

Control Union Pesca Ltd.

Namibia hake fishery

MSC Variation Request

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1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

| | |
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| 1 | Date submitted to MSC |
| | 28 th August 2019 |
| 2 | CAB |
| | Control Union Pesca Ltd. |
| 3 | Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number |
| | Namibia hake fishery |
| 4 | Lead auditor or programme manager |
| | Hugh Jones |
| 5 | Request prepared by |
| | Hugh Jones |
| 6 | Scheme requirement for which variation requested |
| | FCR 7.4.10 “The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment...” |
| 7 | How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery? |
| | Zero |

Table 2 – Variation justification

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | Proposed variation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | The CAB is proposing that instead of two Units of Assessments, as currently announced, the assessment is split into four. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Additional time requested | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Original deadline date | N/A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Modified deadline date requested | N/A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Length of additional time requested | N/A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Justification | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>The current UoAs for this fishery assessment are as follows:</p> <p>Table 1. Unit of Assessment (UoA 1) – Deep water hake demersal trawl</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Species</td> <td>Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographical range</td> <td>Namibian EEZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Method of capture</td> <td>Demersal trawl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stock</td> <td>Namibian deep water hake stock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management Systems</td> <td>Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Client group</td> <td>Namibian Hake Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible fishers</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table> <p>Table 2. Unit of Assessment (UoA 2) –shallow water hake demersal trawl</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Species</td> <td>shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographical range</td> <td>Namibian EEZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Method of capture</td> <td>Demersal trawl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stock</td> <td>Namibian shallow water hake stock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management Systems</td> <td>Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Client group</td> <td>Namibian Hake Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible fishers</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table> <p>Table 3. Unit of Assessment (UoA 2) – Deep water hake demersal longline</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Species</td> <td>Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>)</td> </tr> </table> | | Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) | Geographical range | Namibian EEZ | Method of capture | Demersal trawl | Stock | Namibian deep water hake stock | Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) | Client group | Namibian Hake Association | Other eligible fishers | None | Species | shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>) | Geographical range | Namibian EEZ | Method of capture | Demersal trawl | Stock | Namibian shallow water hake stock | Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) | Client group | Namibian Hake Association | Other eligible fishers | None | Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) |
| Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Method of capture | Demersal trawl | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock | Namibian deep water hake stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other eligible fishers | None | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Species | shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Method of capture | Demersal trawl | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock | Namibian shallow water hake stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other eligible fishers | None | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal longline |
| Stock | Namibian deep water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

Table 4. Unit of Assessment (UoA 4) –shallow water hake demersal trawl

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Species | shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>) |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal trawl |
| Stock | Namibian shallow water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

It is proposed to change UoA 1 and 3 to take into account a revised stock identity:

Table 5. Unit of Assessment (UoA 1) – Deep water hake demersal longline

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal longline |
| Stock | Benguela deep water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Namibia Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), South Africa Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Benguela Current Commission (BCC) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

Table 6. Unit of Assessment (UoA 2) – Shallow water hake demersal longline

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Species | Shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>) |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal longline |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Stock | Namibian shallow water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and Benguela Current Commission (BCC) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

Table 7. Unit of Assessment (UoA 3) – Deep water hake demersal trawl

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Species | Deep water hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal trawl |
| Stock | Benguela deep water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Namibia Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), South Africa Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Benguela Current Commission (BCC) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

Table 8. Unit of Assessment (UoA 4) – Shallow water hake demersal trawl

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Species | Shallow water hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>) |
| Geographical range | Namibian EEZ |
| Method of capture | Demersal trawl |
| Stock | Namibian shallow water hake stock |
| Management Systems | Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and Benguela Current Commission (BCC) |
| Client group | Namibian Hake Association |
| Other eligible fishers | None |

The assessment still involves two fishing gears, the demersal trawl and demersal longline, which was the original rationale for four UoAs. The justification for the defining of the *M. paradoxus* UoAs stems from a better understanding on the shared stock status of *M. paradoxus* with South Africa. This has been clarified through the site visit and also harmonisation discussions with the South Africa MSC hake assessment team. Harmonisation discussions between the CABs (CU Pesca and Lloyds Register) began during this fishery's site visit in March 2018. The South African hake fishery is now in re-assessment, following the Fisheries Certification Process, whose site visit is scheduled for later this year (provisionally Oct 2019).

Through harmonisation discussions, there is consensus between both assessment teams (and stock scientists) that *M. paradoxus* is a shared resource between Namibia and South Africa, with *M. paradoxus* spawning in South African waters and dispersing into Namibian waters. The Benguela Current Commission

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| | <p>(BCC), has an established demersal working group comprising Namibian, South African and Angolan scientists and managers that have been reviewing and considering the hake shared stocks issue and how best to address this moving forward from a management perspective. The most recent harmonisation call was on the 28th June 2019, resulted in the sharing of reports and rationales, as well as a shared condition on PI 3.1.1. Further discussions are scheduled which will focus on harmonising Principle 1 <i>M. paradoxus</i> UoA scores and also relevant areas of Principle 3. To the contrary, there is also agreement that <i>M. capensis</i> have discrete populations in both countries' waters and therefore does not require Principle 1 and 3 harmonisation.</p> <p>The result of the team's current understanding means the <i>M. paradoxus</i> UoAs are no longer representative of the assessment taking place with respect to the scale of the stock. The reclassification of <i>M. paradoxus</i> is not only necessary for the correct assessment of the stock, but also for harmonisation with the South Africa hake assessment.</p> <p>The assessment is requesting the variation to allow more streamlined harmonisation of relevant Principle 1 and 3 scoring of <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> to continue between CABs.</p> |
| 4 | If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment |
| | <p>Given that the report is yet to reach public comment stage, there is clear and structured opportunity for stakeholders to make comment on the report or bring new information pertinent to the scoring of the fishery in the assessment for the assessment team's consideration. Stakeholders would be informed directly regarding the change in UoAs, should this Variation Request be accepted.</p> <p>Acceptance of the variation request will result in restructuring of the scoring of Principle 1 to separate the two hake stocks with PI's scored separately for each. This will also require some separation of Principle 3 scoring where different national and international jurisdictions need consideration.</p> |
| 5 | If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment |
| | N/A, as no assessment implications are perceived. As mentioned above, stakeholders will be directly notified if the UoAs are permitted to be changed. |
| 6 | If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)? |
| | Zero. The fishery is currently in assessment. |
| 7 | What is the status of the current assessment? |
| | The fishery is currently in assessment. The client draft report has been drafted, and is waiting for further harmonisation discussions with another CAB prior to sending to the Peer Review College. |
| 8 | Further comments |
| | - Please include any further relevant information. |
| 9 | If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request |
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