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Guro Meldre Pedersen

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DNV GL - Business Assurance

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Norway

Sent by email

Date: 20 June 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.9.3 for the Norway north east Arctic Cod and Haddock fisheries

Dear Guro

I write with reference to your submission on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.9.3 to allow the newly appointed P3 expert to not participate in stakeholder meetings on Day 1 of the on-site assessment.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to team on-site assessments in 27.9.3 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- That change in team composition was not announced until 17 June 2014 and the P3 assessor will be unable to join the team on day 1 of the site visit on short notice due to previous commitments, but will join the team for day 2 for the remaining of the week.
- Required information gathering during the meetings day 1 will be ensured through prepared questions from the P3 assessor managed by the team representatives present. The team will report back to the P3 assessor on day 2 and ensure that he has been given a full briefing on all the information gathered
- The P3 assessor will also have the opportunity to contact stakeholders consulted day 1 in the event of any outstanding issues.
- In addition, the fisheries undergoing reassessment have not had any conditions related to principle 3 in the previous assessments and the team has endeavoured to schedule the P3 relevant stakeholder meetings to day 2, so that the P3 expert does not miss out on the essential meetings.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified of these changes to on-site team presence.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, [Robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:Robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight director

Marine Stewardship Council