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President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

# **MRAG Americas, Inc.**

## **DFPO and DPPO North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and Norway pout**

### **MSC Variation Request**

**Table 1 – Variation request**

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	13 December 2021
2	CAB
	MRAG Americas, Inc.
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	DFPO and DPPO North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and Norway pout, MSC-F-31297
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Amanda Stern-Pirlot
5	Request prepared by
	Michealene Corlett
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP v2.2 7.30.1

7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

1	Proposed variation						
	<p>FCP 7.30.1 states “The CAB shall announce the reassessment of a certified fishery no later than 90 days after the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the existing certificate.”</p> <p>The 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the existing certificate is 22 September 2021. FCP 7.30.1 allows the CAB to announce the reassessment of the fishery 90 days after that date putting the deadline for announcement 21 December 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic there have been delays within the client group in deciding whether to proceed with a reassessment. Until they decide, we cannot proceed with preparing the announcement and ACDR. If they decide to proceed, we will announce the reassessment as soon as possible thereafter.</p>						
2	Additional time requested						
	<table> <tr> <td>Original deadline date</td><td>21 December 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Modified deadline date requested</td><td>TBD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Length of additional time requested</td><td>TBD</td></tr> </table>	Original deadline date	21 December 2021	Modified deadline date requested	TBD	Length of additional time requested	TBD
Original deadline date	21 December 2021						
Modified deadline date requested	TBD						
Length of additional time requested	TBD						
3	Justification						
	Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic there have been delays within the client group in deciding whether to proceed with a reassessment. Until they decide, we cannot proceed with preparing the announcement and ACDR						
4	Implications for assessment						
	The main impact of this variation request is shortening the timeline for the reassessment process if the client decides to undertake it. As time passes, there is an ever-increasing risk that a reassessment may not conclude before the expiration of the existing certificate.						
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment						
	The mitigation we can offer is to carry out the reassessment process as expeditiously as possible, to reduce the chances that a reassessment would not conclude before the current certificate expires.						
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?						
	9 conditions, none of which will be affected from a progress standpoint. Some of the conditions have already been extended by 12 months under the covid derogation for management-related conditions. All other timelines will remain intact.						
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?						
	Awaiting confirmation and pertinent information from the client representative in order to proceed with preparing the announcement documents, including the ACDR.						
8	Further comments						

9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request