

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	05/03/13
Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International Ltd
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	DFA Dutch North Sea ensis F-FCI-0029
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Antonio Hervás/Melissa McFadden
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	27.22.2
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

To facilitate offsite surveillance for the 1st Annual surveillance audit of this fishery.

2. Rationale/Justification

There have been no significant changes to operational practices in this fishery - in terms of gear or area of fishing - and the fishery remains within scope.

There are six outstanding conditions for this fishery assessment. The terms of how progress against each condition can be assessed are defined as follows:

Condition 1. (PI 1.2.2) - Documented evidences of all discussions held with relevant stakeholders related to the development of harvest control rules will be reviewed. Telephone conferences will be carried out as needed to engage with relevant stakeholders to fully understand the progress made with the condition of certification.

Condition 2 (PI 1.2.3) - Work related to the estimation of proportion of razor shells that are discarded will be reviewed.

Telephone conferences will be carried out as needed to engage with relevant stakeholders to fully understand the progress made with the condition of certification.

Condition 3 & 4 (PI 2.2.2 & PI 2.2.3) - Work related to the estimation of discard levels will be reviewed.

Telephone conferences will be carried out as needed to engage with relevant stakeholders to fully understand the progress made with the condition of certification.

Condition 5 (PI 2.4.3) - VMS data showing the spatial extent of the fishery will be requested and reviewed. The audit will be focused on reviewing the overlay map showing VMS fishing tracks, closed areas and SACs and bottom habitats to be produced by the client fishery.

Condition 6 (PI 3.1.2) - Consultation processes carried out will be audited by reviewing documented evidences and by interviewing through telephone conference the affected parties.

All key information to carry out the surveillance, including updated management advice, is available remotely and interpretation is not compromised by carrying out the surveillance audit in this way.

We will contact all stakeholders to inform them that the surveillance will be carried out remotely.

They will still be given the opportunity to request an onsite meeting with a locally based member of the original team if necessary.

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

There will be no impact on the on-going surveillance programme or on timelines. Impact on stakeholder input will be minimised by ensuring that all stakeholders are fully aware of the variation and still have ample opportunity to contribute.

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

No - assuming the variation is granted all stakeholders will be contacted directly to ensure they are fully aware of the planned surveillance and are invited to contribute