

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	04 th April 2017
Name of CAB	ME Certification Ltd
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	PFA, DPPO, KFO, SPSG & Compagnie des Pêches St Malo Northeast Atlantic blue whiting Pelagic Trawl Fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Dr Hugh Jones Contact: Gavin Fitzgerald (gavin.fitzgerald@me-cert.com)
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR 7.23.18 This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
The last day of the Year 1 MSC surveillance assessment for this fishery was on the 17 th February 2017, the Surveillance report is therefore due to be submitted on 18 th April 2017. MEC is proposing that this date is extended by one month to 18 th May 2017.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>Firstly, due to unforeseen personal circumstances within the assessment team, MEC is temporarily unable to resource this surveillance. If this situation persists, a replacement team member will be identified however, short term, an unfortunate delay is inevitable.</p> <p>Secondly, MEC were contacted by DNV (CAB) on 24/03/17 following a request from MEC for agreement on harmonisation on in-assessment blue whiting fisheries in early March. MEC and DNV are currently in negotiation about two conditions for P1 and it is anticipated that a MSC led harmonisation meeting will be requested.</p>	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
The assessment time line will be affected with a potential delay of up to one month. MEC will try to minimise the delay as much as possible. We do not anticipate any great impact on the fishery as a whole. The initial thoughts of the assessment team after the site visit calls are that they did not anticipate any major problems with the fishery and therefore the integrity of the MSC assessment and certification process would not be compromised. Client action plans may need to be drawn up depending on the harmonisation meeting outcome.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No but if the variation request is successful, stakeholders will be informed.
5. Further Comments	
N/A	

