

Antonio Hervas and Melissa McFadden  
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Sent by email

Date: 02/12/11

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement CR 27.4.3

Dear Antonio Hervas and Melissa McFadden,

I write with reference to your submission on 30/11/11 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow the DFPO Denmark North Sea sole fishery to change the trawl unit of certification (splitting into two parts: one with mesh size less than 100mm and the other with mesh size greater than or equal to 100mm) after the assessment has begun.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to unit of certification definition are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- There are differences between the trawl component fishing with gear mesh size of less than 100mm and the trawl component fishing with gear mesh size of greater than or equal to 100mm that are significant enough to merit a clear separation.
- During the site visit, the assessment team learned that the two trawl components have significantly different catch compositions.
- These findings resulted from information gathered during the site visit.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the scheme requirement in this case.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hooper'.

Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI