

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	26 th February 2016
Name of CAB	ME Certification Ltd (MEC)
Fishery Name	Cornish Sardines
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Kat Collinson
Scheme requirement for which variation requested	FCR 7.3.4. The period from full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Public Comment Draft Report by the MSC exceeds 9 months.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
<p>MEC proposes that the publication date for the Public Comment Draft Report for the Cornish sardine fishery is delayed by two months. The original publication date for the PCDR is 4th March 2016. MEC now proposes to have published the PCDR by the 26th April 2016.</p>	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>Delays to the publication of reports and certification process have come through difficulties and delays in the harmonisation process for this and two other MSC fisheries (south Brittany sardine purse seine and Bay of Biscay purse seine sardines). The harmonisation started prior to the site visit, when the fishery was announced in June 2015, but has continued to date. A non-unified P1 score across the CABs originally, difference in CR interpretation and the need to acquire more information from stakeholders, not engaged or bound by the MSC process, has lead to a delay in a harmonised outcome being reached. The next harmonisation call with CABs, to be facilitated by the MSC is due on the 4th March 2016, after which time, MEC envisages a suitable outcome to proceed to the client draft report stage.</p>	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
<p>The main implication for this VR is that a certificate extension may well be needed. The current certificate expires on the 1st May 2016. The delay in the publication of the PCDR will also then lead to delays in the publication of the Final Report and determination (FR) and the Public Certification Report (PCR).</p>	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this	<p>No. Only the clients, to update them on the harmonisation situation.</p>

request (Required for fisheries assessment variations only)?	
5. Further Comments	
None	