

MSC Variation Request

NORWAY NORTH EAST ARCTIC COD OFFSHORE (>12NM), SCOPE EXTENSION INSHORE COD

Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments

08.12.2022

1. Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1: Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
08.12.2022	
2	CAB
DNV Business Assurance	
3	Fishery name and certificate number
NORWAY NORTH EAST ARCTIC COD OFFSHORE (>12NM) , scope extension inshore cod MSC-F-31210	
4	Lead auditor or program manager
Lead auditor: Geir Hønneland Project manager: Lucia Revenga	
5	Request prepared by
Lucia Revenga	
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
MSC FCR v2.2 Section 7.8.1.1: The date (<i>eligibility date</i>) shall be any nominated date on or between the publication date of the first Public Comment Draft Report and the certification date	
7	How many times has a variation against this requirement been accepted during this assessment or audit of this fishery?
none	

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation
To allow eligibility date to be set before the date of publication of the PCDR.	
2	Additional time requested (where applicable)
Original deadline date	Not applicable
Modified deadline date requested	Not applicable
Number of additional days requested	Not applicable
3	Justification
The fishing season for this fishery starts on the first of January. The PCDR is expected to be published 04.2023, thus leaving a big amount of catch from this fishery without possibility to use the certificate. It is therefore beneficial to set the eligibility date at 01.01.2023 in order to allow all catches originating from this fishery to enter CoC once the fishery is certified.	
4	Implications for assessment
None to highlight.	
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment
The client for this fishery already has more than 5 certified fisheries. Traceability systems are well implemented. Client won't be able to sell its product as MSC certified until the publication of the Public Certification Report. This VR ensures that all fish caught during the fishing season is traced on the same way.	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have?
Assessment is in progress, conditions are not yet finalised.	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
<i>The off-shore component is already certified, the on-shore component to which this VR is applied is currently at Client and Peer Review report preparation stage. This report is expected to be finalised in the end of January 2023.</i>	
8	Other relevant information
The CAB has verified traceability systems in place. Note that traceability systems are the same as for other Norwegian MSC certified fisheries, such as offshore Norway cod and haddock, Norway saithe, Norway cold water prawn, Norway pout, sprat and sandeel, Norway Skagerrak shrimp and Norway blue whiting (at present suspended due to lack of agreement on pelagic stocks). Traceability and segregation systems are implemented. CAB is unaware of any reasons why the fishery would not be recommended for certification at PCR stage. The CAB has informed the fishery of all criteria for handling under assessment product. (FCP 7.8.1-2 and Guidance 7.8.1 and 7.8.1.1) and confirmed the fishery is able to do so. Note that the client representative (Tor B. Larsen) has not changed in the past 5 years and is familiar with the MSC requirements. The CAB has informed the fishery handling under-assessment product and the client is aware of the relevant requirements in the Chain of Custody Standard, which relate to the identification and traceability of the under-assessment product. (G.7.8.1.1; CoC 5.6).	
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request

2. Template information and copyright

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The CAB shall delete Table 3.

Table 3: Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2
1.1	26 October 2022	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2 and v3.0

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (<https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents>).

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