Hugh Jones
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56 High Street
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United Kingdom
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**Sent by email**

Date: 06/04/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for PFA, DPPO, KFO, SPSG & Compagnie des Pêches St Malo Northeast Atlantic blue whiting Pelagic Traw**

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/04/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the deadline for surveillance report by one month.
The last day of the Year 1 MSC surveillance assessment for this fishery was on the 17th February 2017, the Surveillance report is therefore due to be submitted on 18th April 2017. MEC is proposing that this date is extended by one month to 18th May 2017.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:**

• The delay in publishing the sureveillance report is due to unforeseen personal circumstances within the assessment team.
• Additional harmonisation activities are required between MEC and DNV for certified and in assessment blue whiting fisheries.

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

• The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
• Surveillance report is published by 18 May 2017.
• Stakeholders are informed.

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: Accreditation Services International