



Henry Earnst
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Sent by email

Date: 04/05/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for Fukuichi Western and Central Pacific Ocean longline bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tuna

Dear Henry Earnst,

I write with reference to your submission on 28/04/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

CU UK proposes to hold the site visit remotely for the initial assessment of this fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 state:

The team shall carry out the site visit as planned

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

- The travel restrictions into Japan at the time of announcement require mandatory 3-day quarantine upon entry into the country
- Some of the audit team members and their vulnerable family members are considered to be at risk if they were to contract COVID-19.
- The Team Leader will ensure that a detailed list of questions is prepared by each team member, and is sent to the client group ahead of time in order to ensure that the remote meetings are prepared for as much as possible, and to ensure targeted thorough initial audit meetings.
- The Team Leader will also request a flow-of-goods presentation to be prepared by the client representatives in order to understand in great detail the process in place when the catch is landed.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

The CAB shall publish a stakeholder announcement including the planned dates of the site visit and an explanation of how stakeholders can participate.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International