

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	12 February 2014
Conformity Assessment Body	MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd (MEP)
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Cornwall sardine, UK
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Jo Gascoigne/Chrissie Sieben
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	<p>7.5.9 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of five years from the issue date.</p> <p>27.22.3.1 CABs shall complete the activities corresponding to the designated surveillance level¹⁴² within 12, 24, 36 and 48 months respectively of the date of certificate award.</p> <p>27.24.1 The CAB should commence the re-assessment of a certified fishery by the fourth anniversary of the existing certificate.</p>
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

The fourth certificate anniversary for the Cornwall sardine fishery is on the 17th June 2014 with the certificate due to expire on the 17th June 2015. MEP proposes to delay the fourth annual surveillance audit and the start of re-assessment for this fishery to the 1st October 2014 and extend the validity of the certificate by approximately 3.5 months, i.e. to the 1st October 2015.

2. Rationale/Justification

MEP proposes to delay by approximately 3.5 months the fourth annual surveillance audit, the start of re-assessment and the certificate validity for the Cornwall sardine fishery. The Cornwall sardine fishery is a small-scale fishery and its assessment was started in October 2007 as part of a pilot program for the Guidance for Assessment of Small Scale and Data Deficient (GASS-DD) fisheries project, using the Fisheries Certification Methodology, V6. For the initial assessment, the fishery received funding from external parties and cost is therefore of primary concern for the re-assessment. MEP understands that the new MSC Certification Requirements v2.0 will incorporate changes as a result of the MSC's Speed and Cost Review. MEP anticipates that the cost of re-assessment and surveillance under this new version will be less than those under the current version. As cost is an important factor in whether or not this fishery will go for re-assessment, MEP proposes to delay the start of the re-assessment so that it can be carried out under the new MSC Certification Requirements v2.0. It is therefore also proposed that the fourth annual surveillance audit is also delayed and the certificate validity extended.

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

At the third surveillance audit in August last year MEP concluded that the CSMA's progress against the conditions and against implementing the Action Plan was on target and all conditions have now been closed out. As such, MEP's proposals will not affect the sustainability status of this fishery.

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

No, stakeholders will be notified about this variation request if and when it is approved.