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Chrissie Sieben
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Sent by email

Date: 14 March 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22.3.1

Dear Chrissie Sieben,

I write with reference to your submission on 4 March 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement to allow the fourth annual surveillance audit to be delayed by one month for the Euronor saithe fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits 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.
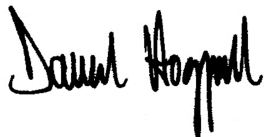
MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:
- To limit auditing costs and due to expert availability, the audit for this fishery will be held simultaneously with the audit for the Compagnie des pêches St. Malo and Euronor cod and haddock fishery, which has a certificate anniversary date of 17 April 2014. The proposed audit date is 3 April, which is a compromise between the two fisheries.
- MEP does not expect that this delay will affect the conformity of this fishery.

Given the rationale provide, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Bostrom the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email (jodi.bostrom@msc.org) or phone (+44 (0)20 7246 8934).

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Best regards,

Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI