

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	11/09/2014
<b>Conformity Assessment Body</b>	Food Certification International Ltd.
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» DFPO Denmark North Sea Plaice (F-FCI-0012, F-FCI-0013)</li> <li>» DFPO Denmark North Sea &amp; Skagerrak Saithe (F-FCI-0010)</li> <li>» DFPO Denmark North Sea &amp; Skagerrak Haddock (F-FCI-0027a, F-FCI-0027b, F-FCI-0027c, F-FCI-0027d)</li> <li>» DFPO Denmark North Sea Sole (F-FCI-0025)</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Melissa McFadden (Contact Lesley Hamilton)
<b>Scheme requirement(s) to vary from</b>	27.4.2: The CAB shall note that once defined, the unit of certification cannot be changed during the assessment unless:
<b>Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?</b>	No

### 1. Proposed variation

The initial description of the Other Eligible Fishers on the Units of Certification (UoC) for each of the DFPO fisheries identified above is currently 'Danish registered vessels fishing for North Sea plaice/saithe/ haddock/sole which are not currently members of the DFPO'

The client wishes to now change this wording for Other Eligible Fishers on all of the UoCs for all of the above fisheries to 'Danish and Swedish registered vessels fishing for North Sea plaice/saithe/haddock/sole which are not currently members of the DFPO', in order to extend certificate sharing with the seven Swedish vessels who fish in the North Sea. We therefore propose to change all of the units of certification for all of the above DFPO fisheries to include reference to these Swedish vessels under a certificate sharing arrangement.

### 2. Rationale/Justification

At present only Danish registered vessels fishing for North Sea plaice/saithe/ haddock/sole which are not currently members of the DFPO are included as Other Eligible Fishers for the above fisheries. The client would like to include the seven Swedish North Sea vessels on the DFPO Unit of certifications as 'Other Eligible Fishers' and extend certificate sharing to them. The landings for these Swedish vessels for these species are not substantial enough in their own right for them to be economically viable to undertake MSC certification themselves but would like to be included under the certification for the above fisheries and abide by the conditions of these certificates in order to fish sustainably.

The client group is willing to extend the certificate to the applicant eligible fishers as they currently have a similar mix of target species, use the same gear type under the same rules (except national quota allocation) and the majority are already MSC certified on other fisheries to catch other stock.

If they were included in the DFPO MSC units of certification under 'Other Eligible Fishers' they would have to abide by the DFPO "Code of Conduct" and certification requirements. Swedish legislation

and enforcement related to the fisheries in question does not allow for/enable fishing practice that is any different from Danish legislation/enforcement.

Additionally, during the recent scheduled surveillance audit, the assessment team met with representatives from Sweden and assessed the Swedish Vessel's eligibility to be added as 'Other Eligible Fishers' onto these DFPO Units of Certification. They determined that all assessment tree components were held in common with the existing fishery certificate and that including the new eligible fishers or entities within scope of the certificate would not have implications. Also they checked and found that participants would fully comply with operational procedures set by the fishery clients and with the conditions set by the CAB. The findings of the evaluation of the eligibility of the Swedish vessels to be included in the UoC for each fishery are described in an Appendix in the surveillance reports. The final conclusion of the evaluations of the eligibility of the Swedish vessels to be included in the UoCs is that there is no reason to believe that the addition of the 7 Swedish vessels to the DFPO member vessel fleet represents a measurable change in the environmental footprint of the fleet nor that there are any issues concerning the effective management of the fishing operations and conduct of these vessels.

We therefore propose to change all of the units of certification for all of the above DFPO fisheries to include reference to these Swedish vessels under a certificate sharing arrangement and will submit a certificate sharing letter as required. Furthermore, as this is a significant change we propose that in order for stakeholders to provide their comments on this change that a stakeholder consultation period of 15 days is undertaken from the date of posting the appropriate announcement and surveillance reports for all four DFPO fisheries.

**3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

None

**4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

No. All stakeholders will be kept fully informed.

**5. Further Comments**

None.