

## bio.inspecta (mandated by q.inspecta) Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline fishery

### Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

|   |  |
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| 1 | 22 November 2019   |
| 2 | CAB  |
|   | bio.inspecta (mandated by q.inspecta)  |
| 3 | Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number  |
|   | Walker Seafoods Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish longline   |
| 4 | Lead auditor or program manager  |
|   | Dr Sabine Daume  |
| 5 | Request prepared by  |
|   | Dr Sabine Daume  |
| 6 | Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested  |
|   | FCP v 2.1 7.28.23<br>The surveillance report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website. |
| 7 | How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?   |
|   | Once previously. A variance was approved to extend the timeline for 4 weeks.   |

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

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| 1 | Proposed variation   |
|   | We propose to finalise the surveillance report after the next Tropical Tuna Resource Assessment Group (TTRAG) meeting and before the 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. |

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| 2 | Additional time requested   |  |
|   | Original deadline date  | 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2019                    |
|   | Modified deadline date requested  | 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2020                   |
|   | Length of additional time requested   | 3 months (+ 4 weeks extension previously grated) |
| 3 | Justification   |  |
|   | <p>The anticipated Tropical Tuna Resource Assessment Group (TTRAG) meeting has been postponed until early next year. The TTRAG is the key research and scientific committee for the management of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. Walker Seafoods albacore, yellowfin and swordfish fishery is part of the ETBF.</p> <p>The last updates, specifically considering the work currently conducted on the swordfish harvest strategy, were provided at the TTRAG meeting in July 2019 (before the surveillance audit on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019). The next updates were anticipated before the surveillance report was originally due in late October 2019. The meeting has now been postponed until early next year.</p> <p>At the meeting, updates on the harvest strategy project for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) including swordfish are going to be provided. The project was funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in early 2019 and is well on its way (as evident by the TTRAG meeting minutes from March and July 2019). These results will form the basis for the assessment towards meeting condition 7 (Harvest control rules and tools for swordfish) which is due to be closed out during this surveillance audit.</p> <p>The ACDR for the re-assessment of the fishery is imminent (posted on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019). Indicative scores for all of Principle 1 (tuna and swordfish species) are provided at that time.</p> |  |
| 4 | If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment  |  |
|   | There are no implications as the provisional score ranges and rationales will be made public as part of the ACDR.   |  |
| 5 | If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implications for assessment  |  |
|   | NA  |  |
| 6 | If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?  |  |
|   | There are 10 conditions and progress will not be affected. The delay will allow the team to fully consider the latest analysis and updates on the harvest strategy project to determine the progress against condition 7.   |  |
| 7 | What is the status of the current assessment or audit?  |  |
|   | The fishery is at the 4 <sup>th</sup> annual surveillance and due to start re-assessment this year. The last surveillance report (by Control Union Pesca) was posted on the 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019, only 4 months before the 4 <sup>th</sup> audit was conducted due to the re-assessment timelines.  |  |
| 8 | Further comments  |  |

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|   | None of the target species are considered to be overfished or subject to overfishing. We have been advised that the ARC funded project has commenced but need to fully review the analysis which will also be provided to the TTRAG meeting in early 2020. |
| 9 | If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request  |
|   |  |