including, where required, any original deadline date, the length of additional time requested and the exact modified deadline date.</li> </ul>	
	<p>LRQA propose that LRQA, or another accredited MSC Fishery CAB, be permitted to undertake the required first surveillance audit of this fishery within 9 months later than the anniversary date of the certificate.</p>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	06 January 2023
	Modified deadline date requested	06 April 2023
	Length of additional time requested	3 months
3	Justification	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please explain in detail why the variation is requested and why the change is necessary. This helps the MSC decide whether the variation request should be granted.</li> </ul>	
	<p>In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, LRQA took a decision to suspend all audit, inspection and surveillance work in Russia and on behalf of Russian companies. That decision remains in effect such that LRQA is not able to continue to provide services to our MSC fishery clients, and they have been instructed that they need to transfer their MSC certificates elsewhere. The pace and extra steps required of these Russian transfers have meant that they have not proceeded as quickly as all parties would have wished and some fisheries (including that subject to this request) have impending MSC-process related deadlines.</p> <p>The client in this case has now agreed with a new to transfer their West Bering Sea Pollock certificate (MSC-F-31513). However, it is unclear whether this will happen in time for the new CAB to announce a surveillance audit within the require anniversary date + 6 months audit window.</p> <p>While LRQA will not be conducting the next surveillance audit of this certificate, as the current CAB, we are the only ones who can submit a variation request on behalf of the fishery; therefore, we would request that it be permissible that the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit be conducted within the anniversary date of the certificate + 9 months (i.e. by 09 April 2023).</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include any impacts on the assessment/certificate if the request is accepted referencing any other requirements which may be affected, and the risks these implications could have.</li> <li>e.g. Timeline delays, stakeholder input.</li> </ul>	
	<p>There are no particular implications for the assessment beyond the fact that it will be conducted slightly later than as required by the relevant MSC requirement.</p>	

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5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include information how risks of the implications for the assessment that have been identified under the previous question are proposed to be mitigated by the CAB.</li> </ul>
	There are no particular implications for the assessment requiring mitigation.
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	The fishery has 4 open conditions. Their progress will not be affected positively or negatively by this requested albeit progress against condition milestones will be assessed slightly later than it would have been in normal circumstances.
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include the latest version and timing of the report that has been prepared, and an indication when the next report is expected (e.g. the Client and Peer Review Draft Report has been sent to the client and the peer reviewers on 7 June 2018. The Public Comment Draft Report is expected to be ready on 1 September 2018).</li> </ul>
	There is no current assessment or audit. The last assessment conducted was the initial assessment of this fishery which was completed (PCR published) 06 July 2021.
8	Further comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include any further relevant information.</li> </ul>
	The situation with these Russian MSC certificates is an unusual one that has taken some time to unravel. We are hopeful that the situation is nearing a conclusion and that the remaining Russian certificates issued by LRQA will be transferred shortly.
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request

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### 3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'.

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#### Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website ([msc.org](http://msc.org)).

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