



Cora Seip
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Sent by email

Date: 24/02/2021

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 for UK Fisheries/DFFU/Doggerbank Group saithe

Dear Cora Seip,

I write with reference to your submission on 15/02/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The Principle 1 assessor for this fishery, Massimiliano Cardinale, to be exempt from attending the opening meeting for the reassessment of the fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.16.1 state:

The team shall carry out the site visit as planned

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:

- There has been a sudden change of travel arrangements for the Principle 1 assessor due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interfering with the opening meeting of the site visit.
- CU UK believes that this does not represent a major risk to the integrity of the assessment, given that Principle 1 of this fishery is harmonised with a number of fisheries, both in the CU UK portfolio, and across several other CABs.
- Further, the ACDR did not identify any information gaps across Principle 1 performance indicators for both stocks under assessment.

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

- The Principle 1 assessor is present for all other relevant stakeholder meetings occurring as part of the reassessment.
- The CAB shall make clear that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual means.

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