

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	15 th February 2019
Name of CAB	Control Union Pesca (CU Pesca)
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Walker Seafood albacore and yellowfin tuna and swordfish longline fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Kat Collinson
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR 7.23.18 This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

The certificate anniversary for this fishery was the 27th August 2018 (certificate expiry: 26th August 2020). The year 3 surveillance audit took place on the 8th January 2019. The surveillance report is due to be sent to the MSC for publication on 7th March 2019. CU Pesca is requesting a delay to the submission of the surveillance report by one month.

The surveillance report will be submitted 30 days after current deadline, i.e. 7th April 2019.

2. Rationale/Justification

The outcome of this surveillance audit was contingent on the outcome of the CAB-wide Variation Request (VR) of which the final revised version was submitted to the MSC on the 11th December 2018. The CAB-wide VR includes a request for re-scoring of Principle 1 against the MSC FCR v2.0 for all RFMO¹ HMS² fisheries currently assessed against the MSC CR v1.3, as well as alignment of all Principle 1 conditions and milestones between overlapping fisheries in the MSC programme.

The assessment team were waiting on the outcome, as to whether Walker Seafood should be re-scored against version 2.0 at this surveillance or subsequent assessments, which would have led to time required for the client to submit a revised client action plan. There was also a question as to the necessity for the SW Pacific swordfish Unit of Certification (UoC), which although was included in the context of the VR, does not overlap with any other MSC certified or in assessment fishery. The

¹ RFMO: Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. In the context of this variation request, we refer to the organisations involvement in the management of HSM stocks in the MSC programme: WCPFC, IATTC, ICCAT and IOTC.

² HMS: highly migratory species. In the context of this variation request, we refer to the tuna and swordfish stocks listed in Appendix 2 of the CAB-wide VR.

outcome of the VR was sent to CU Pesca by the MSC on 14th February 2019. CU Pesca had submitted an additional VR (submitted on 25th January 2019) to ask that SW Pacific be eligible to be re-scored along with SP albacore and WCPO yellowfin UoCs. This VR is no longer needed due to the publication of “Appendix B – Principle 1 v2.0 assessment upgrade process” by the MSC. Walkers Seafood will follow this procedure in the approach to its next surveillance audit in August 2019, which will be launched concurrently at first re-assessment.

The one-month extension is therefore requested to cover the period for which the CAB was unable to finalise the surveillance report, as the MSC response to the VR had been made public. The request to delay does not affect the overall sustainability status of the fishery, which to the best of CU Pesca’s knowledge is still in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard, nor does it affect the scheduling of the year 4 surveillance or re-assessment audits.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

This fishery is coming up for reassessment in August 2019, at which point all three UoAs will be re-scored against the MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01 (which contains the same Performance Indicators (PI) as the current FCR v2.0).

By re-scoring this fishery ahead of reassessment, it will be ensured that all overlapping RFMO HMS fisheries are treated in a consistent manner, as has been made clear in the rationale for the CAB-wide VR (not repeated here).

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

Stakeholders will be consulted pending the outcome of the VR.

5. Further Comments

N/A