

## Global Trust Certification

**ISF Greenland halibut**

**ISF Iceland anglerfish**

**ISF Iceland Cod**

**ISF Iceland haddock**

**ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery**

## MSC Variation Request

### 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1.** Variation request.

1	Date submitted to MSC		
	16 April 2021		
2	CAB		
	Global Trust Certification Limited		
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number		
	Fishery name	Certificate number	
	ISF Greenland halibut	MSC-F-31336	
	ISF Iceland anglerfish	MSC-F-31350	
	ISF Iceland Cod	MSC-F-31301	
	ISF Iceland haddock	MSC-F-31302	
	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	MSC-F-31436	
4	Lead auditor or program manager		
	Fishery name	Lead Auditor	
	ISF Greenland halibut	Virginia Polonio	
	ISF Iceland anglerfish	Virginia Polonio	
	ISF Iceland Cod	Sam Dignan	
	ISF Iceland haddock	Sam Dignan	
	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	Virginia Polonio	
5	Request prepared by		
	Sam Dignan		
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested		
	This variation is requested in 2 parts from the following scheme requirements:		
	1. <b><u>MSC Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension</u></b>		
	2.1 Eligibility		
	2.1.1 The CAB shall only apply the derogation to conditions that are set against a Performance Indicator listed in Table 1.		

**Table 1.** Variation request.

	<p>In addition, 'to aid consistency' MSC requires variation requests that seek extension to condition deadlines to include the following scheme requirements:</p> <p><b>a. <u>MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.1b</u></b> 7.28.16.1 The team shall audit conformity with, and progress and performance against, certification conditions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. (...)</li> <li>b. The CAB shall document whether progress is 'on target', 'ahead of target' or 'behind target', as well as its justification for such a judgement.</li> <li>i. If progress against the measurable outcomes, expected results or (interim) milestones specified when setting the condition is judged to be behind target the CAB may specify remedial action, and any revised milestones, that are required to bring progress back on target within 12 months to achieve the original condition by the original deadline.</li> </ol> <p><b>b. <u>MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.2</u></b> 7.28.16.2 If the CAB determines that progress against a condition is not back 'on target' within 12 months of falling 'behind target', the CAB shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Consider progress as inadequate.</li> <li>b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal).</li> <li>c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit of Certification(s), or any entity in the Unit(s) of Certification, into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed.</li> </ol> <p><b>c. <u>MSC Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.2 §7.28.16.4</u></b> 7.28.16.4 If a condition is not closed by its deadline, the CAB shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Consider progress as inadequate.</li> <li>b. Apply the requirements of GCR Section 7.4 (suspension or withdrawal).</li> <li>c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same Unit(s) of Certification, or any entity in the Unit of Certification(s), into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed.</li> </ol> <p><b>2. <u>MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.2 §7.28.23.1</u></b> If the client has revised the Client Action Plan following surveillance, the CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 90 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.</p>
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	A variation for this requirement been not previously been accepted for any of these fisheries.

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	<p>This proposed variation consists of 2 distinct parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global Trust proposes to apply the MSC Derogation 6 to a Performance Indicator (PI 2.3.1) not listed as eligible in Table 1 of that Derogation; this will extend existing condition deadlines for PI 2.3.1 conditions in the relevant fisheries by 12 months and add 12 months to the associated interim milestones.</li> <li>2. Global Trust proposes to upload the relevant Surveillance Reports including revised Client Action Plans to the MSC database for publication on the MSC website within <b>120 days</b> of completing the audit (i.e. an additional 30 days over and above the relevant requirement).</li> </ol>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Precise nature and condition deadlines for PI 2.3.1 conditions vary by fishery: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ISF Greenland halibut – No PI 2.3.1 conditions.</li> <li>b. ISF Iceland anglerfish – No PI 2.3.1 conditions.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

