



Sandhya Chaudhury
Det Norske Veritas (DNV-GL) Certification
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Høvik
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Sent by email

Date: 04/09/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.28.23 for Faroese Pelagic Organisation Atlanto-Scandian herring

Dear Sandhya Chaudhury,

I write with reference to your submission on 28/08/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Postpone the publishing of the surveillance/expedited audit reports to finalise harmonisation and align resulting Notice of Suspensions and suspension date.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.28.23 state:

The CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 60 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website

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:

- This Variation Request (VR) has been submitted to seek harmonised timelines for 7 North-East Atlantic Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting fisheries.
- At harmonisation meetings in July and August 2020, Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) agreed that the harmonisation on Performance Indicator (PI) 3.2.2 scoring was closed with the Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting fisheries scoring <60 for PI3.2.2b and the acceptance of lowest score (FCP v2.1 PB1.3.4.5.a.ii).
- In line with MSC requirements and MSC Covid 19 derogation, CABs have initiated surveillance and expedited audits to incorporate harmonised scores.
- Given the result of the harmonised rescoring, CABs seek to align dates for the Notice of Suspension and corrective action plans, and clearly communicate changes to stakeholders.

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

- No variation conditions.

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