

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	2014-04-22
Conformity Assessment Body	Vottunarstofan Tún ehf.
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	ISF Icelandic Cod
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Gunnar Á Gunnarsson
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	27.4.3
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

PCR for ISF Icelandic Cod fishery lists five harvesting methods within the unit of certification, i.e. demersal otter trawl, Danish seine, long line, hand line and gill net. This is reflected in the fishery's Certificate. However, the sixth harvesting method – Pelagic trawl, was added during the initial assessment as well as during subsequent first surveillance audit, as demonstrated in the scoring tables and scoring results in relevant assessment reports.

It is requested that an amendment of the unit of certification is permitted appropriate to the actual preceding assessment work and scoring results thus allowing Pelagic trawl to be included in future surveillance as one of the harvesting methods evaluated.

2. Rationale/Justification

As outlined in 1 above, the added unit (Pelagic trawl fishing of cod) has already been evaluated and passed without condition against all the three MSC Principles & Criteria (scoring of all above 90). The change has implications for the formal scope of the fishery. While the change is not expected to affect the fishery's present or future conformity with MSC standards, this question will be specifically addressed by the assessment team during its stakeholder consultation during the upcoming annual surveillance audit.

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

Variation is not expected to affect future evaluation/assessment, since Pelagic trawl is already a part of previous/current assessment work. However, as it appears that initial inclusion of Pelagic trawl was not subject to stakeholder consultation. It is therefore proposed that this harvesting method and its present scores shall be separately reviewed by the assessment team, including its consultation meetings with the client and stakeholders, during the forthcoming (second) on-site surveillance of this fishery. The assessment team would subsequently report on those consultation and make the appropriate recommendation regarding potential amendment of the officially registered scope of the fishery's certificate.

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

The matter has been raised with the client. Other stakeholders will be notified of this request and MSC's response once completed.

5. Further Comments

N/A

6. Confidential Information

N/A
