



Gemma Quílez-Badia
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Sent by email

Date: 01/09/2021

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.28.23.1 for LFPO pelagic trawl sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)

Dear Gemma Quílez-Badia,

I write with reference to your submission on 30/08/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the reporting deadline by 30 days until the 16th of October 2021.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.28.23.1 state:

If the client has revised the Client Action Plan following surveillance, the CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 90 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

Due to the complexity of the current harmonisation discussions on Baltic sprat scoring (PI 1.2.2), involving three CABs (i.e., Bureau Veritas, Lloyd's Register and Global Trust Certification) and five different fisheries, no agreement has been reached yet. Therefore, the LFPO pelagic trawl sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) fishery surveillance report will not be able to be published by the 16th of September.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- The report shall be submitted no later than 16th October 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International