



Lucia Revenga
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Sent by email

Date: 14/12/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.8.1.1 for Norway North East Arctic haddock offshore (>12nm)

Dear Lucia Revenga,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/12/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Eligibility date to be set before the date of publication of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR), at the beginning of the fishing season.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.8.1.1 state:

The date shall be any nominated date on or between the publication date of the first Public Comment Draft Report and the certification date

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:

- A scope extension for inshore haddock is being assessed. Bringing the eligibility date forward to the beginning of the fishery season would allow all fish caught during the season to be traced in the same way.
- The fishery season start on 1st January and approximately 90% of catches are made before May.
- Traceability and segregation systems are in place. The client won't be able to sell its product as MSC certified until the publication of the Public Certification Report (PCR).
- The CAB is unaware of any reasons why the fishery would not be recommended for certification at the PCR stage.
- The CAB has informed the fishery of all criteria for handling under assessment product (FCP 7.8.1-2 and Guidance 7.8.1 and 7.8.1.1) and confirmed the fishery is able to do so.
- The CAB has informed the fishery handling under-assessment product, they need to be aware of the relevant requirements in the Chain of Custody Standard, which relate to the identification and traceability of the under-assessment product. (G7.8.1.1; CoC 5.6).

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

- The product eligibility date is set as 1st January 2023.
- The CAB will inform the client group members eligible to handle under assessment product of the approved eligibility date.
- The approved variation request and the members of the client group and eligibility date are declared and documented in the PCDR, PCR and certificate statement, in line with and in reference to the approved VR.
- This variation shall not be taken as a precedent for similar situations in the future.
- The MSC reserves the right to revoke or amend this variation at any time within 14 days' notice provided in



writing.

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