

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	09/08/2018
Name of CAB	BUREAU VERITAS CERTIFICATION HOLDING
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	AGARBA SPAIN BARENTS SEA COD FISHERY
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Macarena García
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

An extension of 3 months counting from the anniversary date. The new anniversary date will be on the **28th February 2019**.

2. Rationale/Justification

The initial assessment of the fishery was carried out by another CAB (FCI). The fishery was certified on the 28th of November 2013. It is worth saying that from the first moment the client wanted to establish the certification date, and therefore the subsequent surveillances timing of the fishery, between February and April but due to delays and issues during the certification process the surveillance timing was finally set out by FCI in the month of November.

The client requested the transfer to Bureau Veritas close to the first surveillance audit timing. Therefore, Bureau Veritas could not perform the site visit by the anniversary of the fishery. Consequently, the first on site surveillance audit had to be delayed up to 2 months from the anniversary of the fishery. The second surveillance audit was also performed on the month of January. Furthermore, the third surveillance audit was delayed up to February due to the following reasons: fishing seasonal activity and information needed for closing some of the certification conditions (for more details see the announcement of the third surveillance). The CAB tried to catch up with the anniversary date by the forth surveillance audit. With the effort of both the CAB and the client, the fourth and last surveillance audit was held in November, in accordance with FCR 7.23.6.

The re-assessment of the fishery was announced on the 22nd of May 2018. Even though, the team is very familiar with the fishery, the client has been hiring AZTI for the last 4 years for the preparation of all the information and data needed by the team and the fishery closed the remained conditions in the fourth year, six months is a short deadline to perform the re-assessment of the fishery.

Finally, the client has always been fully aware of the situation, and they have been always been in agreement and supported all the decisions taken by the CAB.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)



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This extension will meet the earlier requirement of the client in terms of timing and availability of the vessels. Since, as stated above, from the first moment the client wanted to establish the certification date between February and April

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

If approved the certificate will be updated in Ecert.

5. Further Comments

Please include any further relevant information.

6. Confidential Information [DELETE IF NOT APPLICABLE]

Please see attached the email from the client explain the reasons why the timing of the current anniversary date of the fishery is inadequate.