



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

Sandhya Chaudhury, Principal specialist & Service Manager &

Anna Kiseleva, Lead Auditor

DNV Business Assurance

Veritasveien 1, Høvik 1363

Norway

Sent by email

Date: 19 December, 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.5.9 for the Norway Spring Spawning herring fishery

Dear Sandhya and Anna

I write with reference to your submission on 19th November, 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements CR 7.5.9, to extend the validity of the current certificate by a maximum of 6 months from the expiry date of 29 April, 2014.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificate expiry dates 7.5.9 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 4th annual surveillance audit for this fishery was held in June, 2013, but due to the new developments in AS herring management, it could not be finalized before the release of ICES advice for 2013 (3rd of October 2013).
- In order to evaluate how the conclusions from the ICES 2013 advice could affect the compliance of AS herring fisheries engaged in MSC programme with MSC Principles and Criteria, a harmonization meeting was held on the 29th of October 2013 between DNV, FCI, Intertek Moody Marine, and MSC. Main conclusions were as follows:
 - In 2013, a condition will be placed for PI 3.1.1
 - Assessment team for Norway SSH will draft a condition for PI 3.1.1 and distribute to all affected CBs for consultation.
 - Condition will apply to Norwegian fishery first. Other fisheries will then join as and when they come up for recertification, according to CR v1.3.
 - The condition for PI 3.1.1 will not apply to the surveillance activities of Norway Spring Spawning Herring fishery, since it was assessed under the respective older version of the CR.
- The process described above, postponed the recertification of this fishery with 4 months and more delay is expected due to extra time required for:
 - Drafting a harmonised condition for PI 3.1.1
 - Consultation on the condition with other CBs, clients and the responsible authorities
 - Drafting of the client action plan
- The assessment team is therefore seeks a variation to extend the validity of the certificate with maximum period of 6 months from the expiry date of 29 April 2014. DNV has no concerns that an extension would alter the conformity of the client.

In this case, the MSC regards the rationale provided as insufficient to justify a full 6 month extension, and is willing to grant a variation to the CR, subject to the following condition.

- The validity of the certificate for this fishery shall be extended by a period of no more than 3 months, from the expiry date of 29 April, 2014.

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