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Vicki Gravestock

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Sent by email

Date: 7 May 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement FCR 7.23.2 for the Euronor and Compagnie des Peches St Malo cod and haddock fishery

Dear Vicki

I write with reference to your submission on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (FCR 7.23.2) to conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual surveillance audit by remote surveillance instead of a normal on-site audit.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the location of surveillance audits 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The fishery was certified with one condition which was classified as 'ahead of target' during the year 1 surveillance audit and at the year 2 surveillance audit, a review of information found nothing to suggest there was any impact on vulnerable habitats. It was therefore concluded at the year 2 surveillance, that progress for closing the condition and action plan were on target, but that the condition would remain open and be reviewed at the next surveillance audit.

- Based on the argument that the fishery is low risk and that all information for the year 3 surveillance, including the assessment of the open condition, can be provided remotely, MEC proposes that a remote audit is completed instead of an on-site audit.
- A telephone or skype conference will still be held between the client group representatives and the team leader, Dr. Jo Gascoigne. The information collected will be considered and reported on by the entire surveillance team.
- Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to meet the assessment team in person if required or to arrange a meeting over telephone or skype.

Given the rationale provide, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the FCR in this case.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email ([robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:robert.lefebure@msc.org)) or phone (+44 (0)20 7246 8935).

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth  
Fisheries Oversight Director  
Marine Stewardship Council