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IS-109

**Sent by email**

Date: 20/08/2019

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.3 GCR-7.5.6 for ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice**

Dear Gunnar Á. Gunnarsson,

I write with reference to your submission on 03/07/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

An extension of the current certificate for the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish by 28 days (from 10 September 2019 to 8 October). The current certificate for the ISF Iceland saithe, ling, Atlantic wolffish and plaice expires on 10 September 2019. CAB proposes to extend the validity of the certificate to 8 October 2019, which is the expiry date for the ISF Iceland golden redfish, blue ling and tusk certificate.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.3 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 reassessment of the fishery is part of the ISF Iceland multi-species demersal fishery which has been subject to unforeseen delays due to its scale and complexity (42 UoAs).
- Additionally the team had to seek clarifications, including from management bodies, and amendments to the initially provided Client Action Plan; this resulted in the peer review stage starting two months later than originally planned, and public review starting about a month later than planned.
- That reassessment has progressed through to PCDR stage, with consultation closing date of 13 July.
- The extension is relatively short (28 days) and there are no anticipated impacts to the sustainability of the fishery.

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

- 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 (8 October 2019)

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