



Geraldine Criquet  
SAI Global (SAI)

**Sent by email**

Date: 25/10/2019

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.3 GCR-7.5.6 for ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine**

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 18/10/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

An extension of the validity of the fishery certificate by 4 months.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.3 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

These 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 supporting your request, including:**

- Substantial delays occurred since the re-assessment has been announced back in September 2018 due to extensive harmonisation activities and several re-scorings of Principle 1
- The certificate transfer led to additional delays to allow an additional stakeholder consultation period and site visit, and for SAI Global's team to review all information and data available to score the fishery.
- The assessment team is currently reviewing new information about the role of this herring stock in the ecosystem and whether this will result in this stock being regarded as a key LTL stock.
- New ICES advice was published October 1st and a harmonisation meeting is scheduled between the 3 CABs the week of October 21st.

**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
- If, during the period of the certificate extension, the CAB is aware 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, the conditions under which this certificate extension is accepted are no longer met and the CAB shall follow GCR 7.4.2 and GCR 7.4.3
- 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 the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: Accreditation Services International