		c. ISF Iceland Cod – Surveillance 1 of next cert cycle. d. ISF Iceland haddock – Surveillance 1 of next cert cycle. e. ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery – Surveillance 4 of current cert cycle. 2. 29 April 2021
	Modified deadline date requested	1. Current deadline + 12 months or, in the case of fisheries without PI 2.3.1 conditions, current deadline of existing PI 2.3.1 conditions + 12 months. 2. 29 May 2021 (Original deadline + 30 days)
	Length of additional time requested	1. 12 months (to align with other extended ETP species conditions) 2. 30 days
3	Justification	<p>Again, this justification is provided in 2 parts:</p> <p><b>1. Justification for extending PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months</b></p> <p>All PI 2.3.1 conditions in the relevant fisheries result from a failure to meet SG for scoring issue B ‘direct effects’.</p> <p>Derogation 6 allows automatic 12-month extensions to conditions on PIs 2.3.2 (ETP species management) and 2.3.3 (ETP species information) but does not do likewise for conditions on 2.3.1 (ETP species outcome).</p> <p>For PI 2.3.1, the likelihood that a UoA impacts a particular ETP species determines which scoring guidepost is met [likely (&gt;70<sup>th</sup> %ile) = 60, highly likely (&gt;80<sup>th</sup> %ile) = 80, high degree of confidence (&gt;90<sup>th</sup> %ile) = 100]. Given that likelihood levels are defined in a probabilistic context, they are wholly dependent on the available information. As such, in Principle 2, Outcome PIs are inexorably linked to available information or management measures and quite often result when limited information precludes a higher level of confidence in a particular outcome. Furthermore, even where adequate information is available, conditions may be tied to the implementation of management measures.</p> <p>While it varies subtly amongst the relevant fisheries, the substantive nature of the PI 2.3.1 condition applicable to these fisheries is that there must be evidence that the direct effects of the gillnet and longline UoAs are highly likely to not hinder recover of ETP species.</p> <p>The associated annual milestones are variously to develop and propose a strategy, consult with industry and stakeholders on the proposed strategy and amend accordingly, formally commit to the new strategy and commence its implementation and demonstrate that the adopted strategy has been fully adopted and is being implemented in an effective manner such that SG80 is met.</p> <p>As can be seen above, the closure of these ostensibly outcome based conditions requires both the implementation of a new management strategy and for there to be sufficient new information to justify a higher degree of confidence (i.e. to at least the ‘highly likely’ (&gt;80<sup>th</sup> %ile) level).</p> <p>The stated objective of MSC Derogation 6 is to provide a reprieve to fishery certificate holders that have the potential to face exceptional difficulties in making progress on conditions due to the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries management systems. In this regard the client has faced exceptional difficulties in making progress on these conditions due to Icelandic fisheries management entities being unable to deploy inspectors/observers onboard vessels in 2020 to gather the data required to address these conditions.</p> <p>If conditions on this outcome PI are not extended, and due to programmes gathering information (surveys/observers) having been delayed by Covid-19, the relevant fisheries will in time face suspension by outcome despite their CAP workflows being considered ‘on target’ for information and management.</p> <p>To avoid the mismatch that will arise when management (PI 2.3.2) and information (PI 2.3.3) conditions are extended it is necessary to also extend the associated outcome conditions which rely on both better management and better information for closure.</p>

