



Kate Morris
Lloyds Register (Acoura)
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 19/01/2021

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP - 7.29.8 for Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Sweden Baltic herring and sprat

Dear Kate Morris,

I write with reference to your submission on 14/01/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

LR seek a variation from MSC FCP v2.2 7.29.8 which requires LR to publish a finalised expedited audit report 60-days from announcing the audit.

LR propose the expedited audit follows usual Surveillance timescales which requires CABs to publish the audit report 60-days from the last day of the site visit (MSC FCP v2.2 7.28.23 & 7.28.23.1). The reasoning for this request is detailed in 3 below.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP - 7.29.8 state:

The CAB shall upload the expedited audit report to the MSC database for publication on the MSC website, within 60 days of announcing the expedited audit

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 expedited audit was announced due to ongoing harmonisation discussions which indicated a potential material differences in the circumstances of the fishery.
- Harmonisation discussions are still ongoing but there is agreement among CABs that there will be a new conditions raised on PI1.1.1(A).
- Additional time is needed to include the harmonisation results in the expedited audit report.

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

- The report shall be submitted no later than 20 March 2021 (extension of 60 days).
- When requested by MSC, 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.

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: Assurance Services International