



Gemma Quílez-Badia
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Sent by email

Date: 08/08/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.4.1 GCR-7.5.6 for LFPO pelagic trawl sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)

Dear Gemma Quílez-Badia,

I write with reference to your submission on 27/07/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The certificate expiration date is currently the 21st of November 2022. However, due to the complexity of the harmonisation discussions on Baltic sprat scoring (PI 1.1.1A and PI 1.1.2), including email exchanges with MSC, the LFPO sprat trawl fishery PCR report will not be able to be published by the 21st of November (its current certification expiry date). Therefore, the CAB is requesting MSC to extend the expiry date of the certificate by 60 days until the 21st of January 2023.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.4.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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.

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.

It is not clear from the request why this variation is needed for harmonization when there are still 3 months in which the CABs have an opportunity to harmonise, or make demonstrable progress on harmonisation before the certificate expires.

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