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Dr Jason Combes  
Scheme Manager  
Intertek Moody Marine  
10A Victory Park  
Victory Road  
Derby  
DE24 8ZF  
UK

Sent by email

Date: 5 February 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1

Dear Jason Combes,

I write with reference to your submission on 2 February 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to delay the annual surveillance audit by a further eight weeks for the CVO North Sea plaice and sole fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to surveillance timing 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:

- In December 2014, IFC was granted a variation to delay the surveillance audit by eight weeks (to 15 February) because the availability of the assessment team and client was limited.
- IFC now requests an additional eight week extension because the initial extension was insufficient, as discussed in confidential information provided by IFC.
- The sustainability of the fishery is not believed to be affected by this change. Very similar overlapping fisheries are also MSC certified.

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



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- Fishery-specific stakeholders are informed directly about the proposed change in date (the MSC website is not intended to be the primary/sole source of information for those stakeholders who have registered as interested in a specific fishery assessment).
- The CAB is not aware of any reasons why the fishery's surveillance should not be delayed (e.g., implications on stock status, management, conditions).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Bostrom at [jodi.bostrom@msc.org](mailto:jodi.bostrom@msc.org) or +44 (0)20 7246 8934.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan Hoggarth".

Dan Hoggarth  
Fisheries Oversight Director  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI