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Sent by email

Date: 5 November 2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 24.2.2

Dear Tim,

I write with reference to your submission on 2/11/12 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 24.2.2) to allow for the DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat Hake to not be withdrawn following the 18 month period from date of the on-site assessment visit, and for the deadline of withdrawal to instead be moved to September 2013. This will require that the PCDR gets submitted to the MSC during or before August 2013.

As you are aware, the CR procedures regarding Assessment timelines 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 program.

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

- That the timeline for DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat fishery is dependent upon the same limiting factors as the Grupo Regal Spain Hake longline fishery and should be benchmarked against the same events
- The Grupo Regal fishery expects to deliver their final report by the end of February, 2014.
- In order for DFPO to harmonize with this event they will require delivery of their PCDR during or before August 2013

MSC further notes that the concept of 'harmonization' within the MSC scheme normally applies to fisheries achieving consistent outcomes (e.g. pass/fail, conditions etc). It does not normally apply to the process or timing of assessments since fisheries that enter assessment at different times can be subject to different assessment requirements. In this case, we note that a submission date of the PCDR by



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August 2013 is justified by and dependent on the publication of the ICES advice for the northern Hake stock, which should be published in June 2013.

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

- All stakeholders will be notified of the revised timeline via announcement on the MSC website and via direct e-mail notification.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Hoggarth'.

Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council

CC: ASI