

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	April 20 th , 2017.
Name of CAB	DNVGL
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Iceland North East Atlantic Blue Whiting
Lead Auditor Programme Manager	Lucia Revenga (Lead Auditor) Stefan Midteide (Programme Manager)
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment unless: 7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
<p>a) To change gear from Danish Seine to Purse Seine for UoA and UoC</p> <p>b) To change the geographic scope of the certificate from Northeast Atlantic to Iceland and Faroese waters only, for UoA and UoC</p> <p>c) To group assessment of two gear types into one UoC and UoA respectively.</p>	
The proposed Unit of Assessments and Units of Certifications are:	
Unit of Assessment 1	
Target stock(s)	North East Atlantic Blue Whiting
Fishing method or gear type(s), vessel type(s) and/or practices	Pelagic trawl & Purse seine
The fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock including those client group members initially intended to be covered by the certificate	The group of vessels includes all operators of fishing vessels in Iceland. There are no other eligible fishers.
Location of fishery	The fishery is restricted to take place within Icelandic territorial waters and Faroese territorial waters. This includes ICES areas Va1, Va2 (Icelandic waters) and ICES areas Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2 (Faroese territorial waters). Icelandic and Faroese territorial waters also have overlaps with the following subareas: Va1, Va2, IIa2, XIIa4, XIVa, XIVb (Iceland) and Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2, IIa2 and Iva (Faroese).
Management System	The fishery is managed under ICES advice, Coastal state (Iceland) management regime. Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Iceland; Directorate of Fisheries; Icelandic Coastguard Service

Unit of Assessment 2	
Target stock(s)	North East Atlantic Blue Whiting
Fishing method or gear type(s), vessel type(s) and/or practices	Bottom trawl
The fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock including those client group members initially intended to be covered by the certificate	The group of vessels includes all operators of fishing vessels in Iceland. There are no other eligible fishers.
Location of fishery	The fishery is restricted to take place within Icelandic territorial waters and Faroese territorial waters. This includes ICES areas Va1, Va2 (Icelandic waters) and ICES areas Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2 (Faroese territorial waters). Icelandic and Faroese territorial waters also have overlaps with the following subareas: Va1, Va2, IIa2, XIIa4, XIVa, XIVb (Iceland) and Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2, IIa2 and Iva (Faroese)
Management System	The fishery is managed under ICES advice, Coastal state (Iceland) management regime. Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Iceland; Directorate of Fisheries; Icelandic Coastguard Service
Unit of Certification 1	
Target stock(s)	North East Atlantic Blue Whiting
Fishing method or gear type(s), vessel type(s) and/or practices	Pelagic trawl & Purse seine. Icelandic vessels carry both gears at the same time in their vessels. Pelagic trawl and purse seines will be treated as different scoring elements.
The fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock including those client group members initially intended to be covered by the certificate	The group of vessels includes all operators of fishing vessels in Iceland. There are no other eligible fishers.
Location of fishery	The fishery is restricted to take place within Icelandic territorial waters and Faroese territorial waters. This includes ICES areas Va1, Va2 (Icelandic waters) and ICES areas Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2 (Faroese territorial waters). Icelandic and Faroese territorial waters also have overlaps with the following subareas: Va1, Va2, IIa2, XIIa4, XIVa, XIVb (Iceland) and Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2, IIa2 and Iva (Faroese).
Management System	The fishery is managed under ICES advice, Coastal state (Iceland) management regime. Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Iceland; Directorate of Fisheries; Icelandic Coastguard Service

Unit of Certification 2

Target stock(s)	North East Atlantic Blue Whiting
Fishing method or gear type(s), vessel type(s) and/or practices	Bottom trawl
The fishing fleets or groups of vessels or individual fishing operators pursuing that stock including those client group members initially intended to be covered by the certificate	The group of vessels includes all operators of fishing vessels in Iceland. There are no other eligible fishers.
Location of fishery	The fishery is restricted to take place within Icelandic territorial waters and Faroese territorial waters. This includes ICES areas Va1, Va2 (Icelandic waters) and ICES areas Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2 (Faroese territorial waters). Icelandic and Faroese territorial waters also have overlaps with the following subareas: Va1, Va2, IIa2, XIIa4, XIVa, XIVb (Iceland) and Vb1a, Vb1b, Vb2, IIa2 and Iva (Faroese).
Management System	The fishery is managed under ICES advice, Coastal state (Iceland) management regime. Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Iceland; Directorate of Fisheries; Icelandic Coastguard Service

2. Rationale/Justification

The modification is requested to clarify the certification documents and to ensure that the certificate corresponds to the actual gears used and the relevant areas used for fishing.

- A) Modification regarding gear. During the on-site assessment, the information from the client showed that Danish Seine was not used for this fishery, but instead Purse Seine was used. Previous information from the client indicated the use of Danish seine. However, this was a misunderstanding and during the site visit it was made clear that the fishery does not use Danish seine but purse seine and pelagic trawl. Purse seine and pelagic trawl will be scored as different scoring elements of the same UoC, due to the similarities that the different gears have on the ecosystem.
- The bottom trawl fleet does not target blue whiting but blue whiting is caught as part of the catch composition. It is the wish of the client to maintain bottom trawl as a UoC in order to facilitate traceability and chain of custody of all blue whiting caught by Icelandic vessels.
- B) Modification regarding fishing areas: During the on-site assessment information from the client showed that the fishery takes place in a smaller geographical area than previously communicated. The pelagic fleet targeting blue whiting at present takes place in Faroese waters (Faroe EEZ), and not in other jurisdictions, while the bottom trawl fleet targeting other species (for which blue whiting is only a bycatch species) at present only fishes in Icelandic EEZ. There is potential for both fishing gears to move in the future among these areas (Icelandic and Faroese waters), therefore it is considered that both areas should be included in the relevant UoCs.
- The fishery is not likely to take place in other areas in the future (apart from Icelandic and Faroese waters) and the client does not see a need to have the certificate covering a wider area than what is requested.
- C) Grouping of unit of certification according to gear type. The sustainability impact of Pelagic

trawl & Purse seine is identical and the scoring for the two gear types are identical through the assessment. These two gear types have been grouped together in the report, but will be evaluated as different scoring elements of the same UoC.

The requested change does not change the sustainability status of the fishery, but rather ensures clarity in terms of the scope of the certificate.

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

None

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

Stakeholders will be informed once variation is accepted.

5. Further Comments

None