



Henry Earnst
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Sent by email

Date: 20/02/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.24.6b for FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring

Dear Henry Earnst,

I write with reference to your submission on 05/02/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring reassessment to be conducted as a reduced re-assessment in spite of a condition remaining open after the 3rd surveillance audit (FCR 7.24.6 b.)

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.24.6b state:

7.24.6

A fishery is eligible for reduced reassessment if:

- a. The fishery was covered under the previous certification or scope extension;
- b. The fishery had no conditions remaining after the 3rd surveillance audit, and
- c. The CAB confirms that all standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by the 3rd surveillance audit

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:

- A condition will most likely be opened during the year 4 surveillance audit on PI 1.2.2 SIc in response to the 25% increase in TAC from 2017 which was a result of the adoption of ICES MSY advice rather than the prevailing management strategy (causing 1.2.2c to bring down the overall score of this PI to 70 rather than 80).
- This condition would need to be raised to harmonise with other fisheries in the MSC scheme targeting the North Sea autumn spawning herring stock.
- No conditions were raised in the initial assessment of this fishery in 2015.
- The CAB believes that the sustainability status of this the fishery is not believed to be affected by this change.
- No written stakeholder submissions were received prior to the publication of the Public Comment Draft Report, and the verbal submissions during the site visit focused on provision of information – no concerns were raised about the fishery under assessment.
- The on-site audit will be conducted by two auditors (rather than one directed by reduced re-assessment requirements) – the lead auditor and the Principle 1 expert. This mitigation action is in response to the change in status of P1 for this 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 made aware of the proposal.

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