



Billy Hynes
Acoura Marine
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 10/10/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-4.3.3 for DFA Dutch North Sea ensis

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 25/09/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To reference confidential information in the re-assessment report on fishing activity.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-4.3.3 state:

4.3.3 The CAB shall ensure that information kept confidential is restricted to:

4.3.3.1 Financial transactions about certification.

4.3.3.2 The financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public.

4.3.3.3 Information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the client's country

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:

- The DFA Dutch North Sea Ensis Fishery uses VMS data/black boxes to track and report on vessel fishing activity.
- The certified fleet comprises six vessels in a relatively small area (ICES Area IVc), making these maps pose a commercial risk to the client. While the information is not financial, it represents a commercial risk.
- The audit team will ensure compliance during annual surveillance audits.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR.

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: Accreditation Services International