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

	<p><b>2. <u>Justification for additional 30 days to publish surveillance reports</u></b>          The level of harmonisation required to fully align all ISF demersal fisheries has been extensive and has required substantial additional time to complete. As a consequence, it was not possible to provide the revised conditions (requiring revised CAPs) to the client in sufficient time so as to allow the client group to respond with revised CAPs in time to publish the reports by the original 90 day deadline.</p>																				
4	<p>Implications for assessment</p>																				
	<p><b>1. <u>Implications for assessment arising from extending PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months</u></b>          There will be no implications for the certificates if the request is accepted. It will affect future assessments by moving the ultimate condition deadline for PI 2.3.1 conditions by 12 months to align with the related management (PI 2.3.2) and information (PI 2.3.3) conditions.</p> <p>Extending the management and information conditions without the outcome condition Fundamentally extending will have negative implications in that the fisheries may in time fall 'behind target' on the ETP outcome PI and become suspended while remaining 'On target' on the ETP management and information PIs.</p> <p><b>2. <u>Implications for assessment from allowing an additional 30 days to publish surveillance reports</u></b>          There are no implications beyond the reports being published later than would otherwise be the case.</p>																				
5	<p>Mitigation of the implication for assessment</p>																				
	<p>The above implications do not require mitigation and will be addressed via normal annual surveillance and re-assessment processes.</p>																				
6	<p>How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</p>																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="244 947 730 1048">Fishery name</th> <th data-bbox="738 947 1086 1048">No. of conditions entering these surveillance audits*</th> <th data-bbox="1094 947 1449 1048">Preliminary expected no. of conditions exiting these surveillance audits*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1050 730 1079">ISF Greenland halibut</td> <td data-bbox="738 1050 1086 1079">5</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1050 1449 1079">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1081 730 1111">ISF Iceland anglerfish</td> <td data-bbox="738 1081 1086 1111">6</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1081 1449 1111">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1113 730 1142">ISF Iceland Cod</td> <td data-bbox="738 1113 1086 1142">6</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1113 1449 1142">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1144 730 1173">ISF Iceland haddock</td> <td data-bbox="738 1144 1086 1173">6</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1144 1449 1173">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1176 730 1211">ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery</td> <td data-bbox="738 1176 1086 1211">9</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1176 1449 1211">6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fishery name	No. of conditions entering these surveillance audits*	Preliminary expected no. of conditions exiting these surveillance audits*	ISF Greenland halibut	5	5	ISF Iceland anglerfish	6	4	ISF Iceland Cod	6	3	ISF Iceland haddock	6	3	ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery	9	6		
Fishery name	No. of conditions entering these surveillance audits*	Preliminary expected no. of conditions exiting these surveillance audits*																			
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	<p>* May not be the same conditions.</p> <p>Progress on conditions other than those raised against PI 2.3.1 will be unaffected.</p> <p>Progress against the PI 2.3.1 conditions will occur 12 months later than it would otherwise have but at the same time as the linked PI 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 conditions.</p>																				
7	<p>What is the status of the current assessment or audit?</p>																				
	<p>Surveillance reports are in the process of being prepared for all current surveillances.</p>																				
8	<p>Further comments</p>																				
	<p>MSC should refer also to the joint letter submitted by MSC Fisheries CABs which foresaw this kind of situation arising and provides additional information as to the truly linked nature of outcome, management and information PIs.</p>																				
9	<p>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</p>																				
	<p>At MSC's request the following information is provided/modifications made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Added reference to MSC FCP 7.28.16.1.b, FCP 7.28.16.2, FCP 7.28.16.4 in Table 1 Section 6.</u></b></li> <li><b><u>Added condition deadlines for each fishery to Table 2 Section 2.</u></b></li> <li><b><u>Removal of fisheries with no PI 2.3.1 conditions:</u></b>          As it does not involve any UoCs that are/or will be the subject of PI 2.3.1 conditions, the ISF Iceland lemon sole fishery has removed from this request.</li> <li><b><u>Clarification of why VR is required for fisheries without PI 2.3.1 conditions:</u></b>          The point of the harmonisation activities described in this VR is that those fisheries were not harmonised. As the fisheries have been harmonised through this assessment, this has resulted in conditions being applied to fisheries where they were not previously; importantly, <b>these are not new conditions</b> but ones that were pre-existing in other overlapping fisheries but had not yet been added to some fisheries where they should have been. In summary, on exiting their current surveillances, and as a result of harmonisation</li> </ol>																				

**Table 2.** Variation justification.

	<p>with ISF Iceland Cod, ISF Iceland haddock and ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery, ISF Greenland halibut and ISF Iceland anglerfish will have PI 2.3.1 conditions when they come out of these surveillances where they did not previously.</p> <p><b>5. <u>Number of conditions on each fishery:</u></b></p> <p>This is somewhat difficult because the surveillance processes are not yet finalised. The number of conditions at the point these fisheries entered the surveillance audits has been included as well as a <u>preliminary</u> expected number of conditions on exiting these surveillance audits. Added the number of open conditions relevant to each fishery to Table 2 Section 6.</p>
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## 2 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

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**Table 3. Template version control.**

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org).

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