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Chrissie Sieben

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd.
56 High Street, Lymington, SO41 9AH, UK.

Sent by email

Date: 17 February 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.59, 27.22.31 and 27.24.1 for the Cornish sardine fishery

Dear Chrissie

I write with reference to your submission on 12th February 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 7.5.9, 27.22.31 and 27.24.1) to delay the fourth annual surveillance audit and the start of re-assessment for this fishery to the 1st October 2014 and extend the validity of the certificate by approximately 3.5 months, i.e. to the 1st October 2015.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits and certificate extensions 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- That the new MSC Certification Requirements v2.0 will incorporate changes as a result of the MSC's Speed and Cost Review. MEP anticipates that the cost of re-assessment and surveillance under this new version will be less than those under the current version. As cost is an important factor in whether or not this fishery will go for re-assessment, MEP proposes to delay the start of the re-assessment so that it can be carried out under the new MSC Certification Requirements v2.0. It is therefore also proposed that the fourth annual surveillance audit is also delayed and the certificate validity extended.

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

- All stakeholders are notified that the surveillance audit in combination with starting the re-assessment process will be delayed and are still given ample opportunity to contribute.
- The CAB is also not aware at this time of any reasons why the fishery's surveillance should not be delayed (e.g., due to concerns on stock status, fishery management or performance against conditions that could result in the fishery not being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard).
- All stakeholders are further notified that the certificate validity for this fishery will be extended until October 1st, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email (robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone (+44 (0)20 7246 8935).

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council