

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	02/10/13
<b>Conformity Assessment Body</b>	Food Certification International Ltd
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat Hake
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	TBC/Melissa McFadden
<b>Scheme requirement(s) to vary from</b>	CR 24.2.2
<b>Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?</b>	No

### 1. Proposed variation

This is a proposed modification to the previously granted variation, submitted to the MSC on 04/07/13 to allow an extension of the published timeline following the release of the ICES advice on 28/06/13 and that the assessment team have had the opportunity to look at the advice and determine an outcome for the fishery in a more realistic timescale.

### 2. Rationale/Justification

The previously granted variations were framed with a projected release date of June 2013 for the updated ICES advice that the continuation of the fishery was dependent upon. Following this, 'by the end of August 2013' was considered a reasonable timeframe at the time in which to deliver the PCDR for this fishery. Unfortunately the ICES advice was not published until the very **end** of June. This left only three months to complete all the steps leading up to release of the PCDR (final scoring, production of the PDR, client comments and action plan, peer review and assessment team considerations of peer review comments). The loss of this potential additional month is very significant so, given that a large part of the uncertainty around the timeline for this fishery is now resolved.

We would like to extend the deadline set by the latest variation granted on 08/07/2013 for publication of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) realistically to the end of March, 2014 and therefore reaching certification by June, 2014.

There have been additional factors that have impacted on the previously agreed timeline extension such as the variation granted on 11/07/2013 to split one of the existing Units of Certification resulting in an additional UoC being added to the fishery assessment therefore necessitating additional time to factor this into the assessment.

The assessment team have also just had the opportunity to look at the implications and impact of the ICES advice on the DFPO Denmark North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat Hake fishery and found that it will enable the assessment to continue.

## **2. Rationale/Justification**

One of the assessment team members (Team Leader) for this fishery left the employment of FCI at the end of July so a replacement team member has had to be sourced, and this is in the process of being confirmed. The changes will be announced on the MSC website for consultation.

As there has been a substantial delays for this fishery we intend to do a 'Review of Information' and post an announcement on the MSC website for stakeholders input for a period of 30 days and this has been factored into the revised timeline and delivery date for the PCDR.

None of the above was apparent at the time of submission of the original variation request on 04/07/2013. If the variation is not granted it will not be possible to continue this assessment but if granted it would enable the fishery to likely pass and be in a position to proceed along normal lines.

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

Rather than withdrawing from the assessment process, this fishery will continue through all remaining stages.

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

No - stakeholders will be updated via announcement on the MSC website and via direct email notification