

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	13/02/2019
Name of CAB	Control Union Pesca (CU Pesca)
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring (certificate number MEC-F-030)
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Chrissie Sieben/Toru Tsuzaki (Client Contact : Christophe Radenne)
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	<p>FCR 7.24.6 A fishery is eligible for reduced reassessment if:</p> <p>a. The fishery was covered under the previous certification or scope extension;</p> <p>b. The fishery had no conditions remaining after the 3rd surveillance audit, and</p> <p>c. The CAB confirms that all standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by the 3rd surveillance audit.</p> <p>FCR 7.24.8a The CAB may undertake the assessment with one assessment team member onsite and other team member(s) working from a remote location.</p>
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

<p>1. Proposed variation</p> <p>CU Pesca proposes that the FROM Nord North Sea and Eastern Channel pelagic trawl herring reassessment be conducted as a reduced re-assessment with two team members present onsite for the audit (as opposed to one under FCR 7.24.8a). All open conditions were closed by the Year 3 surveillance audit, and all stakeholder comments have been addressed however a condition is expected to be raised at the year 4 surveillance audit (which will occur during the same site visit as the reassessment).</p>
<p>2. Rationale/Justification</p> <p>No conditions were raised in the initial assessment of this fishery in 2015. No written stakeholder submissions were received prior to the publication of the Public Comment Draft Report, and the verbal submissions during the site visit focused on provision of information – no concerns were raised about the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>A condition will most likely be opened during the year 4 surveillance audit on PI 1.2.2 “Harvest control rules and tools: There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place” in response to the 25% increase in TAC from 2017 which was a result of the adoption of ICES MSY advice rather than the prevailing management strategy (causing 1.2.2c to bring down the overall score of this PI to 70 rather than 80).</p> <p>This condition would need to be raised to harmonise with other fisheries in the MSC scheme targeting the North Sea autumn spawning herring stock.</p> <p>The sustainability status of this the fishery is not believed to be affected by this change.</p> <p>CU Pesca does not believe his condition does not increase the risk level of the fishery (which has performed extremely well in the MSC standard). However, to alleviate concern, the on-site audit will be conducted by two auditors – the lead auditor and the Principle 1 expert.</p>
<p>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</p>

Should this variation request be accepted, FCR 7.11.1.3a would be triggered (exceptional circumstances), as the condition timelines would be harmonised with the other currently MSC certified North Sea herring fisheries (condition resolution would span over two certification periods). CU Pesca believes FCR 7.11.1.3.a.i is particularly relevant to this situation. Stakeholders would receive a document outlining the situation when the fishery is announced.

CU Pesca is confident that in applying the reduced reassessment criteria, the integrity of the MSC principles and criteria will be maintained. To ensure this, the Principle 1 expert will be present with the team leader during the year 4 surveillance and reassessment audit later this year to bolster the expertise relevant to the condition raised.

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

No, they will be alerted when the fishery is announced.

5. Further Comments

None.

