



Hugh Jones  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 11/12/2020

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.28.19.a for Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters**

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 03/12/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Instead of using the standard “MSC Surveillance Reporting Template” to create a single report, CU proposes to split the report into four separate reports (Background, Principle 1, Principle 2, and Principle 3) which overall, still conforms to the MSC Reporting Template requirements, but will ease the readability of the audit report.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.28.19.a state:

For on-site and off-site surveillance audits, fisheries surveillance reports shall conform to the ‘MSC Surveillance Reporting Template’

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:**

- The proposed variation (splitting the report into 4 separate reports) will, overall, still conform to the MSC Reporting Template requirement.
- This variation will ease the readability of the audit report.
- The CAB has stated that stakeholders will be made aware of this variation in the notification for the audit.

**Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR.**

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