



Louise Allan
Lloyds Register (Acoura)
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 28/06/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.6.1 for Aker Biomarine Antarctic krill

Dear Louise Allan,

I write with reference to your submission on 13/06/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The CAB to include on the assessment team a P1 assessor who does not meet the criteria 1.a or 1.b in Table PC3.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.6.1 state:

The CAB shall form an assessment team (hereafter "team") for a fishery assessment, comprising a team leader and a minimum of 1 additional team member, that meets the qualifications and competency requirements specified in Table PC1, Table PC2 and Table PC3 and in line with the requirements in the General Certification Requirements (GCR)

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 team member meets the Table PC3 1.a and 1.b qualifications (a. 3 years or more experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment; b. Primary authorship of two peer-reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment) for species other than krill.
- That given the particularity of the fishery the pool of experts with specific expertise is small. Scientists who have worked on stock assessments are not MSC qualified or have a conflict of interest with the client for this fishery (the client has sponsored the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR)).
- The proposed P1 assessor, Julian Addison, has undertaken multiple other P1 MSC assessments for other crustacean species. He has recently been a P1 assessor for the following full assessments: North Sea brown shrimp (certified 2017), Wash Shrimp (currently under assessment), Gulf of St Lawrence shrimp (currently under re-assessment), Canada Scotian Shelf Northern prawn trawl (currently under reassessment). He has been a P1 assessor recently on the following surveillance audits: Canada northern and striped shrimp (February 2019), Eastern Canada offshore scallop (November 2018), DFA Dutch North Seaensis (January 2019).
- The proposed P1 assessor has MSC experience with krill, having previously conducted a pre-assessment.
- The other two assessment team members have been involved in the fishery's previous assessments and



have experience and knowledge of the fishery and region, as well as being familiar with the stock assessment methods used.

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

- This variation shall not be taken as precedent for similar situations in the future.
- 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