

### Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Name of CAB</b>	ME Certification Ltd (MEC)
<b>Fishery Name</b>	Cornish sardine fishery
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Kat Collinson
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	GCR 7.5.6 Fishery Certificate

#### 1. Proposed variation

MEC requests that the current fishery certificate is extended up to the 18-month deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The report is currently at the client draft report stage and will need approximately 4 months to complete the recertification process.

The recertification process will be completed by the 18 month deadline – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016, instead of the south Brittany 18 month deadline, which is

#### 2. Rationale/Justification

The MSC approved a variation request granted on 3rd May 2016 subjected to several conditions. Since that date the following actions have been done:

- Mike Pawson has subsequently joined the Bay of Biscay and South Brittany fisheries' teams as a replacement Principle 1 expert.
- The 1.1 section of Principle 1 has already been agreed and harmonised across all three assessments using the RBF with a score of 92.2.
- The SSWAC (South West Water Advisory Council) has completed several meetings with the attendance of the French and Spanish client and the scientists of each country to put forward a common proposal for the management of the sardine stock.
- The members of the three sardine teams (Cornish, south Brittany, and Bay of Biscay fisheries) have analysed the information sent by the French and Spanish clients with a common and agreed commitment to ensure their exploitation remains sustainable, by adapting specific management measures consistent with the harvest strategy respecting ICES recommendations. The Cornish client has been informed of the proposal and agrees.
- The Cornish client will provide formal commitment to the new HCRs and this will be made public in all published versions of the report (Public Comment Draft Report, Final Report and Public Certification Report).
- Teams will continue the harmonisation process and standardise the necessary conditions under Principle 1.
- Through the re-scoring of PI 1.2.2, MEC can confirm that the fisheries are in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard reaching 80 in Principle 1.
- An updated certificate will be posted to e-Cert for publication on the website.
- The implementation and commitment of the Cornish fishery will be thoroughly reviewed at the

first surveillance audit following recertification.	
<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	
The implications for the assessment will be the delay on the publication of the Public Certification Report.	
<b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	Not yet, but will be pending a successful Variation Request.

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