



Billy Hynes  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 25/10/2016

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea herring**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 24/10/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

- Acoura proposes to submit the surveillance report by November 30th 2016, two weeks later than the 60 days allowed.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:**

- Request to delay to publication of the surveillance report by 2 weeks until 30 November 2016.
- The assessment team have conducted the site visit and found that there are no risks to continued certification for this fishery.
- It has been a struggle to coordinate some stakeholder meetings and the team leader is away for two weeks working on another project.

**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.
- Extended deadline, normally 30 days.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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