



Gavin Fitzgerald
ME Certification

Sent by email

Date: 4 May 2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR7.5.6 for SFSAG North Sea Haddock

Dear Gavin,

I write with reference to your submission on 14 April 2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow a certificate extension for two extra weeks to 15 May 2016.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificates 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 fishery is at Final Report stage and the 15 working day objection period means that the current certificate will lapse before re-assessment can be completed
- There was an unforeseen delay in preparation of the PCDR, which resulted in the Final Report being delayed slightly

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Atcheson, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery by email megan.atcheson@msc.org.

Best regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Good".

Stephanie Good

Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
CC: ASI, lead auditor