

**Marine Stewardship Council
Variation Request Form**

Date submitted to MSC	29 August 2012
Certification Body	Intertek Moody Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	PNA Western and Central Pacific Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) unassociated and log set purse seine Fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Ian Scott
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CRV1.2 Section 27.22.5
Proposed variation	
Instead of the on-site visit taking place in the Marshall Islands (the location of the PNA office) permission is requested to allow a variation so that the on-site visit can take place with PNA officials and advisors in Cairns, Australia.	
Rationale/Justification	
<p>Eight countries belong to the PNA which has its office in Majuro, Marshall Islands. Activities to be completed during the on-site visit in order to meet with CRV2 Sections 27.2.4 and 27.2.5 (27.2.5.1 actively seek the views of the client and stakeholders about: a. The fishery. b. Its performance in relation to any relevant conditions of certification. c. Issues relevant to the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. 27.22.5.2 Hold stakeholder interviews to ensure that the team is aware of any concerns of stakeholders. a. Where stakeholders do not wish to be interviewed they shall be informed that they may submit written information to the team. 27.22.5.3 Select areas to inspect within the fishery for current or recent management activity for continued conformity with the MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing, such as: a. Review any potential or actual changes in management systems. b. Review any changes or additions/deletions to regulations. c. Review any personnel changes in science, management or industry to evaluate impact on the management of the fishery. d. Review any potential changes to the scientific base of information, including stock assessments) would consist of interviews with the staff and advisors to the PNA, plus meetings / submissions from stakeholders.</p> <p>Due to the logistics of international travel, any on-site visit to the Marshall Islands would result in a high cost to the client (working days / travel / subsistence by the auditors and advisors). The PNA staff and advisors can equally well provide the required information at a location that does not need so many days travel. At the same time, an on-site visit to the Marshall Islands is unlikely to facilitate stakeholder involvement. Given that the inputs and outputs from an on-site visit to Cairns would be the same as one to Majuro, we consider that this request does not alter the conformity of the applicant or certificate holder with the MSC standard. On that basis, a variation is requested to allow the on-site visit to be held in Cairns, Australia where the auditors would meet with the relevant personnel and any stakeholders who would be available. To facilitate stakeholder interviews it may be possible for the auditors to meet with those wishing to be interviewed while en route to / from the on-site visit; the potential need for this will not be known until stakeholders respond to the announcement of the on-site visit.</p>	
Implications for assessment	
The audit team will meet with the same people in Cairns as it would in Majuro and have access to the same documentation. Stakeholder input may be facilitated. There would be a significant cost saving to the client. Approval of the variation request would have no implications for the timeline and would not affect the inputs and outputs of the annual surveillance process.	
Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request?	No. The details would be provided in the announcement of the on-site visit, which would be posted at the end of September, 2012 for the provisional visit date of week beginning November 11, 2012. This would provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment.
Further Comments	
None	
Confidential Information	
None	