



Virginia Polonio  
SAI Global (SAI)

**Sent by email**

Date: 07/12/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for ISF Iceland mackerel**

Dear Virginia Polonio,

I write with reference to your submission on 30/11/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Submission of the surveillance report for publication within 4 months and 13 days after the completion of the audit, which will be by January 31st 2019.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:**

- New information became available after the audit that indicates a major change in stock status
- A previous request was granted to delay submission of surveillance report to 21st Dec to allow additional time for re-scoring and harmonisation
- Harmonisation between CABs resulted in the decision for expedited audits in the overlapping fisheries
- Expedited audits for overlapping fisheries will occur after the extended deadline in early Jan 2019
- A further extension is to allow for harmonisation with all overlapping fisheries

**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 can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard
- The CAB is aware that this variation does not supersede the requirements and associated guidance set out in GCR v2.2 7.4
- Deadline extended to 31st January 2019
- Stakeholders are informed

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: Accreditation Services International