



Billy Hynes  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 23/11/2016

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for North Sea Brown Shrimp**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 23/11/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To change other eligible fishers from “none” to including other fishers not currently part of the client group because they are not currently members of the POs that make up the client group.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 state:

7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the uoA and UoC during the assessment unless:

7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2

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:**

- The requested change does not change access to the certificate in any way but ensures clarity, particularly in the assessment report where numbers could appear discrepant without this clarification.
- The planned certification is for members of the three North Sea brown shrimp POs: Danish Fishermen’s Producer Organisation (DFPO), the German Brown Shrimp Steering Group GBR and the Coöperatieve Visserij Organisatie (CVO).
- There are a small number of vessels in Germany and the Netherlands which currently are not members of the POs, and therefore are not part of the Client Group.
- Access to the certification is controlled by the clients using a management plan including a code of conduct and a limited number of other fishers may potentially join these POs.
- These fishers listed as eligible fishers in UoA would be targeting the same species, using the same gear and operating under the same management plan so fall within the scope of the assessment.

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

- All stakeholders are informed of changes to the UoA

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