



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 14/09/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for DPPO and DFPO North Sea herring

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/09/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The surveillance report (review of information) will be submitted two weeks later than the 60-day deadline (16th September) for the report to be sent to the MSC for publication.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:

- A Principle 1 harmonisation meeting between CABs (Acoura, CU Pesca and DNV GL) is scheduled for 12th September to discuss various issues regarding ICES management advice for the stock (published 1st July 2018) and the EU/Norway joint management plan. The discussion is planned in order to keep the CAB's approach to scoring and assessments aligned.
- The extra time is requested in order to assimilate the results of these discussions into the surveillance report.

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 can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- The surveillance report is published by 30 September 2018.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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: Accreditation Services International