



Chrissie Sieben  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 20/01/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for UK Fisheries Ltd/DFFU/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe**

Dear Chrissie Sieben,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/01/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The current certificates MEP-F-011 & MEP-F-012 are due to expire on the 2nd May 2017. MEC are requesting that the current expiration dates be extended by 3 months until the 2nd August 2017 to allow enough time for the recertification process to be completed without a lapse in certification for the clients of this fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries 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:**

- Site visit could not be scheduled until 20th September 2016 due to very limited client availability.
- Client / WWF / MEC / Thunen Institute and MSC Outreach meeting on 10 January 2017.
- No implications for the assessment are foreseen.

**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.
- 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