



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

Géraldine Criquet

Lead Auditor/Programme Manager
SAI Global Assurance Services / Global Trust
Quayside Business Park, Mill Street
Dundalk, County Louth, IRELAND

Sent by email

Date: 12/08/2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.13 for the Northern Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel and Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel fisheries.

Dear Géraldine,

I write with reference to your submission on 05/08/2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow to submit the surveillance report 3 weeks after the current deadline of the 8th August 2014.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to Surveillance (27.22) 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:

- The request for variation will allow for additional information and clarification requested by the assessment during the on-site audit and provided by stakeholders after the on-site audit to be effectively reviewed and used to verify the progress on conditions.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Sergio Cansado, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email sergio.cansado@msc.org or phone +44(0)2072468937

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hoggan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor