

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

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| Date submitted to MSC | 27/02/14 |
| Conformity Assessment Body | Intertek Fisheries Certification |
| Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number | Vietnam Ben Tre clam hand gathered |
| Lead Auditor/Programme Manager | |
| Scheme requirement(s) to vary from | CR 27.22.3.1 |
| Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)? | No |

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| 1. Proposed variation |
| The fourth surveillance audit for this fishery will be conducted remotely before the end of March |

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| 2. Rationale/Justification |
| <p>The Vietnam Ben Tre clam hand gathered fishery is in the process of transferring their certification to a new CAB. This process has taken longer than anticipated, but is now ready to be finalised and must be completed by the 6th of March.</p> <p>Given the short timeframes, and given that the fourth surveillance has already been delayed by some time now (since October) it is felt that it's not in the best interest of the fishery, the CAB or the Standard to delay the process any longer and that it should proceed as soon as is practicable. The assessment team feel that all checks that must be made for this fishery can be made remotely with no loss of provenance. Logistically this is also far simpler to arrange.</p> <p>Given that there are no outstanding conditions on this fishery and that the previous surveillance was conducted in May 2013, we do not believe that this represents any risk to proper oversight for this fishery.</p> |

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| 3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only) |
| None |

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| 4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only) | No – they will be notified when this variation (if successful) is posted on the MSC website and when the reassessment is announced |
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| 5. Further Comments |
| None |