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Sent by email

Date: 8 July 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 24.2.2 for the DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat Hake fishery

Dear Tim

I write with reference to your submission on 4th July, 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 24.2.2) to extend the deadline by the previously approved variation by 1 month, thereby extending the timeline to 1st October 2013, before this fishery has to withdraw.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits in 24.2.2 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- That the previously granted variation was framed with a projected release date of June 2013 for the updated ICES advice, that the continuation of the fishery was dependent upon, resulting in the publication of the PCDR by the end of August, 2013.
- That the ICES advice was not published until the very end of June, leaving only two months to complete all the steps leading up to release of the PCDR .
- The loss of this potential additional month is very significant and given that a large part of the uncertainty around the timeline for this fishery is now resolved, an extension of the deadline set by the previous variation by one month is therefore requested.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified of the delay to the publication of the PCDR and of the resulting revised timeline.
- If the PCDR has not been published before the end of September 2013, the fishery will be immediately withdrawn in October 2013.
- Given that this is the second time a variation request has been granted to this effect, MSC are unlikely to accept any further variations to this certification requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, Robert.lefebure@msc.org or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth, Fisheries Oversight director

Marine Stewardship Council