

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	21/Apr/15
Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International Ltd.
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak saithe – F- FCI-0010
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Contact- Martin Gill
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	7.23.6
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

To move the harmonised surveillance date for DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak saithe to before the end of September. We would request that this SA date should be valid for all years going forward for the lifetime of this certificate.

2. Rationale/Justification

The fishery client, Danske Fiskeres PO (DFPO), currently has five MSC certified fisheries. The earliest certification date for these five fisheries is in February which is DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak saithe – F- FCI-0010. This variation request is submitted to move the annual surveillance date for this fishery to September along with three of the other four fisheries (which don't require a variation to delay until September).

The three fisheries with which it will be harmonised going forward are:

DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak haddock

DFPO Denmark North Sea sole

DFPO Denmark North Sea plaice

The client has advised that ICES advice (for P1 stocks, as well as P2 retained stocks with conditions) come out at the end of June.

September has been selected as the most appropriate time as it allows for updated ICES advice - released in May/June each year - to be considered and incorporated in the annual audit for these fisheries, ensuring a harmonised, more robust surveillance programme across all four fisheries and incorporating the most relevant and up to date scientific advice available

To conduct all DFPO surveillance audits separately would be costly and impractical - the assessment teams are broadly similar across all four, with the same stakeholders involved in each. As such, to improve efficiency, limit stakeholder fatigue and ensure an effective and transparent stakeholder

consultation process it is proposed that a single annual site visit should be held for all of the DFPO's certified fisheries by default.

The requirements inherent in each fishery will be examined individually to ensure that appropriate assessors are present to scrutinise the key factors and pivotal technical points in every instance. In addition, an Acoura representative will accompany the surveillance teams to ensure that all surveillance audits are conducted completely and appropriately.

If at any point it becomes apparent that a standalone site visit is required for any one of the four DFPO fisheries, a dedicated site visit will be carried out for the fishery in question.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

There will be no detrimental impact on the on-going surveillance programme or on timelines. Impact on all interested stakeholders will be minimised by reducing time required (and potentially travel costs) for them to effectively participate in the surveillance programme for these multiple fisheries. Time and cost will also be minimised for the fishery client, without sacrificing the integrity of the surveillance programme itself.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

No