



Geraldine Criquet
SAI Global (SAI)

Sent by email

Date: 09/04/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR - 7.4.14 for ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 27/03/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Request to allow fish or fish products considered as coming from IPI stocks to enter chains of custody, with an exemption to the additional assessment requirements for IPI stocks given in PA4.2.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR - 7.4.14 state:

Allow fish or fish products considered as coming from IPI stocks to enter chains of custody, with an exemption to the additional assessment requirements for IPI stocks given in PA4.2.

a. The variation request to allow an exemption to requirements for IPI stocks shall include a detailed and substantiated rationale showing that, in addition to 7.4.13.1:

i. The catch proportion of IPI stocks calculated in 7.4.13.1.c is less than or equal to 2% and the total catch of IPI stock(s) by the UoA does not create a significant impact on the IPI stock(s) as a whole.

ii. CABs shall note that significance will be assessed on basis of the status of the IPI stock, and the risk that the IPI catch poses to the health of the IPI stock

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:

- Icelandic spring-spawning herring (ISPH) qualifies as an IPI stock
- A substantiated rationale has been provided showing:
 - The proportion of ISPH in the combined catches of the IPI and target stocks, is less than the $\leq 2\%$ threshold.
 - The total catch of the IPI stock by the UoA is also not considered to create a significant impact on the IPI stock as a whole due to a lack of temporal overlap between the distributions of the two stocks.

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

- The detailed and substantiated rationale for this is included in the Public Comment Draft Report

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