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Sent by email

Date: 10 November 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.2 for the Estonia North East Arctic cold water prawn fishery

Dear Sigrun

I write with reference to your submission on 30th of October, 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.2, to extend the scope of the UoC for this fishery to cover an additional Danish vessel of the company P/R Ocean tiger.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the definition of the UoC 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The client fishery has a partner; P/R Ocean Tiger, with one vessel going to fish for cold water prawns in the Barents Sea, who would like to join their certificate, as the landing of cold water prawn by this Danish vessel is not substantial enough to be economically viable to undertake MSC certification themselves.
- For the Svalbard area fishing days allocated by the EU to Estonia will be transferred to Denmark and by this way from Reyktal vessels to the Danish vessel. The total number of allocated fishing days will not increase.
- The client group is willing to extend the certificate to the applicant eligible fisher as they currently target the same species, use the same gear type under the same rules (except national days at sea allocation) and the vessel is already MSC certified on the same species in other fishing areas (NAFO areas).
- If they were included in the Estonia cold water prawn fishery MSC unit of certification they would have to abide by the clients "Code of Conduct" and MSC certification requirements.
- Additionally, in conjunction with the Surveillance audit for the Estonia NEA CWP fishery in Tallinn in October 2014, the assessment team conducted a meeting (audit) in Denmark, meeting the Danish client and Danish authorities, for evaluation of the new vessel for all Principles
- Extension of the UoC with the Danish vessel may have implications on the scores of the Estonia NEA cold water prawns fishery. A "gap analysis" will be performed to ascertain what has and this will be posted on the MSC web-site for stakeholder consultation period of 30 days.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified of the proposed change to the UoC as will be defined in the gap analysis report and that the report is available for stakeholder consultation for 30 days.
- That any stakeholder comments received, are reviewed and responded to by DNV and a finalized notice is made available to stakeholders, as well as included on the MSC website

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, Robert.lefebure@msc.org or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight director, Marine Stewardship Council