

MSC Variation Request

NORWAY GREENLAND HALIBUT

Marine Stewardship Council fisheries assessments

09.05.2022

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	09.05.2022
2	CAB
	DNV Business Assurance
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Norway Greenland halibut
4	Lead auditor or program 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 for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0

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
	Original deadline date
	Publication of PCDR (expected 1 st June)
	Modified deadline date requested
	1 st May 2022
	Length of additional time requested
	Approximately 30 days
3	Justification
	There are 2 short fishing seasons in the year. One starting early May and the other one starting in October.
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 and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	The fishery is still under assessment
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?
	CPRDR was sent to reviewers on 7 th March 2022. PRs submitted their comments on 4 th April 2022. Eligibility date is set as date of publication of PCDR. PCDR is expected to be published on 1 st June 2022. This VR asks for eligibility date to be set on May 1st, 2022.
8	Further comments
	N/A
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request
	The CAB has verified traceability systems in place. Note that traceability systems are the same as for other Norwegian MSC certified fisheries, such as Norway cod, Norway 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 and were implemented before 1 st May 2022.

Client group is Norges Fiskerlag (Norwegian Fishermen Association), as with all other Norwegian MSC certified fisheries.

CAB is unaware of any reasons why the fishery would not be recommended for certification at PCR stage. However, CAB is aware that the P1 score for Greenland halibut is just 80. Report has already gone through Peer review so changes to the score are not expected, however we acknowledge this is a “just pass” score. The CAB can confirm the UoCs will not change.

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, they need to be 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).

2 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form – Fisheries v1.0'.

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the MSC website (msc.org).

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