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MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION

**Norebo Sea of Okhotsk
Mid-Water Trawl Pollock Fishery**

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION

UCSL United Certification Systems Limited would like to inform that according to the MSC Variation Request dated 15 of March 2023 concerning an extension for publication of the Final Draft Report, MSC Variation Response dated 03 of April 2023 has been received.

As the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.22.1 state: If the period from the full assessment announcement to the publication of the Final Draft Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process. 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 program.

Given the rationale provided supporting MSC Variation Request and sent by UCSL, including:

- because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a number of CABs have suspended all audit operations in Russia and have transferred certified Russian fisheries to UCSL.
- the transfer of these certificates has taken longer than expected.
- the fishery is currently in initial assessment. It entered assessment in November 2021 and, thus, the 18- month publication deadline for the Final Draft Report is currently May 2023.
- the new CAB will not be able to meet the FDR publication deadline, as the CPRDR has not yet been peer reviewed.
- the new CAB has confirmed that they are not aware of any new information since the site visit for this fishery that would affect the outcome of the assessment,

the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case as requested:

the extended deadline for publication of the Final Draft report and Determination is 11 October 2023.

Submitted by: Alexey Khoruzhiy

Date: 27th July 2023