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Sent by email

Date: 30 July 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.3 for the Faroe Island North East Arctic Cod and Faroe Island North East Arctic Haddock fisheries

Dear Anna

I write with reference to your submission on 14th July, 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.3, to extend the scope of the UoC for these fisheries to cover vessels in the Samherji group operating under Icelandic quota.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the definition of the UoC 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 client fishery has a partner, Samherji group with two vessels fishing for cod and haddock, who would like to join their certificate and their operations were scrutinised by the team during the annual surveillance activities in June 2014.
- That the nature of operations of the Samherji vessels are of the similar character and therefore sees an extension of UoC
- As the scope extension process is not yet defined in the current CR, assessment team suggests to re-evaluate both Principle 2 and 3 for this additional fishery in order to ensure that all impacts from these boats are taken into account.
- The scoring of this additional component will be conducted according to CR v1.3. As Faroe Islands fishery was originally scored according to FAM, the discrepancy in assessment outcomes will be avoided by undertaking rescoring of original assessment for those performance indicators which has been changed or modified in transition from FAM to CR v1.3.
- Once rescoring and harmonisation of scores are completed, the outcomes will be presented in the scope extension report and posted on MSC web-site for stakeholder scrutiny for 30 days.

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 of the proposed change to the UoC as will be defined in the surveillance report and that the report is available for stakeholder consultation for 30 days.
- That if the scope aims to be further extended to include more Samherji vessels as outlined as a possibility in the variation request, that their additional impact in P2 is evaluated during future surveillance audits and rationale on impacts on scores and possible further conditions is properly taken into account by the surveillance team.

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