

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.2

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	<i>9<sup>th</sup> January 2013</i>
<b>Conformity Assessment Body</b>	MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd. (MEP)
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) saithe
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Dr. Jo Gascoigne
<b>Scheme requirement(s) to vary from</b>	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

### Proposed variation

MEP proposes to delay submission of the Public Comment Draft report until the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 20 months after the last on-site visit.

### Rationale/Justification

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, 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.

No stakeholders took part in the site visit, except at the request of the client and the assessment team to provide information. Likewise, stakeholders have not participated voluntarily in the assessment since that time, except when contacted by the assessment team for a specific purpose (e.g. SNH, SFF). No concerns have been expressed by stakeholders regarding this fishery, and stakeholders have provided their input only when solicited by the assessment team. The report has been updated since the site visit, and sets out the situation of the fishery as of 2012 (rather than 2011 when the site visit took place).

MEP therefore does not consider that anything will be gained by re-running the site visit. This will just create further delay and increase costs. MEP will ensure that all stakeholders will be contacted, setting out the situation and proposed timeline, and giving them the opportunity to request further information or set out their views.

### Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

As noted above, MEP will contact all stakeholders explaining the situation and providing them with the opportunity to provide their input.

### 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 and will be given an opportunity to provide comment over a 30-day period.