

## **Control Union (UK) Limited**

### **Basse-Normandie Granville Bay whelk fishery**

### **MSC Variation Request**

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# 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

<b>1</b>	<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>
	27 <sup>th</sup> of February 2023
<b>2</b>	<b>CAB</b>
	Control Union (UK) Limited
<b>3</b>	<b>Fishery name and certificate number</b>
	Basse-Normandie Granville Bay whelk fishery – MSC-F-31327
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead auditor or program manager</b>
	Deirdre Wilson
<b>5</b>	<b>Request prepared by</b>
	Deirdre Wilson
<b>6</b>	<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>
	<p><b>MSC FCP v2.2, clause 7.28.15.1.b and i:</b></p> <p>Where the information for PI scores has changed, the CAB shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Report and record what information has changed.</li> <li>b. <u>Re-score the PI following scoring processes set out in Section 7.17.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>If the new score is less than 80, the CAB shall define conditions and require the client to develop a Client Action Plan for the new conditions.</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?</b>
	0

Table 2 – Variation justification

<b>1</b>	<b>Proposed variation</b>	
	CU(UK) propose to defer the application of the RBF and the re-scoring of the bait species from the Year 4 surveillance report to the re-assessment reports. The Year 4 surveillance and Re-assessment are on different versions of the standard (v1.3 and v2.01 respectively), and the current status of the Year 4 surveillance report has a new condition opened that can not be evaluated throughout the next certification cycle.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Additional time requested</b>	
	<b>Original deadline date</b>	NA
	<b>Modified deadline date requested</b>	NA
	<b>Length of additional time requested</b>	NA
<b>3</b>	<b>Justification</b>	
	<p>The Year 4 surveillance and the re-assessment for the Basse-Normandie Granville bay whelk fishery were announced November 2022, with the site visit taking place in December 2022 and the closing meeting held the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The Year 4 surveillance is on version 1.3 of the MSC Certification Requirements and the re-assessment is on version 2.01 of the MSC Fisheries Standard.</p> <p>The composition estimates of bait have changed from the initial certification, requiring PI 2.1 to be rescored for the Year 4 surveillance using v1.3 but also to be scored using v2.01 in the re-assessment.</p> <p>The rescored of this PI is potentially generating a new condition for the Year 4 audit under v1.3 of the Standard, specifically on PI 2.1.3 d. This SI is not included in the v2.01 of the standard. Therefore, opening such a condition on a Performance Indicator that will no longer be relevant for the next certification cycle, and that therefore can not be closed, is unbeneficial to the client specifically but also an anomaly of the MSC process more generally.</p> <p>Clause 7.30.5.3 from the FCP does not apply, because it does not account for this type of situation as there is no equivalent PI in the assessment tree of v2.01 of the Standard.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Implications for assessment</b>	
	<p>The team do not foresee any delay associated with the granting of this VR. The implications for the assessment would be that there is a smooth transition to version 2.01 of the MSC Fisheries Standard, without the potential opening of conditions that can not be assessed at Year 1 surveillance audit because of the client moving from an old version of the standard to a new one.</p> <p>The acceptance of this VR also does not mean that conditions would not be opened during the re-assessment if necessary.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Mitigation of the implication for assessment</b>	
	This VR is the mitigation of implications for the assessment. If this VR is not granted, RBF would be applied to both the Year 4 surveillance and the Re-assessment, potentially with conflicting results (i.e., if a condition	

	<p>is raised at the Year 4 surveillance on a Performance Indicator that no longer exists in the version of the standard used for the re-assessment).</p> <p>CU(UK) would also post a stakeholder notification informing stakeholders that the RBF would only be used for the re-assessment and that any changes to bait would be fully considered in the re-assessment.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</b>
	The fishery currently does not have any conditions open on Principle 2.
<b>7</b>	<b>What is the status of the current assessment?</b>
	The site visit was held in December 2022 and officially closed the 6 <sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The Year 4 surveillance is due to be published on or before the 6 <sup>th</sup> of April 2023. The CPRDR of the re-assessment is due the week of the 27 <sup>th</sup> of March 2023.
<b>8</b>	<b>Further comments</b>
	NA
<b>9</b>	<b>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</b>