

Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS

CHILE SQUAT LOBSTERS AND NYLON SHRIMP MODIFIED TRAWL FISHERY

MSC Variation Request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	1 st June 2020
2	CAB
	BUREAU VERITAS CERTIFICATION HOLDING SAS
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	MSC-F-31264 : Chile Squat Lobsters and Nylon Shrimp Modified Trawl Fishery
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Macarena García Silva: Macarena.garcia@bureauveritas.com
5	Request prepared by
	Macarena García Silva
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP 7.18.1.5 If, at the time of drafting a condition, the CAB determines that there are exceptional circumstances, and the CAB determines that achieving a performance level of 80 may take longer than the period of certification, the CAB may draft conditions to result in improved performance to at least the 80 level within a longer, specified period set by the CAB.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	None

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	The CAB is requesting authorization to apply exceptional circumstances for the condition against PI 1.2.3 , which was opened at the initial assessment because more time will be required than that remaining in the current period of certification to achieve the performance level of 80.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	The original deadline to close the condition on PI 1.2.3 was the 3 rd Surveillance audit (February 2020).
	Modified deadline date requested	The proposed deadline to close the condition on PI 1.2.3 is the 1 st Surveillance audit (before March 2023 considering the 6-month extension) of the new certification cycle. This is align with the condition against PI 1.2.4 that already have exceptional circumstances (March 2023).
	Length of additional time requested	From the original deadline (February 2020) to the new deadline (Mach 2023 at latest) accounts 3 years and 1 month.
3	Justification	
	<p>This fishery was assessed against MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements version 1.3, and it has been certified since the 13th September 2016. Six conditions were raised for all UoAs, dealing with PI 1.2.3 (target sp. information and monitoring), PI 2.1.3 (retained spp. information), PI 2.4.3 (habitats information), PI 3.2.1 (fishery-specific objectives), PI 3.2.2 (decision making), and PI 3.2.3 (compliance and enforcement). One condition was issued to all artisanal UoAs (UoA2, UoA4 and UoA7) on PI 3.2.4 (research plan). One condition was established to the fleet targeting the red squat lobster South stock (UoA8) on PI 1.1.1 (stock status), and finally one condition was established on both fleets targeting nylon shrimp (UoA1 and UoA2) on PI 2.3.3 (ETP spp. information).</p> <p>Additionally, a new condition (Number 14) on PI 1.2.4 was opened at the second surveillance audit for all UoCs. At the time of drafting this condition, the FCR 7.11.1.3a was applied. The exceptional circumstance was applied because the CAB determined that achieving a performance level of 80 may take longer than the period of certification.</p> <p>By the current surveillance audit (3er Year), the team has considered that the interim milestone specified when setting the condition against PI 1.2.3 at the PCR was on target, but the milestone did not cover one of the scoring issues (Slb at SG 80). The team decided to re-score Slc but leave open Slb. Therefore new milestones should be drafted to cover Slb.</p> <p>At the time of drafting the new milestone for Slb, the team realised that this condition is closely linked with the condition against PI 1.2.4 open at the second surveillance audit; See below for the details and especially the information highlighted in yellow:</p> <p>PI 1.2.3 Condition: By the third annual audit, the client should demonstrate that the stock abundance and UoA removals are regularly monitored at a level of accuracy and coverage consistent with the harvest control rule.</p> <p>SG80 b) Stock abundance and UoA removals are regularly monitored at a level of accuracy and coverage consistent with the harvest control rule, and one or more indicators are available and monitored with sufficient frequency to support the harvest control rule.</p> <p>The highlighted part of this condition was not included in the original milestones (PCR) and so the progress on the condition was only evaluated based on discarding of the target species (Slb at SG80) and other fishery removals from the stock (Slc at SG80). In addition, closing this year this condition as it was scheduled, would be in conflict with the condition imposed on PI 1.2.4 (see below).</p>	

PI 1.2.4 Condition. By 2023 the client should demonstrate that the reliability of the assessment has been improved such that it can be considered appropriate for the stock and for the harvest control rule, through accounting for uncertainties in the current model and/or an alternative approach.

