

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V2.0

Date submitted to MSC	29/04/15
Conformity Assessment Body	Intertek Fisheries Certification
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Ekofish Group North Sea (ICES IVb) Twin Rigged Otter Trawl Plaice Fishery MML-F-065
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Jim Andrews / Jason Combes
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CRv2.0 7.23.11.5
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation
<p>The MSC Scheme requires that surveillance audits are announced at least 30 days before the audit is carried out.</p> <p>IFC request a variation to allow the 2015 surveillance audit for this fishery to be carried out less than 30 days after their announcement.</p> <p>In order to facilitate stakeholder engagement in the surveillance process, IFC propose that stakeholder comments will be accepted for a period of 30 days from the date that the surveillance audits are announced (the announcement is due to be made on 30th April, so this deadline will be 1700GMT on 30th May 2015).</p>
2. Rationale/Justification
<p>IFC confirms that the request does not alter the conformity of the applicant or certificate holder with the relevant MSC standard.</p> <p>The request is made because a combination of constraints on both team availability and the approaching deadline for carrying out the surveillance audit. Assessment team members are only available in the first week of May and then in late June. Under the terms of the variation allowing for certificate extension, the assessment audit has to take place on or before 3rd June.</p> <p>We are not aware at this time of any factor related to fishery status or performance against conditions that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard.</p> <p>If this variation request is granted we shall provide a notice for posting on the MSC website informing stakeholders about the dates for the Surveillance Audit at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>IFC are presently making arrangements with the client for a separate re-assessment site visit, which is due to take place in June 2015. This will provide another opportunity for stakeholder engagement, and will be preceded by an announcement more than 30 days in advance.</p>

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
N/A	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	N/A
5. Further Comments	
N/A	