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Billy Hynes

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Sent by email

Date: 11 May 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.23.6 for the DFPO Denmark North Sea and Skagerrak Saithe fishery

Dear Billy

I write with reference to your submission on 21st April, 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (7.23.6) to move the surveillance date for this fishery from February until September and further that this is valid for all years going forward for this certificate.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- This variation request is submitted to move the annual surveillance date for this fishery to September along with three other fisheries listed in the request (which don't require a variation to delay until September).
- September has been selected as the most appropriate time as it allows for updated ICES advice - released in May/June each year - to be considered and incorporated in the annual audit for these fisheries, ensuring a harmonised, more robust surveillance programme across all four fisheries and incorporating the most relevant and up to date scientific advice available
- To conduct all DFPO surveillance audits separately would be costly and impractical - the assessment teams are broadly similar across all four, with the same stakeholders involved in each. The requirements inherent in each fishery will be examined individually to ensure that appropriate assessors are present to scrutinise the key factors and pivotal technical points in every instance.
- If at any point it becomes apparent that a standalone site visit is required for any one of the four DFPO fisheries, a dedicated site visit will be carried out for the fishery in question

Given the rationale provide, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- The CAB is not aware of any reasons why the fishery's surveillance should not be delayed (e.g., due to concerns on stock status, management conditions that could result in the fishery not being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, Robert.lefebure@msc.org or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth, Fisheries Oversight director

Marine Stewardship Council