

Andrew Hough and Jason Combes
Intertek Moody Marine

Sent by email

Date: 24/10/11



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Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6 Section 5.3.1

Dear Andrew and Jason,

I write with reference to your submission on 12/10/11 of a request for second variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow the Hastings Fleet Dover Sole Trammel Net and Hastings Fleet pelagic herring and mackerel fisheries' certificates to be extended to allow re-assessment to be completed within the timeframe of the existing certificate. MSC notes that the variation requested in fact relates to FCM v6 Section 5.3.1, to extend the certificate beyond the maximum five year period, rather than 7.1.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to re-assessment timing are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- issues of team member availability at two stages in the assessment process
- managerial transfers within Intertek Moody Marine

In this case, the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the scheme requirement. This request is therefore rejected. Last year's request to extend the certificates to 30 November 2011 was granted based on the condition that "the assessments [would be] conducted according to the proposed revised timetable". This did not happen, and yet no timeline revisions, nor any revised variation request, were submitted until the timeline had fallen well behind schedule. This is not consistent with the scheme requirements.

Since the Hastings Fleet Dover Sole Trawl and Gill Net fishery's certificate does not expire until July 2014, it is unaffected by this decision.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hough".

Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI