



Vottunarstofan Tún ehf.

ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice

MSC Variation Request

Amended VR originally submitted 3.7.3019

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	16.7.2019
2	CAB
	Vottunarstofan Tún ehf.
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	MSC-F-31158 (F-TUN-1106) ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Rod Cappell lead assessor for the ongoing re-assessment; rod@consult-poseidon.com Gunnar Á. Gunnarsson, program manager; tun@tun.is
5	Request prepared by
	Gunnar Á. Gunnarsson, tun@tun.is
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC GCR v2.3: 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	Never before.

Table 2 – Variation justification		
1	Proposed variation	
	The current certificate for the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice expires on 10 September 2019. CAB proposes to extend the validity of the certificate to 8 October 2019, which is the expiry date for the ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk certificate.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	10 September 2019
	Modified deadline date requested	8 October 2019
	Length of additional time requested	28 days (proposed extension of the certificate)
3	Justification	
	<p>The two fisheries (saithe and golden redfish) were originally assessed in parallel, although the completion of the golden redfish one was delayed by an objection raised at the time (2014). During the certification period, five fishstocks were added to those certificates by means of expedited assessments, first ling and later Atlantic wolffish and plaice to the saithe certificate, and blue ling and tusk to the golden redfish certificate.</p> <p>Both fisheries are now undergoing re-assessment together as a joint assessment, the ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery.</p> <p>The re-assessment has at some points taken more time than originally planned; in particular, the completion of the initial reporting stage took longer time than initially planned due to the complexity and size (42 UoA's) of the amalgamated fisheries; also the team had to seek clarifications, including from management bodies, and amendments to the initially provided Client Action Plan; this resulted in the peer review stage starting two months later than originally planned, and public review starting about a month later than planned.</p> <p>Deadline for comments on the PCDR was 11 July 2019. Given those circumstances, and to ensure sufficient time for addressing any comments received, and subsequent steps of Final Report and certification decision making, the time-span until 10 September will be a bit tight, although sufficient provided an objection is not raised against the FR and Determination. Suggested extension of the certificate is therefore precautionary in the event extra time is needed for complex issues during the last stages of the assessment process.</p>	
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment	
	The variation is not expected to affect the fishery assessment in any way. The outcome of the evaluation has been published, where a continued certification of the fisheries involved is proposed. The 28 days extension is not thought to carry any risks for the fishery involved.	
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	N/A	
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	<p>The ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice fishery has eight conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two P1 conditions on 1.2.2: one for wolffish, one for plaice. • Six P2 conditions, which are harmonised with the ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk certificate. 	

	<p>The progress on these conditions will not be affected by the requested variation. No condition timings will be affected by the proposed 28 days extension of the certificate.</p> <p>Note regarding conditions set for the amalgamated fishery (ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery): The PCDR lists 9 conditions. Please note that one of those, a P1 condition open on the ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk fishery, applies to the blue ling fishery component.</p>
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	<p>The PCDR for the new amalgamated fishery is out for consultation that closed on 11 July 2019. The Final Report is expected to be completed for publication before the middle of August 2019.</p>
8	Further comments
	None
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request