



Billy Hynes  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 04/07/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for CVO North Sea plaice and sole**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 12/06/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the certificates for the CVO North Sea plaice and sole. The current certificate expires 19th December 2017. The proposed variation is to extend the certificate to 1st March 2019.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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:**

- The fishery is being assessed under the Joint demersal fisheries assessment which is scheduled to conclude in early 2019.
- CAB will conduct a surveillance audit for the fishery in January 2018.
- No open conditions.

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

- CAB can reconfirm compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard after site visit in January 2018.
- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the 1st March 2019.

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