

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	5 November 2018
Name of CAB	Control Union Pesca Ltd (CU Pesca)
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Chrissie Sieben
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	<p>7.15.3 The CAB shall use the “MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template” to create the report.</p> <p>7.15.3.1 The CAB shall make the Public Comment Draft Report available for comment by stakeholders and peer reviewers for a period of at least 30 days. Stakeholders and peer reviewers shall be informed that they are to provide objective evidence in support of any additional claims or any claimed errors of fact.</p>
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation
<p>Instead of using the standard “MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template” to create a single report, CU Pesca proposes to split the report into four separate reports (a Background, Principle 1, Principle 2 and Principle 3 report) which overall still conform to the MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template requirements.</p>
2. Rationale/Justification
<p>The Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters fishery encompasses 13 species (corresponding to 20 Principle 1 target stocks), four fishing areas, four client groups and 10 gear types. Given the scale of the assessment, a single report covering the entire evaluation would be unwieldy and difficult to navigate for readers. It is therefore proposed that the evaluation is split into four reports; a general background section and a separate report for each Principle. The Background report would focus on describing the fisheries under assessment, the assessment process, traceability characteristics and the overall outcome of the evaluation, while the remaining reports provide the detailed background sections and scoring and data appendices for each Principle. It is the intent that the four reports together will adhere to the “MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template” and the requirements within it and the split will therefore not affect the integrity of the assessment.</p> <p>Pending approval of this variation request, the splitting into four separate reports would also enable CU Pesca to publish the Public Comment Draft Reports separately as and when they are ready for stakeholder review. This means that the reports would not be published at the same time. As a minimum, the Background PCDR will be published first to provide a general narrative of the assessment to stakeholders. The Principle 1 and Principle 3 reports are likely to be published before the Principle 2 report. We also note that the overall public consultation period will not finish until all PCDRs have been online for the minimum 45-day period as agreed in a previously approved variation request. We are thereby maximising the potential for stakeholders to effectively engage in the assessment process.</p>

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
As already stated, it is the intent that the four reports together will adhere to the “MSC Full Assessment Reporting Template” and the requirements within it. The split and the staggered publication of the reports will therefore maintain the integrity of the assessment whilst maximising the potential for stakeholders to effectively engage in the assessment process.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	Not yet, but pending approval of this variation request, the process will be explained to stakeholders in the initial PCDR notification.
5. Further Comments	
N/a	