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Notification of delayed publication of the Public Comment Draft Report for the Full Assessment of the North Sea and West of Scotland saithe fishery by the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG)

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd. (MEP) is undertaking the full MSC certification assessment process for the following fishery:

Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) fishery in the Northeast Atlantic (ICES Sub Areas IIa, IIIa, IV and VI) conducted by member vessels of the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG).

The Public Comment Draft Report for the above fishery has yet to be published. Finalising the scoring and PCDR of this fishery has been subject to two main delays:

1. A requirement to agree a common approach for North Sea saithe with the CABs for the other certified North Sea saithe fisheries, including a requirement to wait for 4 months after the site visit for publication of updated ICES advice and TAC decisions for 2012, in addition to the time taken after publication to come to an agreement with the other CABs and with MSC.
2. A delay in obtaining discard data, due to delays in analysis of the data. These data were finally obtained in summer 2012 – approximately one year after the site visit.

Once finalised, the report was sent for peer review on the 8th of March 2013. Peer review comments received so far indicate that revisions will be required in the Client Action Plan. In order to provide the client with sufficient time to adequately address the required changes, MEP will extend the deadline until the 10th May 2013.

A proposal for the deadline extension was submitted to the MSC via a Variation Request. To view the request and the approval, please visit this link: <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/in-assessment/north-east-atlantic/sfsag-saithe/assessment-downloads>



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