

## **Control Union Pesca Ltd.**

# **Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery MSC Variation Request**

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# 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

<b>1</b>	<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>
	09 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>2</b>	<b>CAB</b>
	Control Union Pesca Ltd.
<b>3</b>	<b>Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number</b>
	Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead auditor or programme manager</b>
	Rob Blyth-Skyrme (TL),
<b>5</b>	<b>Request prepared by</b>
	Hugh Jones (PM)
<b>6</b>	<b>Scheme requirement for which variation requested</b>
	[FCP V2.1] 7.28.8.1 The CAB may elect to undertake surveillance audits up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date, where this deviation is appropriate given the circumstances of the fishery
<b>7</b>	<b>How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?</b>
	One

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

<b>1</b>	<b>Proposed variation</b>	
	<p>The certificate anniversary for the Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery is the 7<sup>th</sup> September. The Announcement of the year 2 surveillance audit for this fishery was made on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with the on-site audit set for the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 . For the reasons detailed in the justification, below, the CAB is requesting a further 6 weeks to complete the site visit for this audit.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Additional time requested</b>	
	<b>Original deadline date</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
	<b>Modified deadline date requested</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
	<b>Length of additional time requested</b>	6 weeks
<b>3</b>	<b>Justification</b>	
	<p>CUP were appointed as the responsible CAB for this fishery immediately prior to the year 2 surveillance audit. The certificate transfer for this fishery included the required desk-based pre-transfer review [GCR2.4.1] – 4.11.3 where it was determined that the fishery should be subject to on-site audits, due to the complex nature of the current conditions on the fishery.</p> <p>The year 2 audit process for the Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna (PAST) Fishery was published on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. On the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 the MSC published a derogation on the need for on-site audits (7.28.2) in lieu of the ongoing Corona virus outbreak.</p> <p>In undertaking a review of the conditions associated with this fishery and the need for the rescoring of both Principle 1 stocks against the FCR2.01 as part of the Principle 1 upgrade (TUNA_MEGAVR Appendix B), the CAB considers that it is not possible to adequately audit the fishery remotely.</p> <p>In this regard we note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment team appointed to the fishery is new and assessment against the conditions and Principle 1 upgrade requires interaction with a wide variety of interested parties:</li> <li>• The fishery has conditions on all three Principles, some of which have a high level of complexity.</li> <li>• Interacting with stakeholders directly allows a much better understanding to be attained of the fishery, stock assessment considerations and the management approach;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attending the site visit in person ensures a efficiency in the review and technical clarification of evidence given the difference in languages.</li> <li>▪ The client is in agreement that there is a need for the audit team to undertake a visit to the fishery.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>At present it is unclear whether travel restrictions will apply prior to the current site visit planned date and we are therefore suggesting a further delay of 6 weeks to enable the situation to become clearer. In the event that travel is still inadvisable by May, the additional delay will allow time for a remote audit to be planned and executed in much more detail, with the expectation that the audit would be undertaken in a manner similar to how a CAB would approach a reassessment under the ACDR process– i.e., that all available materials will have been submitted and reviewed prior to the site visit, such that a remote audit could be conducted mainly as an opportunity to check information rather than as the principle information gathering process.</p>	

	<p>The site visit is planned to taken place starting 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, CU propose a delay to the week starting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.</p> <p>Should the rearranged date of the site visit become unattainable, due to the virus also the additional time will allow for suitable alternative arrangements to ensure all stakeholders (Governments, NGOs, Observer programs) have adequate availability to speak and / or supply written representations with the assessment team.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment</b>
	<p>None anticipated. This is the year 2 surveillance audit for this fishery, with all conditions (except one, which was closed) being assessed as ‘on target’ at the year 1 audit.</p> <p>As is required, stakeholders will be offered the opportunity to make comment or bring new information pertinent to the scoring of the fishery at the site visit. Stakeholders would be informed of the audit process and timeline directly via a new announcement on the assessment timeline, should this Variation Request be accepted.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment</b>
	N/A, as no assessment implications are perceived. As mentioned above, stakeholders will be directly notified of the new assessment timeline.
<b>6</b>	<b>If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</b>
	The fishery was certified as four separate UoCs, with a total of 28 conditions set. One condition was met at year 1, and the fishery is currently on target with milestones for the other conditions. There is no reason to believe that progress on conditions will be impacted by this additional delay.
<b>7</b>	<b>What is the status of the current assessment?</b>
	The fishery is currently certified. This is the year 2 surveillance audit.
<b>8</b>	<b>Further comments</b>
	We note recent stakeholder concerns (PEW and others) and confirm that we will be considering all the evidence in the Principle 1 scoring as part of the Principle 1 upgrade (TUNA_MEGAVR Appendix B). As the surveillance audit information gathering period is underway which includes the P1 upgrade, all stakeholder submissions when presented via the MSC template for stakeholder submission or via meetings arranged with the team will be considered.
<b>9</b>	<b>If applicable, additional information added after MSC’s request</b>