



Lucia Revenga
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Sent by email

Date: 05/09/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.4.1 GCR-7.4.3.e for FISF Faroe Islands cod, haddock, tusk and ling

Dear Lucia Revenga,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/08/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To allow the client additional 30 days to the 90 days indicated in the MDC GCR v2.4 7.4.3, making a total of 120 days.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.4.1 GCR-7.4.3.e state:

Instruct the certificate holder to provide a documented corrective action plan for addressing the cause of suspension, which is acceptable to the CAB as being able to address the cause(s) for suspension, within 90 days from the date the Notice of Suspension is published 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:

- DNV issued a notice of suspension for the Faroe Plateau cod stock on 16th August 2022, because of a decline in biomass following the revision of the stock status by ICES, requirements at PI 1.1.1 are no longer met. The effective date of the suspension is 14th September 2022.
- Following GCR 7.4.3, the fishery's client has until 14th November 2022 to prepare and submit a documented corrective action plan.
- It is expected that ICES releases their 2022 advice on the Faroe Plateau cod stock on 29th November 2022.
- A 30-days extension on the corrective action plan deadline will allow to include the most recent ICES advice

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

- The extended deadline is 14th December 2022.
- A stakeholder announcement shall be uploaded to Ecert for publication on the MSC website to inform stakeholders of the delay to the corrective action plan

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