



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 15/09/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.18.1 for Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 13/09/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The re-publication of the final report with an objection period of 5 working days instead of 15 working days.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.18.1 state:

CABs shall note that an objection may be lodged with the MSC's Independent Adjudicator in conformity with the MSC Objections Procedure found in Annex PD during a period of 15 working days from the posting of the Final Report and the determination 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:

This VR refers to a second version of the Final Report for the Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel fishery. Due to stakeholder concerns about the fishery's certification, a meeting was held with all relevant and interested stakeholders to mediate this. All stakeholders agreed to the change in this process. CAB's local P3 assessor, Ulf Löwenberg and WWF stakeholder contact, Hans-Ulrich Rösner have agreed to stay in close contact regarding the reporting progress and publication timing of the new version.

No implications are perceived. The delay in publication of the Final Report will not affect the published timeline and is well ahead of the 18-month deadline.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR.

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