



Billy Hynes
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Edinburgh
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Sent by email

Date: 15/09/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Western Baltic spring spawning herring

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/09/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The expedited audit report to be submitted one month after the date allowed in the CR. The report should be submitted by the 10th September, Acoura request to submit the report before the 10th October.

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:

- An expedited audit was undertaken to review changes in the stock assessment (Principle 1).
- The expedited audit has resulted in new conditions on the fishery requiring a Client Action Plan (CAP) which needs consultation.
- The variation request is made due to the lack of availability of the people required to confirm their willingness to collaborate with the client on their CAP. Provisional confirmation has been received.
- The 30 days requested is to allow a safe margin to receive the required documents and accommodate team availability to finalise the report.
- Acoura confirms that the variation request does not impact the fisheries status as certified.
- The expedited audit report will be published before the 10 October 2017.

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

- The expedited audit report is published before 10 October 2017.
- 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