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Lesley Hamilton

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Sent by email

Date: 4 October 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 24.2.2 for the DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat Hake fishery

Dear Lesley

I write with reference to your submission on 2nd October, 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 24.2.2) to extend the deadline by the previously approved variation until the end of March, 2014. The PCDR therefore needs to be published by March 31, 2014, or the fishery has to withdraw.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to assessment timelines in 24.2.2 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:

- That the previously granted variation was framed with a projected release date of June 2013 for the updated ICES advice, that the continuation of the fishery was dependent upon, resulting in the publication of the PCDR by the end of August, 2013.
- That the ICES advice was not published until the very end of June, leaving only three months to complete all the steps leading up to release of the PCDR .
- Since the submission of the original variation request, a variation was also granted on 11/07/2013 to split one of the existing Units of Certification resulting in an additional UoC being added to the fishery assessment
- One of the assessment team members (Team Leader) for this fishery also left the employment of FCI at the end of July so a replacement team member has had to be sourced, and this is in the process of being confirmed. The changes will be announced on the MSC website for consultation
- As there has been a substantial delays for this fishery that you intend to do a 'Review of Information' and post an announcement on the MSC website for stakeholders input for a period of 30 days and this has been factored into the revised timeline and delivery date for the PCDR.

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 that the publication of the PCDR will be delayed and of the resulting revised timeline.

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