



Gavin Fitzgerald  
ME Certification

Sent by email

Date: 8 December 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement GCR v2.1, 4.11.2.6B for the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association Atlanto-Scandian herring pelagic trawl fishery

Dear Gavin,

I write with reference to your submission on 8 December 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC General Certification Requirements GCR 4.11.2.6.B to allow MEC to proceed with transfer of certificates without giving MSC 10 days' notice for the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (PFA) Atlanto-Scandian herring pelagic trawl fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificate transfers 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:

- MEC plans to complete the MSC assessment and issue a certificate for the SPSP, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring fishery before the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (PFA) certificate runs out on the 3rd January 2016.
- On the 1 December 2016, MEC was made aware that the PFA Atlanto-Scandian herring pelagic trawl fishery's current certificate was not transferred from Intertek to Acoura for reasons unknown to MEC. Intertek's accreditation with ASI expires on the 9 December 2016, potentially leaving the PFA Atlanto-Scandian herring fishery without a valid certificate between the 9 December 2015 and 3 January 2016 when new MSC assessment is due to be completed by MEC.
- As a consequence it was not possible for MEC to comply with the 10 day notice period specified.
- MEC in consultation with the fishery client agreed to transfer the fishery certificate to MEC.



- On the 7 December 2015, in accordance with Clause 4.11.3.6 of the MSC General Certification Requirements v2.1, a certificate transfer date of the 8 December 2015 was agreed between Intertek, MEC and the PFA.
- The MSC has been in consultation with MEC and Intertek to support the novation process.
- MEC will complete the MSC assessment and issue a certificate for the SPSG, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring fishery before the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (PFA) certificate runs out on the 3rd January 2016.

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

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Emily McGregor, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email [emily.mcgregor@msc.org](mailto:emily.mcgregor@msc.org) or phone +44(0)20 7246 8938.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Hopwood".

Marine Stewardship Council  
CC: ASI, lead auditor