

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	30.10.2014
<b>Conformity Assessment Body</b>	DNV GL
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	<b>Estonia North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn fishery</b>
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Sigrun Bekkevold
<b>Scheme requirement(s) to vary from</b>	CR 27.4.2
<b>Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?</b>	No

### 1. Proposed variation

The initial description of the Other Eligible Fishers on the Units of Certification (UoC) for the Estonia North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn Fishery in the PCR is currently that there are no other eligible fishers other than new (Estonian) vessels that will be added to the Estonian cold water shrimp fishery.

The client wishes now to change this wording for Other Eligible Fishers to 'Danish registered and Estonian newly registered vessels fishing for Barents Sea cold water prawn', in order to extend certificate sharing with one Danish vessel that fishes for cold water prawn in the Barents Sea.

To extend the UoC a Danish vessel of the company P/R Ocean Tiger is added and some of the quota (fishing days) from Reyktal vessels will be transferred to the vessels of the Danish company P/R Ocean Tiger. The total quota (number of fishing days) will not increase.

We therefore propose to change the unit of certification for the Estonia North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn Fishery to include reference to this Danish vessel under a certificate sharing arrangement. It's requested to change the UoC into:

Fishery Name	Estonia North East Arctic Cold Water Prawn
Species	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>
Geographical area	ICES Ia,b and IIb. Fao 27
Method of capture	Bottom trawl with sorting grid
Stock	Barents Sea shrimp
Management	Estonian or <b>Danish</b> Fisheries Management /EU Commission NEAFC
Client group	Norwegian Fisheries Management (Svalbard FPZ) Reyktal Ltd. and Reval Seafood Ltd (vessels: Taurus, Ontika, Eldborg, Reval Viking)
	<b>Extension: Danish vessel (Ocean Tiger) from the company P/R Ocean Tiger.</b>

## 2. Rationale/Justification

The client fishery has a partner; P/R Ocean Tiger, with one vessel going to fish for cold water prawns in the Barents Sea, who would like to join their certificate. For the Svalbard area fishing days allocated by the EU to Estonia will be transferred to Denmark and by this way from Reyktal vessels to the Danish vessel. The total number of allocated fishing days will not increase.

At present only (Estonian) vessels that will be newly added to the Estonian cold water shrimp fishery are included as Other Eligible Fishers for the Estonian cold water shrimp fishery. The client would like to include a Danish vessel fishing in the Barents Sea for cold water prawn to the Estonia cold water prawn Unit of certifications as 'Other Eligible Fishers' and extend certificate sharing to this vessel.

The landing of cold water prawn by this Danish vessel is not substantial enough to be economically viable to undertake MSC certification themselves and therefore they would like to be included under the certification for the above fishery and abide by the conditions of its certificate in order to fish sustainably.

The client group is willing to extend the certificate to the applicant eligible fisher as they currently target the same species, use the same gear type under the same rules (except national days at sea allocation) and the vessel is already MSC certified on the same species in other fishing areas (NAFO areas).

If they were included in the Estonia cold water prawn fishery MSC unit of certification under 'Other Eligible Fishers' they would have to abide by the clients "Code of Conduct" and certification requirements. Danish legislation and enforcement related to the fishery in question does not allow for/enable fishing practice that is any different from Estonian legislation/enforcement. In fact the fishery for cold water prawn in the Barents Sea is almost entirely regulated internationally by Norwegian, NEAFC and EU regulations and the national part of the regulation (by Estonia and Denmark) is limited.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Surveillance audit for the Estonia NEA CWP fishery in Tallinn in October 2014, the assessment team conducted a meeting (audit) in Denmark, meeting the Danish client and Danish authorities, for evaluation of the fishery for Principles 2 and 3, which are the only principles that could possibly be affected since P1 implies the whole stock, not only this specific fishery. The team determined that all assessment tree components were held in common with the existing fishery certificate and that including the new Danish vessel/eligible fishers within scope of the certificate would not have implications. Also they checked and found that participants would fully comply with operational procedures set by the fishery clients and with the conditions set by the CAB. The findings of the evaluation of the eligibility of the Danish vessels to be included in the UoC will be described in an Appendix in the surveillance report.

The final conclusion of the evaluations of the eligibility of the Danish vessel to be included in the UoCs is that there is no reason to believe that the addition of the Danish vessel to the Estonian member vessel fleet represents a measurable change in the environmental footprint of the fleet nor that there are any issues concerning the effective management of the fishing operations and conduct of these vessels.

We therefore propose to change the units of certification for the Estonian cold water prawn fishery to include reference to this Danish vessel under a certificate sharing arrangement and will submit a certificate sharing letter as required. Furthermore, as this is a significant change we propose that in order for stakeholders to provide their comments on this change that a stakeholder consultation

period of 30 days is undertaken from the date of posting the appropriate announcement and surveillance reports for this fishery.

**3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

Extension of UoC with the Danish vessel may have implications on the scores of the Estonia NEA cold water prawns fishery. A “gap analysis” will be performed to ascertain what has changed and what has not changed, and how that will influence the scores in the original assessment.

**4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

Stakeholders will be kept fully informed.

**5. Further Comments**

*Please include any further relevant information.*

## **6. Confidential Information**

*Please include any information that cannot be published here.  
This may include information covered by provisions of CR 24.4.*

*[Please note, this section is OPTIONAL and is designed to include supplementary information to the rationale provided above. As this information will not be published, the rationale for the variation that is published should make sense without the inclusion of this section. For example, if the rationale section included a statement that the variation to continue all the steps of the assessment is needed because the client has instructed the CAB not to proceed, this section could add that the reason for this is that the client has insufficient funds to continue with the assessment due to unforeseen costs. It would therefore be impossible for the CAB to complete the assessment.]*