

# Global Trust Certification

## Maldives pole & line skipjack tuna

### MSC Variation Request

#### 1 Introduction

This form details the information Global Trust 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
	28 September 2022
2	CAB
	Global Trust Certification Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Maldives pole & line skipjack tuna
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Geraldine Criquet, lead auditor
5	Request prepared by
	Geraldine Criquet
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	<b>MSC FCP v.2.2 §7.16.1</b> "The team shall carry out the site visit as planned." <b>MSC Guidance to the FCP v.2.2 §7.16</b> "The full assessment team should attend all the meetings at the site visit. Where this could cause unreasonable costs or inconvenience, and where the assessment would not be adversely affected by some team members participating remotely, the CAB may submit a variation request."
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	None. A variation for this requirement has not previously been accepted for this assessment of this fishery.

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	To allow the Principle 1 assessor (Jo Gascoigne) to attend the site visit remotely while the other team members will attend in person.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	Not applicable
	Modified deadline date requested	Not applicable
	Length of additional time requested	Not applicable
3	Justification	

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

<p>The site visit is scheduled for the 31 October to 4 November 2022 in Maldives Islands.</p> <p>The Principle 1 assessor advised the lead assessor that she will not be able to travel during the period proposed for the site visit.</p> <p>Global Trust Certification determines that the assessment will not be adversely affected by the Principle 1 assessor attending the site visit remotely. An assessment of the information availability and ability to verify information remotely is presented in the Table below.</p>	
<b>Risk areas</b>	<b>Ability to verify remotely</b>
<p>Sufficient information to enable an effective and robust fishery assessment process and comprehensive assessment against the MSC Fisheries Standard.</p>	<p>The assessment team has indicated the available information used to assign draft score ranges in the Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR). The assessment team has not identified information gaps in Principles 1. No Principles 1 Performance Indicator has a draft score range of &lt;60 reported in the ACDR.</p> <p>Principles 1 fishery reports and documented evidence can be easily and transparently checked remotely and can be transmitted electronically to the assessment team in a form that can be easily interpreted.</p> <p>Moreover, the following Principles 1 related documents have been transmitted electronically to the assessment team for the ACDR drafting stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Ocean skipjack tuna stock assessment report.</li> <li>• IOTC Conservation Management Measures</li> <li>• Skipjack tuna catches</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Jo Gascoigne has knowledge of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna stock assessment and harvest strategy from previous involvement as Principle 1 assessor in the 2021 surveillance audit for this fishery and in the full assessment for the CFTO Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack fishery.</p>
<p>Sufficient communication capability to effectively plan, conduct interviews and facilitate information sharing.</p>	<p>There are ample opportunities and mechanisms to engage with clients and stakeholders including electronic forms of communication such as conference calls.</p> <p>The client group is already aware that one of the team members is to attend meetings remotely.</p> <p>English is the common language spoken by the client and stakeholders. All the assessment team members are native/fluent English speakers therefore the assessment team is able to clearly exchange information with the client and stakeholders and to be clearly understood by all parties.</p> <p>During the on-site visit, the Principle 1 assessor will be 4h behind of Maldives Islands. Therefore, meetings can be scheduled at reasonable mutually convenient times.</p>
<p>Based on the above, Global Trust Certification determines that the ability to verify information remotely is high. Therefore, having the Principle 1 attending the site visit remotely is considered as a low risk. The assessment team 's ability to deliver a robust stakeholder consultation process would not be impaired.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Implications for assessment</b>
<p>The Principle 1 assessor (Jo Gascoigne) will attend the site visit remotely while the other team members will attend in person.</p>	

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

	Global Trust Certification has not identified negative implications determining that the ability to verify information remotely is high.
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment
	Given that negative implications have not been identified, mitigations are not necessary.
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	<p>There are four conditions that are open at the time of the reassessment announcement.</p> <p>Condition 1 on PI 3.2.3 was set during the 1<sup>st</sup> reassessment and the deadline for closing is the 4<sup>th</sup> surveillance audit which was announced at the same time than this reassessment.</p> <p>Conditions 2 &amp; 3 on PIs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 were set during the 2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance audit and condition 4 on PI 3.2.2 was set during the 3<sup>rd</sup> surveillance audit as part of harmonisation activities between CABs assessing Indian Ocean skipjack fisheries. These three conditions are carried over into the reassessment.</p> <p>Their progress will not be affected either positively or negatively.</p>
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	The 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance and reassessment were announced on 28 September 2022.
8	Further comments
	<p>Global Trust Certification confirms that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholders will be informed that the Principle 1 will be attending the site visit remotely, and that all team members are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means.</li> <li>2. All the next versions of the assessment report will specify that the P1 assessor attended the site visit remotely.</li> </ol>
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request

### 3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with Global Trust Certification's corporate identity, Global Trust 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	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

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

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