



Louise Allan
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Sent by email

Date: 14/05/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for SPFPO Swedish North Sea herring

Dear Louise Allan,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/05/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the fishery's certification expiry date from 16th June 2018 to 31st July 2018 or publication of the Public Certification Report, whichever comes sooner.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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 client review of the Preliminary Draft Report took longer than expected due to client availability.
- As a result the rest of the process has been delayed.
- Acoura are not aware of any risk to the sustainability of the fishery. The fishery has no conditions raised at re-assessment.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- Fishery assessment timeline is updated.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response (no later than 31 July 2018).

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