



Mathias Deleau  
Control Union UK  
56 High Street  
Lymington  
United Kingdom  
SO41 9AH

**Sent by email**

Date: 12/07/2021

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.28.8 for Basse Normandy Granville Bay whelk**

Dear Mathias Deleau,

I write with reference to your submission on 11/05/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The CAB is requesting that the Year 3 surveillance audit for this fishery is postponed by 12 months. The client is currently experiencing financial and resourcing difficulties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the developing repercussions of Brexit, which has had serious implications on the fishery to meet its surveillance schedule obligations.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.28.8 state:

The CAB shall undertake surveillance audits within 30 days prior to the anniversary date of the certificate unless the following applies

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:**

- There has been a major disruption to fisheries management caused by post-Brexit transition to a new management agreement.
- The CAB will closely monitor the evolution of the situation and the communications between parties to be sure that the fishery remains in conformity.

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

- The CAB shall continue to monitor information on stock status. If it becomes evident that PI 1.1.1 would score <60, then an expedited audit is required.
- Surveillance audits should be re-scheduled as soon as disruption to management has passed, which may be earlier than 12 months.

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