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Sent by email

Date: 09/04/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea herring

Dear Louise Allan,

I write with reference to your submission on 28/03/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Surveillance report will be submitted 4 weeks after the current deadline of 5th April 2018.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC 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:

- Following the surveillance audit the assessment team require a further follow up discussion with the client to clarify progress against open conditions.
- The client is currently involved in high level meetings with respect to the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and, as such, it has not been possible hold the follow up discussions and complete the surveillance report by the current deadline.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- The surveillance report is published on or before 5 May 2018.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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