



Guro Meldre Pedersen
DNV GL
Veritasveien 1, Høvik 1363
Norway

Sent by email

Date: 19 August 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 7.5.9 for the Norway North East Arctic haddock fishery

Dear Guro,

I write with reference to your submission on 18 August 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) 7.5.9 to extend the certificates of the Norway NEA haddock fishery for a period of 2 months beyond the current expiry date of 25 August 2015.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificate timelines 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 the request, including:

- The certificate was granted extension from 25 April to 25 August 2015 caused by time needed for processing stakeholder comments to the PCDR.
- The Final Report was published 28 May 2015.
- On 30 July 2015, DNV GL received an additional submission from stakeholders on the fishery's impacts on VMEs and is now in the process of investigation to determine whether this information has any material impacts on the scoring. Additional time is therefore required to process and finalise the assessment results and draft the determination.
- There are no reasons to believe that a delay in PCR and extension of validity of the certificates will have such a material implication on compliance of the fishery with the MSC Standard that the use of certificates could no longer be warranted.
- Any further reduction in scoring for P2.4 for the particular scoring element addressed in the stakeholder submission would not result in the overall score for Principle 2 falling below 80 and failing the fishery.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Bostrom, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery, by email (Jodi.Bostrom@msc.org).



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Hoggarth".

Dan Hoggarth
Head of Fisheries Standard
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI