



Sandhya Chaudhury  
Det Norske Veritas (DNV-GL) Certification  
Veritasveien 1  
Høvik  
Norway  
1363

**Sent by email**

Date: 21/04/2021

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement vn/a GCR 7.5.6 for Norway North East Arctic haddock offshore (>12nm)**

Dear Sandhya Chaudhury,

I write with reference to your submission on 16/04/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To deviate from MSC GCR v2.4.1 7.5.6 and extend the Norway North East Arctic haddock offshore (>12nm) MSC Fisheries certificate MSC-F-31209 until the Notice of Objection submitted for the Norway North East Arctic cod offshore (>12nm) fishery (certificate number MSC-F-31210) is either accepted or rejected by the Independent Adjudicator (IA).

Additional validity of the present certificate will be requested one week at a time, if required, until such time MSC informs DNV of the IA decision to either accept or decline the Notice of Objection.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to vn/a 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:**

- The assessment of this fishery has been integrated with the assessment of the Norway North East Arctic cod fishery since the initial assessment of 2008-2010.
- This Variation Request is therefore to align the 2 reassessment processes and, importantly, to avoid traceability issues in these mixed fisheries.
- The objection period for the Norway North East Arctic cod offshore (>12nm) fishery ended on the 14th April 2021.
- A Notice of Objection was submitted for the Norway North East Arctic cod offshore (>12nm) fishery on the 14th April 2021.
- The present haddock certificate, MSC-F-31209, is valid until 26th April 2021 but the decision from the IA to either accept or reject the objection may not be made by the 26th April.
- If the Notice of Objection is accepted by the IA, DNV will submit a VR for the extension of the present certificate, MSC-F-31209 for a maximum period of 6 months in alignment with the cod certificate MSC-F-31210.
- If the objection is rejected DNV assessment team is ready to publish the Public Certification Report and the Certificate.
- DNV is therefore requesting for the MSC-F-31209 certificate to be extended until such a time the Notice of Objection raised for the Norway North East Arctic cod offshore (>12nm) is either accepted or rejected by the IA.

**In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore**



**declined.**

- The Norway North East Arctic Haddock Offshore (>12nm) fishery is not subject to a Notice of Objection
- The DNV assessment team is ready to publish the Public Certification Report and the Certificate
- The final report of the reassessment for Norway North East Arctic Haddock Offshore (>12nm) fishery states: There is a sufficiently effective system of tracking, tracing and segregation in the Norway NEA haddock offshore (>12nm) fishery so as to ensure that all haddock products originating from the certified fishery and sold as certified could be identified prior to or at the point of landing.

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: Assurance Services International