

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.2

Date submitted to MSC	03/01/13
Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International Ltd.
Fishery Name/Certificate Number	DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak Saithe F-FCI-0010
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Antonio Hervás / Melissa McFadden
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	27.22.3.1

Proposed variation

To facilitate harmonised annual surveillance audits for all FCI certified DFPO fisheries in May of each year.

Rationale/Justification

The fishery client, Danske Fiskeres PO (DFPO), currently has five MSC certified fisheries. The earliest certification date for these five fisheries is in February, with the latest falling in August. This fishery was certified on the 22nd of February 2011. As such a variation request will be required to move the annual surveillance date for this fishery from February to May.

To conduct all DFPO surveillance audits separately would be costly and impractical - the assessments teams are broadly similar across all five, with the same stakeholders involved in each. As such, to improve efficiency, limit stakeholder fatigue and ensure an effective and transparent stakeholder consultation process it is proposed that a single annual site visit should be held for all of the DFPO's certified fisheries by default. Please note that no variation requests will be submitted to this end for those fisheries whose certification anniversary falls after May, as this will place them within normally acceptable timeframes.

The requirements inherent in each fishery will be examined individually to ensure that appropriate assessors are present to scrutinise the key factors and pivotal technical points in every instance. In addition, an FCI representative will accompany the surveillance teams to ensure that all surveillance audits are conducted completely and appropriately.

May has been selected as the most appropriate month as it does not stray too far from either the February certification anniversary date or the August date, ensuring a harmonised, robust surveillance programme across all five fisheries involved.

If at any point it becomes apparent that a standalone site visit is required for any one of the five DFPO fisheries, a dedicated site visit will be carried out for the fishery in question.

Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

There will be no detrimental impact on the on-going surveillance programme or on timelines. Impact on all interested stakeholders will be minimised by reducing time required (and potentially travel

costs) for them to effectively participate in the surveillance programme for these multiple fisheries. Time and cost will also be minimised for the fishery client, without sacrificing the integrity of the surveillance programme itself.

Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only

No