

Sandhya Chaudhury
Det Norske Veritas Certification AS



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Sent by email

Date: 28/11/11

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirements CR 27.22 and 27.4.3

Dear Sandhya Chaudhury,

I write with reference to your submission on 23/11/11 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow the inshore and offshore Norwegian North East Arctic cod and haddock fisheries, for each gear type, to recombine under single certificates.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to (1) surveillance schedule and (2) unit of certification definition are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

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

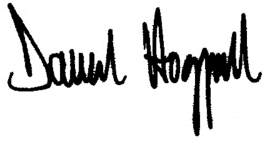
- The offshore component, which does not interact with the coastal cod stocks, was certified in April 2010. The inshore component, which does interact with the coastal cod stocks, was assessed on a separate timeline, taking account of the developing coastal cod management plan. With implementation of the coastal cod management plan, the inshore fishery was certified in October 2011.
- The recombination will better mirror the nature of the Norwegian cod and haddock fisheries' management, as the NEA cod and haddock fisheries within and outside 12 nm by the Norwegian authorities are managed as interdependent parts of one cod and one haddock fishery. With recombination, the follow up of conditions will be more easily integrated if the fisheries within and outside 12 nm are viewed as one, the resource requirements for ongoing certification and surveillance audits will be minimised, and the Chain of Custody will be simplified.

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

- The new surveillance schedule will follow the shorter of the two schedules (i.e., the offshore certificate schedule).
- On recertification, the inshore and offshore fisheries will be assessed jointly.
- Where the inshore components have slightly different conditions, they will be evaluated according to the timescale established in the inshore fishery Public Certification Report. (If necessary, these timescales would be continued into the recertification period, assuming progress is on-target for completion.)

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hooper'.

Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI