

# **Lloyd's Register**

## **Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Sweden Baltic Herring and Sprat**

### **MSC Variation Request**

## 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

**Table 1 – Variation request**

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
2	CAB
	Acoura Marine (t/a Lloyd's Register)
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Sweden Baltic Herring and Sprat
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Program manager – Kate Morris Lead auditor – Jim Andrews
5	Request prepared by
	Program manager – Kate Morris Lead auditor – Jim Andrews  This is a harmonised Variation request and therefore BV and SIA Global have provided their input into this.
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC FCP v2.2. 7.18.1.2 and 7.18.1.3 MSC Standard v2.01 SA2.3.1
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	<b>1 – This VR was recently accepted on the Finland Baltic Herring and Sprat fishery which is harmonised with this fishery and also in the process of rescoring P1 Pls.</b>

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

1	Proposed variation						
	<p>Lloyds' Register therefore seek the following variations from the MSC for their respective certified fisheries as required under this interpretation: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) FCR v2.0 SA2.3.1 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement to score PI1.1.2 when PI1.1.1A scores less than 80 [instead, PI1.1.2 will not be scored for a year, in line with SA2.3.2].</li> <li>b) FCP v2.2 7.18.1.2 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement to draft a condition in the narrative and metric form of PI1.1.1A [the narrative and metric form will instead follow PI 1.1.2]</li> <li>c) FCP v2.2 7.18.1.3 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement for the condition to result in improved performance to the 80 level within a period set by the CAB [instead the condition will simply require that a rebuilding plan that specifies recovery within an measurable timeframe is in place within a year, which may or may not meet the SG80 requirements at this point].</li> </ul>						
2	Additional time requested						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Original deadline date</td><td>n.a</td></tr> <tr> <td>Modified deadline date requested</td><td>n.a</td></tr> <tr> <td>Length of additional time requested</td><td>n.a</td></tr> </table>	Original deadline date	n.a	Modified deadline date requested	n.a	Length of additional time requested	n.a
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Modified deadline date requested	n.a						
Length of additional time requested	n.a						
3	Justification						
	<p>The status of the Central Baltic herring stock has been rescored against PI1.1.1A in response to the most recent ICES advice. There have been lengthy and detailed harmonization discussions between CABs about the appropriate scoring in response to this advice. The conclusion is that the Central Baltic herring stock now scores 70 against PI1.1.1A and that PI1.1.2 (stock rebuilding) should thus be scored.</p> <p>The Baltic Sea Multi Annual Plan (MAP) (EU Regulation 2016/1139 as amended) sets out a rebuilding plan in Article 5 (safeguards). The CABs have concluded that the rebuilding plan set out in Article 5 of the MAP contains most, but not all, of the key elements that would be required to meet the requirements of PI 1.1.2.</p> <p>The MAP does not specify a rebuilding timeframe although it states that measures to ensure rapid recovery should be put in place; and nor is it possible to infer a timeframe from simulations of stock recovery. This is because the most recent ICES advice only presents short-term projections for the stock (covering the next 2 years). These projections show that the stock should rapidly recover to a biomass of <math>MSY B_{trigger}</math>. However, in the absence of an estimate of <math>B_0</math> it cannot be determined with certainty whether this level of recovery would meet the "SG80" requirements of PI 1.1.1A or if further recovery may be necessary.</p> <p>It is also noted that the downward revision of the perception of stock biomass in 2020 has been abrupt. It seems likely that ICES will carry out further analysis of this sudden change which may affect the perception of stock status and its productivity, which will also be relevant to this PI.</p> <p>Overall, therefore, it is considered that the harvest strategy does not contain a rebuilding plan that specifies a timeframe for recovery.</p> <p>Because this fishery is already certified, the CAB is required to respond in accordance with SA2.3.2 and the corresponding MSC Interpretation here: <a href="https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/Scoring-the-rebuilding-">https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/Scoring-the-rebuilding-</a></p>						

	<p><b>Performance-Indicator-during-the-certification-cycle.</b> In accordance with this interpretation it has been determined that in the absence of rebuilding timeframes it is not appropriate to score this PI at present, and that a condition should be raised for PI1.1.1A which requires that a rebuilding plan is in place within a year.</p> <p>This outcome has been discussed and agreed with all of the CABs responsible for MSC-certified fisheries for this stock.</p> <p>Lloyds' Register therefore seek the following variations from the MSC for their respective certified fisheries as required under this interpretation: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>d) FCR v2.0 SA2.3.1 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement to score PI 1.1.2 when PI1.1.1A scores less than 80 [instead, PI1.1.2 will not be scored for a year, in line with SA2.3.2].</li><li>e) FCP v2.1 7.18.1.2 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement to draft a condition in the narrative and metric form of PI1.1.1A [the narrative and metric form will instead follow PI 1.1.2]</li><li>f) FCP v2.1 7.18.1.3 – A variation is requested to derogate from the requirement for the condition to result in improved performance to the 80 level within a period set by the CAB [instead the condition will simply require that a rebuilding plan that specifies recovery within an measurable timeframe is in place within a year, which may or may not meet the SG80 requirements at this point].</li></ul>																		
4	Implications for assessment																		
	Condition timelines will need to be harmonised across CABs, see 5 below. Stakeholder engagement on the expedited audit will not be impacted and stakeholder will be notified if the VR is accepted. The expedited audit report will include a clear statement of process followed and when conditions are expected to be closed.																		
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment																		
	<p>Timelines for all fisheries affected have been evaluated and condition timelines have been harmonised. Please see below table.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>DDES Herring Sprat (LR)</td><td>Finland Baltic Herring Sprat (LR)</td><td>Polish Herring Sprat (SAI Global)</td><td>LFPO pelagic trawl (BV)</td><td>NZRO Gulf of Riga (BV)</td></tr><tr><td>Condition raised</td><td>SA 1 (June 2021)</td><td>SA 2 (concluded Feb 2021)</td><td>FA (concluded June 2021)</td><td>SA 4 (June 2021)</td><td>SA 1 (June 2021)</td></tr><tr><td>Condition to be closed by</td><td>SA 2 (June 2022)</td><td>SA 4 (June 2022)*</td><td>SA 1 (June 2022)</td><td>RA (June 2022)</td><td>SA 2 (June 2022)</td></tr></table>		DDES Herring Sprat (LR)	Finland Baltic Herring Sprat (LR)	Polish Herring Sprat (SAI Global)	LFPO pelagic trawl (BV)	NZRO Gulf of Riga (BV)	Condition raised	SA 1 (June 2021)	SA 2 (concluded Feb 2021)	FA (concluded June 2021)	SA 4 (June 2021)	SA 1 (June 2021)	Condition to be closed by	SA 2 (June 2022)	SA 4 (June 2022)*	SA 1 (June 2022)	RA (June 2022)	SA 2 (June 2022)
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6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?																		
	5 conditions total, including the new one raised on PI 1.1.1A. Progress against existing conditions (nu. 1-4) will not be affected.																		
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?																		
	<b>An Expedited audit for Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Sweden Baltic Herring and Sprat was announced on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, ongoing harmonisation discussions on rescoring of P1 did not allow all audit team members to agree if an expedited was needed or not. Therefore, LR announced the expedited audit within the 30-day deadline and a remote site visit is due to take place week commencing the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Harmonisation talks will not conclude before LR has had a chance to conclude their site visit and feedback any new information. Meetings for the site visit have been scheduled with both the client group, registered stakeholders and MSC outreach.</b>																		
8	Further comments																		

	- Please include any further relevant information.
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request

## Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.0'.

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### Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org)

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