

SAI Global

ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine

(The Norwegian spring spawning herring component of the fishery)

MSC Variation Request

1 Introduction

This form details the information SAI Global is required to submit to the MSC to enable the MSC to consider an application to vary from a clause or requirement in any of the MSC program documents.

Once a Variation Request has been submitted the MSC will consider that request and will usually respond within 14 days.

2 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1. Variation request.

1	Date submitted to MSC
	21 st February 2020
2	CAB
	SAI Global
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine / MSC-F-30021
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Géraldine Criquet
5	Request prepared by
	Géraldine Criquet
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	<p>Variation A MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.5.6 <i>The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.</i></p> <p>Variation B MSC FCR v.2.0 7.3.2 <i>If the period from the full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Final Report by the MSC is more than 18th months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment.</i></p>
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	<p>Variation A 2 times - A variation for this requirement has been accepted on 18th February 2019 and then in 19th October 2019, see section 8 Further comments.</p> <p>Variation B 0 time</p>

Table 2. Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	<p>Variation A SAI Global proposes to further extend the validity of the fishery certificate.</p> <p>Variation B SAI Global proposes to not withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process after the 7th March 2020 which is 18 months from the re-assessment announcement.</p>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	28 th February 2020
	Modified deadline date requested	30 th June 2020
	Length of additional time requested	4 months and 2 days
3	Justification	
	<p>The below justification applies for both Variations A and B.</p> <p>The fishery certificate has been transferred from Lloyd's Register to SAI Global on 12th July 2019.</p> <p>Substantial delays occurred since the re-assessment has been announced back in September 2018 due to extensive harmonisation activities and several re-scorings of Principle 1 to take into account new ICES advices and MSC's clarification on how to score Principle 1 in the case that PI 1.1.1 is scored less than 80 during the certification cycle and there is no rebuilding plan in place for the stock; to the extent that the re-assessment process was at the preliminary Client Draft Report stage when the certificate was transferred to SAI Global in July 2019.</p> <p>The certificate transfer led to additional delay to allow a) additional stakeholder consultation period of 30 days following the change of assessment team and proposed additional site visit; b) an additional site visit that was held mid-August and c) SAI Global's team to review all information and data available and collected to re-score the fishery.</p> <p>Following the additional site visit and preliminary scoring, further delay occurred due to further harmonisation activities on Principle 3 which were initiated in December 2019.</p> <p>Note that the current harmonisation for Principle 3 involves all North East Atlantic pelagic fisheries currently in the MSC Fisheries Certification Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlanto-Scandian herring fisheries - North East Atlantic mackerel fisheries - North East Atlantic blue whiting <p>Principle 3 harmonisation meetings were held on 17th January 2020 and 7th February 2020.</p> <p>Given the complex situation with numerous overlapping fisheries under different timelines and different versions of the certification processes, the CABs group requested several guidances and interpretations to the MSC regarding the correct process to follow.</p> <p>During the MSC tripartite meeting held in London on February 18th-20th, MSC provided the CABs group with an update regarding the status of CABs interpretation requests. CABs have been advised that interpretations are expected to be issued end of March 2020.</p>	

Table 2. Variation justification.

	<p>If variations A and B are granted, it will allow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Time to MSC to review CABs interpretation requests and issue interpretations. 2) SAI Global to review and apply these interpretations. 3) The CABs group to finalise the harmonisation process to ensure that conclusions are consistent between the overlapping fisheries in respect to evaluation, scoring and conditions.
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment
	If Variation A is granted, it will imply that MSC FCR v.2.0 7.3.2 will not be conformed with.
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment
	The present VR includes variation B against MSC FCR v.2.0 7.3.2 to be able to continue the re-assessment process and not to withdraw the fishery after the 7 th March 2020.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	<p>A VR to carry over condition on 3.1.1 into re-assessment with the intention to harmonise condition timeline across all four certified Atlanto-Scandian herring fisheries was granted on 17th December 2018.</p> <p>In addition, as per the 4th surveillance report posted on April 2019, conditions on PIs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 remain open and timelines are aligned with condition on 3.1.1.</p> <p>As part of the harmonisation process, CABs are actively cooperating to align conditions timelines for all Atlanto-Scandian herring fisheries.</p>
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	The fishery is currently under re-assessment at the Client Draft Report stage. The Client Draft Report will be provided to the client for review once scoring and harmonisation activities will be completed which is expected to be in April after the issue of MSC interpretations.
8	Further comments
	<p>Original certificate expiry date: 28th May 2019</p> <p>Date extended via the 18th February 2019 variation: 28th October 2019</p> <p>Date extended via the 18th October 2019 variation: 28th February 2020</p> <p>Proposed date to extend to via the present variation: 30th June 2020</p>
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	N/A

3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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Table 3. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
3.1	28 March 2019	Non-substantive changes to improve clarity and usability

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

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