

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

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| Date submitted to MSC | 25 th March 2013 |
| Conformity Assessment Body | MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd. (MEP) |
| Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number | Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) saithe |
| Lead Auditor/Programme Manager | Dr. Jo Gascoigne |
| Scheme requirement(s) to vary from | 24.2.2 If the period from the last on-site visit to the receipt of the Public Comment Draft Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process |
| Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)? | No |

1. Proposed variation

MEP proposes to delay submission of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) until the 10th May 2013. This is a revision of the previously extended deadline of the 5th April 2013. The site visit for this fishery took place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th August 2011. MEP therefore proposes to submit the PCDR approx. 21 months after the last on-site visit.

2. Rationale/Justification

As detailed in the previous variation request, submitted on the 9th January 2013, finalising the scoring and PCDR of this fishery was 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, plus the time taken after publication to come to an agreement with the other CABs and with MSC.
2. A delay in obtaining discard data from MSS and SFF, due to delays in analysis of the data. These data were finally obtained in summer 2012 – approximately a year after the site visit.

Once finalised, the report was sent for peer review on the 8th of March 2013 and this process is currently ongoing. 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 proposes to further extend the deadline until the 10th May 2013.

MEP will ensure that all stakeholders are notified of this delay.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

As noted above, MEP will contact all stakeholders explaining the situation.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

No, once this variation request is approved, stakeholders will be notified of the variation.

