



Geraldine Criquet
SAI Global (SAI)

Sent by email

Date: 25/02/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement vn/a GCR 7.5.6 for ISF Norwegian & Icelandic herring trawl and seine

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 11/02/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

- **CR, 7.5.6** - SAI Global proposes to further extend the validity of the certificate only for UoCs Icelandic summer-spawning herring pelagic trawl and purse seine.
- **CR, 7.3.2** - SAI Global proposes not to withdraw the UoAs Icelandic summer-spawning herring pelagic trawl and purse seine from the MSC assessment.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to vn/a GCR 7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

These 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 supporting your request, including:

- This certificate extension will allow the Icelandic UoCs to remain certified whilst re-assessment completes.
- Whilst there have been multiple extensions to this certificate, they have been caused by the harmonisation issues on atlanto-scandian herring.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- Stakeholders are informed by the CAB.
- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- No further variations will be granted against GCR 7.5.6 for this fishery

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International