

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	20 th December 2018
Name of CAB	Lloyd's Register
Fishery Name	DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe DFPO Denmark North Sea sole DFPO Denmark North Sea plaice DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak haddock CVO North Sea plaice and sole
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Polly Burns
Variation prepared by:	Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	GCR V2.3 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fishery 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
The fishery certificates for the above listed fisheries will be extended beyond the 5 year maximum period until the 15 th May 2019, from the current expiry date of 1 st March 2019.
2. Rationale/Justification
<p>The DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe, DFPO Denmark North Sea sole, DFPO Denmark North Sea plaice, DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak haddock, CVO North Sea plaice and sole fisheries are all currently undergoing reassessment as part of the Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters fishery. This assessment has been complex and the timeline for the assessment has had to be revised, which has led to the reassessment not completing before the certificates were due to expire. The previous certificate expiry dates were as follows:</p> <p>DFPO Denmark North Sea plaice: 30th September 2017) DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak cod & saithe: 30th September 2017) DFPO Denmark North Sea sole: 6th June 2017 DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak haddock: 6th August 2017 CVO North Sea plaice and sole: 19th December 2017</p> <p>Lloyd's Register has already extended the certificates through a variation request which saw their certificates extended to 1st March 2019. However, it has now become apparent that this extension will still not be sufficient to prevent a lapse in certification.</p> <p>The final section of the Public Comment Draft Report for the Joint demersal fishery was published on the MSC website on the 20th December 2018. Due to Christmas and the size of the reports, stakeholders have requested additional time to review the reports. As such, the timeline for the fishery is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of PCDR consultation period: 20th December 2018 End consultation period: 22nd February 2019 (65 day consultation period)

- Final Report publication: 23rd March 2019
- End of objection period: 15th April 2019

Therefore the certificates of the individual fisheries that are currently still held by Lloyd's Register will have lapsed before the outcome of the fishery assessment is known. Lloyd's Register would like to extend the certificates till the 15th May 2019 to allow for any objections that may be received to be accepted or dismissed by the IA, and give CU Pesca time to convert the final reports in to Public Certification Reports should that be the outcome.

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

No other implications for the assessment.

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

No – though stakeholders are aware of the change to the Joint demersal fishery's timeline, and requested the extended stakeholder comment period. All stakeholders will be notified after a decision is made by the MSC on this request.

5. Further Comments

The CAB conducting the Joint demersal assessment is Control Union Pesca and more information on the assessment can be sought from them – see the [contacts page](#) for the assessment on the MSC website.