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Sigrun Bekkevold

DNV GL - Business Assurance

Veritasveien 1, Høvik 1363 Norway

Sent by email

Date: 29 June, 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.2 for the Denmark Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Norwegian Deep cold-water prawn fishery

Dear Sigrun

I write with reference to your submission on the 17th of June a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 27.4.2) to reduce the UoC of the current fishery assessment to exclude the Kattegat area (ICES IIIa East).

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:

- The proposed variation is to reduce the UoC in order to exclude Kattegat (ICES Area IIIa East). The announced UoC includes the whole ICES Area IIIa, which includes both the Skagerrak and the Kattegat area.
- However, during the site-visit in week 21, the client and all the stakeholders that were consulted agreed that the fishery is limited to Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep, and that the vessels included in the fishery under assessment do not fish in the Kattegat area.
- The Danish AgriFish Agency also confirms that none of the vessels in the UoC has fished in the Kattegat in recent years.
- It is therefore requested to change the UoC and fishery name to reflect that Kattegat is no longer part of the UoC as outlined in the variation request.

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

- That all stakeholders are made aware of this change to the UoC and fishery name.

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