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Stakeholder Notification regarding alignment of deadline to close out conditions for the Atlanto-Scandian herring fisheries

Following fisheries are affected:

- 1) ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine
- 2) Faroese Pelagic Organisation Atlanto-Scandian herring
- 3) Norway spring spawning herring
- 4) SPSG, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring

For the re-assessment of fisheries 1 and 3 a Variation Request (VR) was submitted in December 2018, and accepted by MSC on 17th December 2018, to have a close out fixed deadline of 2020 for the three conditions on Performance Indicators (PIs) 3.1.1, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2¹. This VR broadly aligned the timelines with fisheries 2 and 4. The VR also required the harmonisation of the deadline for condition closure between all four harmonised fisheries.

CABs held a harmonisation meeting on December 19th, 2019 and the following timeline was agreed in the case that adequate progress will not be made to close out the conditions in 2020. As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.2.b, a CAB shall suspend a fishery certificate if a client has not made adequate progress towards meeting conditions.

- **Monday 30th November 2020** is to be considered by the CABs as the hard deadline for notice of suspension for all fisheries unless there is sufficient evidence that the conditions on PIs 3.1.1, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 can be rescored to pass the MSC Standard at SG80 before that date.
- As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.3 CABs shall set the effective date for the fishery certificate suspension 30 days after the CABs' decision to suspend. Therefore, **Wednesday 30th December 2020** is the effective date for suspension of the above fisheries certificates.
- As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.3.e clients shall provide CABs with a corrective action plan for addressing the cause of the suspension within 90 days from the date the Notice of Suspension is published on the MSC website (**Monday 30th November 2020**). Therefore, **Monday 1st March 2021** is the hard deadline for clients to provide corrective action plans that show that the PIs 3.1.1, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 can be rescored to pass the MSC Standard at SG80 by **Monday 1st March 2021**. If the three conditions cannot be closed and PIs 3.1.1, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 cannot be rescored at SG80 by that date, MSC GCR v.2.4.1. § 7.4.3.h will apply. Therefore, CABs will withdraw all the fishery certificates.

¹ <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/isf-norwegian-icelandic-herring-trawl-and-seine/@assessments>

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