SG80 a) While this model is appropriate in principle, its application for these crustacean resources does not provide reliable evaluations of stock status in recent years or of predicted SB and F for the upcoming year (upon which to estimate acceptable biological catch (ABC)). As a result, the projected status may be found to be in error based on the model results of the following year. A consequence of this is that management actions, including whether or not to implement the HCR could be unwarranted, as was the case for Red Squat Lobster South based on the 2017 assessment. Therefore, the assessment is not appropriate for the stock or (especially) for the HCR.

The milestones proposed for both conditions and set out in the current 3rd surveillance report will be:

PI 1.2.3 New milestones drafted in this 3er surveillance report to address SIb:

Year 4 (2021) At the fourth annual audit the client shall provide evidence that the development of a more reliable approach for accurately monitoring stock abundance will be addressed through the review of the current assessment approach in line with condition 14. No re-scoring expected at this stage.

Year 5 (2022): Before the certificate expires (12 March 2022), the client shall provide evidence that methods for developing a more reliable assessment approach for accurately monitoring stock abundance have been identified in line with condition 14. No re-scoring expected at this stage.

Year 6 (2023): At the first surveillance audit of the new cycle, the client should demonstrate that a more reliable assessment approach for accurately monitoring stock abundance has been developed in line with condition 14. SG80 should be met at this stage.

PI 1.2.4 Revised milestones in the 3er surveillance report:

Year 4 (2021): By the fourth year, the client shall provide evidence that the plan to review the current assessment approach with input from external experts toward providing a more reliable assessment approach that accounts for uncertainty in the current approach (Sic) and is appropriate for the stock and for the harvest control rule (Sla) has been developed and is being implemented. No re-scoring expected at this stage

Year 5 (2022): Before the certificate expires (12 March 2022), the client shall provide evidence that the plan to review the current assessment approach with input from external experts toward providing a more reliable assessment approach that accounts for uncertainty in the current approach (Sic) and is appropriate for the stock and for the harvest control rule (Sla) has been implemented and the review has identified methods for developing an improved or alternative assessment approach that is expected to improve the assessment of stock status. No re-scoring expected at this stage.

NEW: Year 6 (2023): At the first surveillance audit of the new cycle, the client should demonstrate that the reliability of the assessment has been improved such that it can be considered appropriate for the stock and for the harvest control rule, through accounting for uncertainties in the current approach and/or by developing an alternative approach. SG80 should be met at this stage.

The rationale for exceptional circumstances against PI 1.2.3 is, as noted above for P 1.2.4, that achieving a performance level of 80 may take longer than the period of certification. The time remaining in the current certification period is insufficient for planning and conducting a review as well as conducting the required research to achieve the objective. The additional time requested would facilitate achieving the objective and result in co-ordination of milestones and progress between the two related conditions.

4 If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment

Considering that there is already a condition (PI 1.2.4) with a closing deadline longer than the remaining period of certification and, as we explained above that both are closely related, there are no different implications than the ones of the open condition against PI 1.2.4. The fishery will need to achieve both conditions at the same time to score 80.

5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implications for assessment
	As noted above, there are no new implications (or risks) for the assessment. However, the CAB will establish some protocols relevant to the application of exceptional circumstances at the time of drafting a condition in order to avoid such problems in the future.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	There are only left 3 certified conditions in this fishery. It is expected that the progress of condition 2 (PI 1.2.3) and condition 14 (PI 1.2.4) will be coordinated and closed at the same time. Accordingly, this co-ordination is expected to affect both relevant conditions positively.
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	The Third Surveillance audit is nearing completion. Indeed, the report will soon be sent to the client so that the action plan of those two conditions can be updated. The CAB will allow the client a period of up to 30 days to update the client action before publishing the surveillance report, consistent with MSC requirements.
8	Further comments
	The same Variation request was prepared for the overlapping fishery named Chile squat lobsters demersal trawl Camanchaca Fishery.
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request