



Marine House
1 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2DH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

Gavin Fitzgerald/Chrissie Sieben
ME Certification Limited
56 High Street, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9AH, UK

Sent by email

Date: 5 May 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.4.3 for Basse Normandy Granville Bay Whelk Fishery

Dear Gavin and Chrissie,

I write with reference to your submission on 28/4/2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow a change in the Unit of Certification (UoC) during the assessment.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to defining the UoC 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 program.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The stock structure of whelks is unclear and although they have a lower dispersal capacity than most marine invertebrates, there is no evidence of a genetic structure over the wider area (NW European shelf)
- Evidence collected during the assessment indicated that defining the stock as just 'Granville Bay' is only administratively convenient and does not allow that the whelk population is likely continuous over a wider area, most of which is unfished
- The team determined that the best approach would be to define the stock unit at an intermediate spatial scale (between Granville Bay vs NW European Shelf)
- Majority of whelk catch in the proposed area are made by the client fishery

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

- That relevant PIs are re-assessed by the team, taking into account the impacts from the change in UoC (namely in Principles 1 and 3).
- That the team announce this change to stakeholders, including a statement confirming that although the stock is now recognised as more widely distributed, hence changing the P1 and P3 assessment, the distribution of the fishery under assessment is not proposed to be changed, hence no changes in P2, and no prospect for any 'other eligible fishers'.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Good, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email stephanie.good@msc.org or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8926.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hoggarth', written in a cursive style.

Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor